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This Week

National

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Pure, powerful longing

[Jacob El-Baz photo]

Editorial

Rosh Hashanah, the new calendar year, marks the beginning of a special opportunity for us, a 10-day period – *aseret y'mai tshuvah* – for repentance, rethinking, reflecting, returning, as it were, to a deeper, calmer, inner place, where, in a turbulent world, we can be more at peace with our conscience and ourselves.

It is both very telling and very significant that those 10 days end with the stirring, hopeful declaration by all worshippers in all synagogues around the world: *L'shanah haba b'Yerushalayim* – Next year in Jerusalem!

However intended – literally, metaphorically, allegorically or even lyrically – the reference resonates with possibility and pure, powerful longing.

Even when we conclude what is essentially a period of prolonged, personal soul-searching, we do so with a reverential and proud communal nod in the direction of Jerusalem, with a public acknowledgment that our individuality is tied up with our peoplehood and our peoplehood with eternal Jerusalem.

That is the Jewish way. It has always been and thus it will always be.

Eternal Jerusalem – as place and as idea – is at the very core of who we are and what we are. It ties us one to the other, one another to our past and one another to Israel.

For the last two wearying years, however, the enemies of Israel have been trying to undermine that core. Eternal Jerusalem – place and idea – has been under attack.

Their campaign started precisely two years ago on Rosh Hashanah. It now grinds on into its third year.

The campaign would be unimaginable in this day and age, except for the fact that it is actually happening and that we are living through it, though in Israel, more than 600 unfortunate souls have died because of it.

Not merely a territorial conflict between Palestinians and Israelis fought in the Middle East, the campaign against Israel has been carried, like an insidious bacillus, into Europe and other continents, spreading diseased, medieval anti-Jewish attitudes into the corridors of academia, the corporate world, organized labour and the Fifth Estate.

Elsewhere in this issue, Haifa University law professor Amnon Reichman tells *CJN* reporter Anna Morgan that at some academic conferences he has recently attended, "the entire Israeli population is being branded as enemies of all humanity."

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Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat Rosh Hashanah: Erev
Candlelighting: 7:26
Sept. 8 Havdallah: 8:33

Shanah Tovah from everyone at The CJN

Thank you for lifting our spirits

Moshe Katsav
President
of the State of Israel

Dear friends,

The uniformly used Jewish calendar is one of the important and central factors uniting the life of the Jewish people in Israel and throughout the Jewish world, including all its tribes and streams.

The past year has been a difficult one for the Jewish people. The continued brutal and merciless terror attacks throughout Israel, on the one hand, and the anti-Semitic occurrences, especially in Europe, on the other, bring back painful memories of the past.

The State of Israel is obligated to protect its citizens. Regrettably, the right of self-defence is sometimes criticized in world capitals. No country in the world can ignore such vicious attacks on its citizens. We are, unfortunately, facing waves of violence after prolonged negotiations in which we made far-reaching compromises in order to attain peace but the Palestinians did not honour their obligations. We are not a nation desiring war and vengeance. We wish to live in peace and security.

The solidarity rallies with Israel by Jewish communities throughout the world and, especially, visits to our country, lift our spirits. We thank these Jewish communities for their expressions of support.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish you, your families, the Jewish people and all humanity, a happy and blessed New Year, a year of peace and security, a year of tranquillity and calm. My hopes for us all are expressed in the traditional New Year wish: "May we leave the past year with its hardships behind us and may a New Year full of blessings begin."

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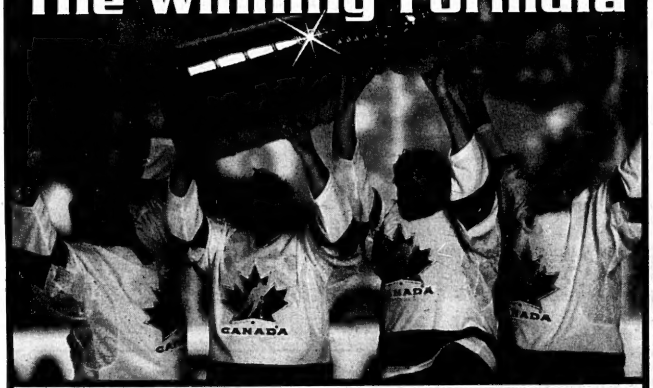

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Drawing comfort from our faith

Keith Landy
National president, CJC

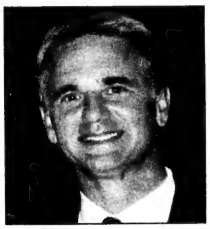
One year ago, as we began our observance of Rosh Hashanah, the flames at "ground zero" continued to smoulder, and the dust of the fallen World Trade Center had literally not yet settled. While the Jewish people were still reeling from the just-completed shameful travesty of the so-called UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, the scourge, scope and capacity of international terror revealed itself to what became a traumatized world.

It is often said that the world changed on Sept. 11. A more apt description would be that it was not the world that changed but people's understanding of it as its dark side was exposed. For the Jewish people, however, the existence of a resilient and sustained international terrorist infrastructure buttressed by an ideology of hate was not news. Although we had been facing terrorism for decades, for us, the current war on terror began one year prior.

It was two years ago on erev Rosh Hashanah that Arafat unleashed his murderous war against Israel. Palestinian suicide bombings and shootings have murdered hundreds of innocent Israelis and injured many more. In short order, the effects of that campaign rippled throughout the entire

Continued on page 22

'We're truly stronger together'



Ralph Shedletsky
Chair of the board,
UJA Federation

As we approach this Rosh Hashanah, we can't help but believe there's a brighter year ahead.

Our beloved Israel is trying to recover from two years of terror, while remaining constantly on guard against future attacks. Every Israeli family has been affected by the unrelenting wave of violence that has afflicted the country and thousands of Israelis are going through painful psychological or physical rehabilitation. The Israeli economy is suffering severely, with the tourism industry devastated by developments beyond its control. Since last year's Durban conference and its forum for hatred, ugly acts of anti-Semitism around the world have stung hundreds of Jewish communities. And here at home, we lost a cherished member of our own community, David Rosenzweig, to a senseless murder.

Yes, there's good reason for pessimism and anxiety. But there are better reasons for optimism and hope.

In the face of national trauma and tragedy, the people of Israel have never been so united, so willing to understand their differences, so determined to survive and prosper against an onslaught of destruction. For all of us, the value of life itself has never been more appreciated.

Confronted by Israel's emergency, our remarkable Jewish

Continued on page 22

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Shari Golberg lights a memorial candle for Hebrew U victims of terror. [Stephen Epstein photo]

Shloshim held for victims at Hebrew University

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The July 31 bombing at Hebrew University that killed nine people and injured 85 others represents a new level of terror because Jews and Arabs have studied there together in harmony, Israeli consul Zehavit Ben Hillel said at a shloshim service for the victims last week.

For Ben Hillel, the incident had a personal dimension, she said. In addition to being a Hebrew U graduate, before her arrival in Toronto she held the same diplomatic position in Lima, Peru, to which one of the victims, David (Diego) Ladowski, 29, had recently been appointed.

The service, held at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation, was organized by the Alumni of the Rothberg International School and Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (CFHU).

Participants included more than half a dozen alumni of the university and its Rothberg International School, where half a dozen Canadians are currently studying.

A responsibility to preserve their memory

Rabbi Philip Scheim, spiritual leader of Beth David, is also a Rothberg alumnus, as is Cantor Eric Moses of Beth Sholom Congregation, who officiated along with Beth David's Cantor Marshall Loomer.

"All of us here share a link with, and a love for, the State of Israel that magnifies the grief felt for the almost 700 innocents murdered in Israel these past two years," said Rabbi Scheim.

Eli Savage, a 1997 alumnus who was a friend of one of those killed – San Diego native Marla Bennett, 24 – said all the victims "led lives of tremendous courage and spirit, and we have a responsibility to preserve their memory and carry on what they began."

Bennett, who was working on a master's degree in Jewish education, organized food packages for Palestinian families during the Jenin crisis, said Ali Feldman, who studied with Bennett and fellow bombing victim Benjamin Blutstein, 25, last year at the Pardes Institute for Jewish Studies.

Continued on page 16

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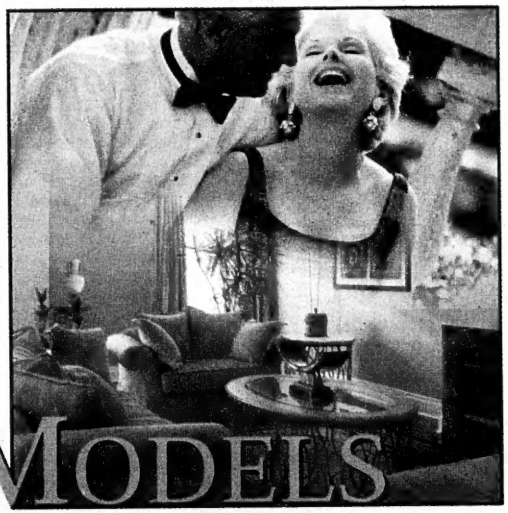
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Mubarak's unwelcome advice

From the editor's desk

Last week, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak deigned to offer advice to U.S. President George W. Bush. Some might prefer to say he hectored the president. Speaking to an audience of university students in Alexandria, Mubarak warned Bush not to strike at Saddam Hussein.

"Not a single Arab leader supports an attack against Iraq," the Egyptian president said. "An attack would plunge the region into disorder and chaos."

Both assertions are highly debatable, and indeed, are being debated each day in the pages of newspapers around the world. It is also worthwhile to point out that if history is any guide to the future, the assertions are also patently false.

But the pungent irony of Mubarak's remarks was the admonition to Bush "if you strike at the Iraqi people... and leave the Palestinian issue unresolved, not a single Arab ruler would be able to curb a rising tide of popular sentiment." He then piously urged the Israelis and Palestinians to "sit at the negotiating table."

Mubarak's advice was less than gratuitous; it was self-serving piffle.

Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat abandoned "the negotiating table" at Camp David more than two years ago. He chose violence over diplomacy. In fact, violence is really the only diplomacy he has ever known.

In the recent words of *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman, "the [Palestinian] uprising was a reckless, pointless, foolish adventure... because at the time, the Palestinians had before them on the table, from the U.S. *and Israel,* a credible diplomatic alternative to war – a peace offer that would have satisfied the vast majority of their aspirations for statehood."

Mubarak implied that an Israeli-Palestinian accord was a prerequisite to an American-led attack against Iraq. Setting aside the legitimate discussion surrounding the wisdom of attacking Saddam, it is patently absurd to confer, on the Palestinians, a veto in relation to such an attack, which is the effective import of Mubarak's finger-wagging advice.

The Egyptian leader also offered some counsel to Israel. "Israel's resort to military force to quell the Palestinians is completely futile and the killing and the destruction might continue for another 50 years."

Alas, Mubarak's prediction regarding the continuation of the "killing" may prove true. But whether it does lies totally within the control of the Palestinian leadership. Their past record and present legacy leave little room to hope the killing will end any time soon. The collapse of Oslo was in fact the collapse of that hope.

Thirty years ago, on Sept. 6. at the hastily-arranged memorial ceremony in Munich for the 11 slain Israeli Olympians, Willi Daume, president of the Olympic Organizing Committee spoke the following: "Today is a day of immense mourning. Even in the world of crime, there are still some taboos, a final limit of dehumanization beyond which one dares not go. This limit was crossed by those guilty of the attack in the Olympic Village. They brought murder into this great and fine celebration of the peoples of the world, this celebration that had been dedicated to peace."

Hosni Mubarak
[Drawing by Micheal Nissimov]

Herr Daume was correct to be incensed. But he was, unfortunately, wrong in pegging that limit at the slaughter of Olympic athletes. There were still some "taboos," even he could not foresee, new limits of "dehumanization" beyond which a new generation of murderers and thugs would "dare to go."

Could he, could anyone, have imagined the stalking of youngsters, discotheque dancers, children at bus stops, children outside their schools, by suicide bombers? Could he, could anyone, have imagined the recruitment of teenagers for the casual but deliberate killing of others by blowing themselves up?

At the same memorial service, after Daume spoke, Bundespräsident Gustav Heinemann reiterated a question which Israel has asked since its very first days of existence, and which, lately, the president of the United States has been asking as well.

"Who bears the responsibility for this crime? First of all a terrorist organization that thinks hatred and murder can be methods of political struggle. But in addition, there are the countries which do not stop these men from perpetrating such acts."

Adhering to Mubarak's unhelpful advice is to encourage mankind's crossing into a terrifying realm of unimaginably horrible new taboos. And as we have seen in the past two years, for those people for whom there are no taboos, there are also no "limits of dehumanization."

Mubarak has not visited Israel since Ariel Sharon became prime minister. He has never condemned the vile anti-Semitic propaganda so common in Egyptian media. Nor has he ever publicly denounced the oft-stated ambitions of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah of ending the "occupation," by which they mean, of course, ending Israel.

Mubarak's advice, therefore, is best kept to himself.

—MBD

HATS OFF TO THE NEW OFFICERS:

Sailors in the Israeli navy celebrate their graduation from the officer's course with the traditional toss of their caps into the air.

[Israel Sun photo]

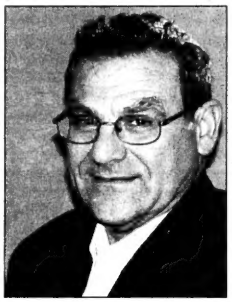
Israeli political analyst doubts peace possible

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Tense co-existence with the Palestinians is all Israel can realistically expect in the foreseeable future, says a prominent Israeli political analyst.

Ruling out the prospect of a formal peace agreement, Efraim Inbar suggested that long-range interim accords may be possible but that a two-state solution should be regarded as a "a naive slogan."

Inbar, director of the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, voiced skepticism about Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer's plan to defuse the Palestinian uprising by means of a mutually agreed truce.



Efraim Inbar

On Aug. 18, Israel announced it would undertake a trial withdrawal from parts of the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem in exchange for assurances that the Palestinians would rein in terrorism there.

The accord was portrayed by both sides as a pilot project for further Israeli withdrawals and the eventual achievement of a full ceasefire. Israel withdrew from areas in Gaza and the centre of Bethlehem, but postponed a pullout from Hebron until after the High Holy Days.

In an interview, Inbar, a conservative commentator who opposes the land-for-peace diplomatic formula and has written books on Israel's foreign and defence policy, cast doubt on Ben-Eliezer's plan. "I'm very skeptical because, basically, the Palestinians haven't made up their minds to crack down on their extremists."

Referring to the Palestinian Authority (PA), he said, "They are using the extremists to bleed Israel."

Besides, he added, PA President Yasser Arafat fears that a civil war may break out if he disarms and arrests Palestinian terrorists.

Inbar suspects that the PA is exploiting the current negotiations to strengthen Arafat's position. Israel and the United States have rejected Arafat's leadership, claiming he is not a serious negotiating partner.

Inbar, here to speak to Holy Blossom Temple under the auspices of Arza Canada (Reform Zionist Organization in Canada), charged that the current talks to achieve a ceasefire are eroding the United States' promise to sideline Arafat.

"And we're playing the same game so that no one can accuse Israel of missing an opportunity to reach a ceasefire."

Arafat, he noted, is irrelevant because he lacks the power or the will to bring Palestinian society into a state of co-existence with Israel. "He's incorrigible."

The intifadah, he observed, was an important awakening for Israelis. "Peace is a nice dream, but it remains a dream. It has educated Israelis as to the limits of the peace process and moved them toward a more hawkish stance."

Inbar suggested that Israel cannot make peace with the Palestinians at present because the incumbent Israeli government wants to maintain control over much of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while the PA seeks a complete Israeli withdrawal from these areas.

Given these realities, Israel can hope for no more than "tense co-existence, based on a balance of power, with the Palestinians."

What is possible, at best, would be long-range interim accords granting the Palestinians autonomy and allowing Israel to maintain a "security umbrella" in the territories.

Dismissing a two-state solution as a "naive slogan," Inbar said, "What is needed is a conflict management strategy rather than conflict resolution. We have to learn to live with problems."

The Zionist movement, he explained, has lived with strife for more than a century and done very well. "We're a strong country, militarily and economically, and we can probably go on with this conflict, especially in light of the fact that we tried our best to reach an accommodation with the Palestinians."

Inbar likened the two-state peace plan presented by Ehud Barak, the former Israeli prime minister, to the 1947 UN partition plan. As he put it: "It won't be revived, and most Israelis reject it."

There may be Palestinians who accept a two-state solution, he allowed, but "they're not in power and they don't have guns."

In his estimation, Arafat's objective is Israel's gradual dissolution. "He hasn't given up his dream. Otherwise, he would have agreed to Barak's offer" at Camp David and Taba.

Inbar believes that the intifadah, which he described as "a war of attrition," will peter out in about a year.

The Palestinians are showing signs of fatigue. They are under international pressure to stop the violence. They have not been able to force Israel to withdraw unilaterally from the territories, their overriding goal. They realize that terrorism is unacceptable after the events of Sept. 11, 2001 in the United States.

In short, he concluded, the uprising has been "a strategic blunder."

Asked if Israel can end the intifadah militarily, Inbar replied, "Military means are part of the solution. So far, Israel has conducted a limited war. We aren't exercising our fullest capa-

Continued on page 28

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Greater Toronto Area

Don't use religion to justify killing, says Toronto rabbi

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich has already begun to formulate his address in anticipation of a community memorial day in honour of the men and women killed during last year's 9/11 terrorist attacks.

Rabbi Flanzraich, of the Beth Sholom Synagogue, will serve as the Jewish community representative at the Sept. 4 memorial and will call on people of all faiths to oppose the abuse of religion to justify killing.

"Religion may be part of the problem, but religion, no question, is part of the solution," he said.

Rabbi Flanzraich will join representatives of several faith groups at the memorial event, which is being organized by Toronto Police Service, 13 Division, in partnership with the Eglinton Community Initiative. It will take place at 10:45 a.m. at the Toronto Fire Department, 555 Oakwood Ave. at Bude Street.

At 9:30 a.m., a Toronto Police honour guard, an RCMP marching unit, a Canadian Armed Forces contingent as well as representatives of Royal Canadian Legions, Toronto Fire Services, Department of Ambulance and the Boy Scouts of Canada will lead a parade from 13 Division to the event site.

A year ago the world watched in horror as planes crashed into the World Trade Centres (left). At right: the aftermath.

The event will also serve as a fund-raiser for the families of the four Canadian soldiers who were killed while serving in Afghanistan.

Rabbi Flanzraich said he was asked to participate by the police organizers of the memorial. Thirteen Division is next door to the Beth Sholom Synagogue, and the shul has a history dating back to the 1950s of participating in interfaith events, he noted.

Though faith leaders have been assigned only a few minutes each to speak, Rabbi Flanzraich said he plans to point out that "fundamentalism as a wholesale item in religion is a dangerous thing. Every religion can look at itself and see the potential of fundamentalism relying on violence," he said.

Other representatives of faith groups at the memorial include: Dudhendra Doobay (Hindu), Rondo Thomas (Christian), Father Ismael Silva (Roman Catholic), Haroon Salamat (Islamic), Ven. Lama Tenzin Kalasana (Buddhist) and Rev. Paul Lainen (Lutheran).

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Intifadah has strengthened Israel's resolve: Gillerman

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israelis have stood up to the Palestinian uprising with courage and valour, Israel's ambassador-designate to the United Nations says.

"The Palestinians thought they'd drive us away," said Dan Gillerman, who takes up his post in January. "They thought we were soft and spoiled."

If anything, he added in an interview prior to addressing a UJA Federation major donors' event last week, the intifadah has strengthened Israel's resolve.

Cafes, bars and restaurants in Israeli cities and towns are full, the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra attracts capacity audiences, and life goes on.

"At the end of the day, not far off, we will win this war. We're already winning it."

Gillerman, a well-connected 58-year-old businessman and chair of the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, acknowledged that the intifadah has dealt Israel's economy a severe blow.

"Israel has lost five to six percent of its gross domestic product – $5 to $6 billion (US). Tourism and construction are suffering badly."

At the same time, he noted, the Israeli economy has shown great resiliency. "Any other country that had suffered so much would have gone the way of Argentina," he observed, referring to that bankrupt South American nation. "But Israel is surviving and persevering."

Foreign investment is down by about 60 percent. But Israel's economy remains vibrant, and foreign investors who keep the faith will reap profits, he predicted.

Gillerman, a protégé of Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, lambasted Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority.

"Our tragedy, and that of the region, is Arafat. To make peace, you need a De Klerck and a Mandela."

F.W. De Klerck was president of South Africa when he released black leader Nelson Mandela and agreed to dismantle apartheid, thereby setting the stage for South Africa's peaceful transformation into a multiracial democracy.

"Israel has produced three De Klercks – [Yitzhak] Rabin, Peres and [Ehud] Barak. But unfortunately, Arafat is no Mandela, and is incapable of making the transition from terrorist to statesman."

The tide, however, appears to be turning.

"The Palestinians are fed up with corruption in the Palestinian Authority, and they feel Arafat made a great mistake in rejecting Barak's and Clinton's peace plans."

At the Camp David summit in July 2000, Barak offered the Palestinians about 90 percent of the West Bank, all of the Gaza Strip and parts of eastern Jerusalem in exchange for peace.

Subsequently, U.S. president Bill Clinton sweetened Barak's offer.

"Arafat is the problem rather than the solution," said Gillerman. "Eventually, we'll have a partner with whom we can reach a settlement."

Asked if Barak's and Clinton's plans are still on the table, he said, "I'm not so sure the Barak/Clinton initiatives are still viable options."

Gillerman declined to say whether he supported a two-state solution. "I'm still a private citizen and can't get into these matters. What shape a settlement will take in the future, I can't tell you at the moment. But the intifadah has broken down mutual trust and created new suspicions."

Gillerman said he wants to believe there is a pragmatic Palestinian leadership interested in peace and coexistence.

It is in Israel's self-interest to help the Palestinians improve their economy, which has been shattered by the intifadah.

"At the end of the day, a higher Palestinian standard of living means a lower level of terrorism."

Gillerman claimed that Israel is fighting terrorism not only on its behalf, but for the civilized world.

"If we don't win this war, it'll end up on the streets of Toronto, Paris and London. The free world should support us, politically and economically."

Gillerman was originally chosen by Peres as Israel's ambassador to the United States. When Prime Minister Ariel Sharon objected, he and Peres worked out a compromise. Danny Ayalon, Sharon's senior advisor, was appointed envoy to Washington, while Gillerman was designated to succeed Yehuda Lancry at the United Nations.

"I've made it a rule not to issue public statements about the United Nations until I take up my position," explained Gillerman. "It wouldn't be right to discuss the UN until then."

Nonetheless, Gillerman made several observations.

"I know the UN is not perceived as the most pro-Israel club in the world, but it's not a lost cause. A lot can be done to present Israel's case."

He has no illusions that Arab and Muslim views of Israel will change. But he believes that dialogue is important and can achieve results not necessarily reflected in UN votes.

Syria's membership on the Security Council makes no sense, given its support of terrorism. "It's a manifestation of the craziness and hypocrisy of the world we live in."

Gillerman, a Sabra and graduate of the Hebrew University, comes to his new job with no experience as a diplomat. But, as he likes to point out, he is not exactly inexperienced in diplomacy.

After being appointed to head up the Tel Aviv Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Israeli Chambers of Commerce, he established an office in Moscow.

Its objective was to forge Israeli economic relations with countries that had no formal political ties with Israel: the Soviet Union, its satellite states in Eastern Europe, China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Pakistan, Malaysia, Bangladesh and other Asian nations.

As well, Gillerman played a role in developing commercial links with Arab states.

"Maybe this prepared me for my job at the UN."

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Family chooses bar mitzvah, volunteerism in Israel

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

Toronto dentist Ian Grayson and his wife Regena (Gigi) started to plan the bar mitzvah for their firstborn, Eric, when he was just one year old.

The idea germinated during a 1990 visit to Israel when Ian had offered his professional services to Jerusalem's Dental Volunteers for Israel (DVI). Gigi bought a tallit and put it away for safekeeping until their son could observe his 13th birthday at the Western Wall.

DVI is a free clinic established by the late Trudi Berger, a Holocaust survivor, to treat underprivileged children who cannot otherwise receive dental care in Jerusalem. Needy youngsters under 18 are accepted regardless of race, colour or religion. DVI's mandate is to recruit dentists from all over the world to contribute their time and professional expertise.

Fast forward to 2002. The Graysons, now including Brittany, 11, and Michelle, 8, prepared for the long-anticipated bar mitzvah, and Ian committed to another session at DVI. They planned to spend three weeks in Israel but relatives and friends, deeply disturbed by media reports, urged them to cancel.

Ian and Gigi were adamant. They were going to celebrate the bar mitzvah in Jerusalem, accompanied by Ian's mother Ann, Eric's only living grandparent.

Their resolve was tested after news of the Passover bombing in a Netanya hotel. They discussed observing the bar mitzvah in Toronto, but that didn't feel right.

"Ian and I looked at each other," Gigi notes "and said, 'We'll go. We won't let those guys spoil our bar mitzvah!'"

And they did. In the first week they were based at the home of Benny and Vera Amedi, Jerusalemites whom they had first met when the Amedis visited Toronto.

Afterward, they rented a car and toured Tiberias, the Golan Heights, Eilat, Netanya, Masada and the Dead Sea.

Were they worried, tense?

"No. We realized very soon that security was extensive," Ian declares. "You couldn't go into a food store without being checked. Coming off the highway into a city, there were barriers to pass."

Back in Jerusalem they moved into a comfortable apartment, one of four provided gratis by the municipal government for each of the volunteer dentists and their families.

Before coming to Israel they had contacted Rabbi Howard Markose, an American living in Israel who had also spent 10 years in Toronto. He assisted with the bar mitzvah service, which took place at Robinson's Arch adjoining the Kotel. It was exactly what the Graysons wanted. Just a few guests – the Amedis, a Toronto neighbour who was in town and the immediate family – intimate and meaningful. They celebrated afterward at luncheon in a restaurant.

While not denying Israel's real security concerns, Ian stressed that the media tend to paint a very negative view that is, he says, "out of whack." They encourage people to visit Israel, to offer moral and economic support. They also emphasize how desperately DVI volunteers are needed at the clinic. The majority (many not Jewish) seem to come from the Scandinavian countries and Holland. "They really care."

The Graysons in Jerusalem. Front row (from left) Michelle, Eric, Brittany. Back row: Gigi and Ian.

Would Ian and Gigi go back to Israel? "Absolutely."

What about the children?

"Before we went," says Eric, "me and my sisters were talking about how we felt. I said I was a little bit scared but I was 95 per cent sure I wanted to go. My sisters were more scared but when we got there, we had such a good time. It was the best vacation ever. We all want to go back."

Each one has special memories. At the wall, Eric remembers "being right in the roots of Judaism.

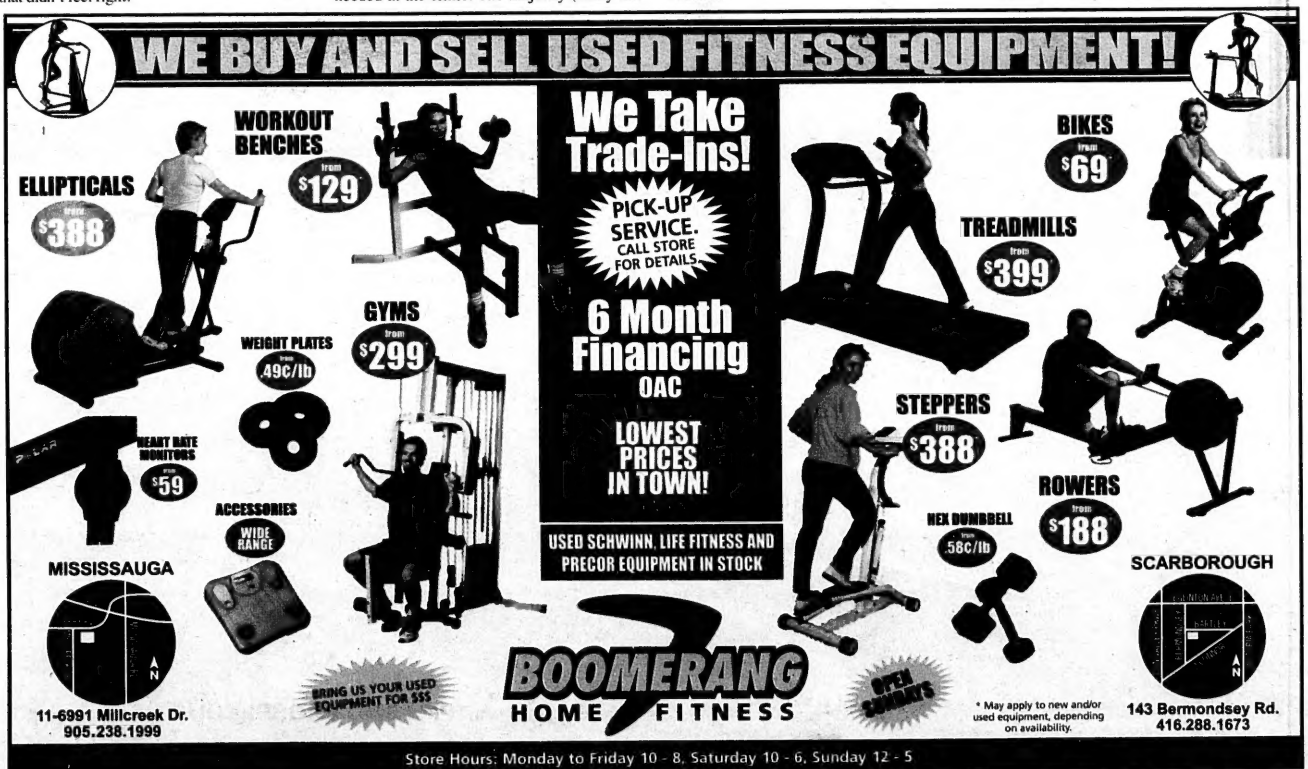
"And there's so much to do."

Brittany loved the beaches, particularly Netanya and the Mediterranean "because it was so beautiful with the horizon so wide." She liked talking to the soldiers, who could all speak English.

Michelle, just 8, clearly recalls a jeep trip in the desert and a stopover in a Bedouin tent for "sage tea with pita baked over a fire and filled with warm goat cheese. It was good."

Ian asserts, "I have such respect for how the Israelis live. They don't stay behind bolted doors. They go out and do everyday things."

"People tell me I'm brave," Gigi adds. "I'm not brave. They are. They live it."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Dry Bones

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WE WOULD ALL BE WORRYING ABOUT WEST NILE FEVER!
YOU THINK SO?
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Pure, powerful longing

Continued from page 1

"It's not a rare occurrence these days," Reichman adds, "that you'll be at a European conference and academics will argue that Jews are not a legal entity and therefore don't have a right to a state."

"What other country," he plaintively asks, "has to defend its right to exist over and over again?"

In a soaring essay entitled "From New York to Jerusalem," delivered last year at the Ingeborg Rennert Center for Jerusalem Studies at Bar Ilan University, distinguished author Cynthia Ozick commented on that very same point.

"The central shame of the 20th century was that the right of Jews to exist was put in question and murderously answered. The shame did not stop there; it swells grotesquely, putting in question the right of Jews to exercise sovereignty in their own land and in their own ancient capital. The ubiquitous phrase 'Israel's right to exist' is heard even in the mouths of apparent friends, and it is a corrupting and degrading phrase."

Even as these words are being written, a symposium organized by the Zayed Center for Coordination and Follow-up, whose chairman is the deputy prime minister of the United Arab Emirates, is convening in Abu Dhabi to discuss the "false fable" of the Holocaust.

According to its press release, "The symposium aims at disclosing many historical, political fallacies promoted by Israel and Zionism through different means especially the spread of fibs and exaggerations regarding the so-called Holocaust." The centre also asserts that "Jewish activities... agitated European hatred against Jews."

The secretary general of the Arab League, former Egyptian foreign minister Amr Moussa, sent a personal representative to address the symposium.

How could this be happening fewer than six decades after the gates of the Nazi death camps were thrown open? And, yet, it is.

Even more unbelievably, most of the rest of the world merely shrugs, preferring to shout at Israel for defending itself with all force, rather than at Arab leaders for assiduously nurturing a culture of hatred against Jews, for inciting terrorism against Jews and the Jewish State and for unleashing waves of gruesome, bloody violence against Israelis.

But the Jewish State will not submit to its own demise nor will the Jewish people any longer be "degraded" by the unwitting or deliberate complicity of apparent friends.

We know it is only through our own actions that we will merit being inscribed and sealed in next year's Book of Life. For we are all part of each other. And as the heavenly portals slowly lock at the close of the *aseret y'mai tshuvah*, the ringing ancient declaration will be our very first communal and individual action of the new year, proclaiming to the world that the Jewish return to history will not be undone by the evil that speaks of "false fables," elevates hatred to religious doctrine, glorifies suicide as sacral duty and targets for murder helpless, innocent men, women, children and infants.

Shanah tovah. L'shanah haba b'Yerushalayim.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Money, not will, missing on campus

David Goldberg and Tilly Shames of the Canada-Israel Committee lamented "the absence of a co-ordinated effort by scholars to articulate a concerted pro-Israeli viewpoint" (Canadian pro-Israeli academics must challege Mideast distortion," *CJN*, Aug. 22).

Ironically, until a few years ago, there was an organization that did precisely that. Composed of hundreds of academics across the country – about 25 per cent of them non-Jews – the non-partisan Canadian Professors for Peace in the Middle East was the Israel advocacy voice on campus. It organized conferences, lobbied government and university officials, mobilized students, wrote briefs and research papers, sponsored trips to Israel, arranged speaking tours for visiting Israeli professors and politicians and published a scholarly journal.

But in a short-sighted decision, UJA Federation leaders at the time concluded they could no longer afford to fund the organization. It was, as the Goldberg-Shames article implies, a mistake.

The will to engage in this type of pro-Israel activity has not dried up across university campuses. Only the funding has.

There is a storehouse of talent among Canadian academics, as well as graduate and undergraduate students, all of which can be quickly harnessed to counter the anti-Israel activism that exists on campuses today.

There is only one ingredient missing to give this talent the structure and the focus it needs: money. In the greater scheme of community fund-raising, the amount required is not large. The investment would certainly pay dividends, not only in improved public relations for Israel, but in an improved atmosphere for Jewish students and professors in Canada.

Irving Abella, York University
Ed Morgan, University of Toronto
Gil Troy, McGill University

* * *

Ignore Peace Now

The article about Peace Now activities ("Peace Now asks Graham to press for Mideast conference," *CJN*, Aug. 22) is not warranted. Peace Now is a dangerously naive group of dreamers. Their interference in Canadian politics – by asking Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham to use Canada's influence to take a stand against further settlement expansion – is unwise at best and treasonous at worst. Peace Now's dovish policies merely encourage more terrorism. Their Canadian activities deserve to be ignored.

David Bronfman
Toronto

* * *

Virtual tourism a boost?

I cannot understand why so many of my fellow Jewish Canadians have so many reasons for failing to stand shoulder to shoulder with our Israeli cousins during this time of crisis ("Israel gets economic boost from virtual tourism," *CJN*, Aug. 15).

While I was in Israel in the midst of the Yom Kippur War in 1973, working on kibbutzim in a war zone only a few kilometres from the Golan Heights, the situation was far more dangerous than it is today. The kibbutzniks, however, were brave and calm and accepted whatever conditions life brought them. They imparted a feeling of work-as-usual to the volunteers. Young Canadians and Americans were everywhere in Israel, touring, working and studying.

These days, though, people don't go to Israel at all. Instead, they send a few dollars for "virtual tourism."

How sad and inadequate, especially from the many who consider Israel their homeland.

Lawrence Chanin
Victoria, B.C.

* * *

Cabinet ministers failed us

As a pioneer of Holocaust education in Canada, the author or co-author of five books on the Holocaust and a member in the 1970s of the Holocaust committees of the Canadian Jewish Congress, I would like to say that we informed the Canadian government about dozens of Nazi war criminals living in Canada.

Although there were three Jewish cabinet ministers (Herb Gray, Barney Danson and Robert Kaplan) at that time, nothing was ever done. In an article in your newspaper, Simon Wiesenthal was quoted as saying that he gave up on the Canadian authorities and would not bother to send them the names and addresses (and in some cases, the telephone numbers) of Nazis or Nazi collaborators living in Canada, since the Canadian government had refused to act. One of the war criminals buried a living Jewish infant in a shallow grave while forcing the hapless parents to watch. Then he killed the parents, slowly, because they were Jews. And the Canadian government refused to act on this information.

I didn't like former prime minister Brian Mulroney, but we must give him the credit he richly deserves for establishing the Commission of Inquiry on War Criminals (Deschenes Commission), which the Liberals, with their three highly placed Jewish ministers, had steadfastly refused to do. The Deschenes Commission led to a number of successful prosecutions. Above all, it created sleepless nights for the war criminals and collaborators.

Why did the Liberal government refuse to act or to even consider acting? Did the orders come right from the top, the adored and adulated former prime minister Pierre Trudeau? What he did during the war years is not mentioned in his biography. Just before the war, he received cadet training at Brebeuf College. Such people, with military know-how, were immediately commissioned at the start of World War II. But Trudeau wasn't. I think one of the reasons he refused to act on the war-criminal issue was that the whole topic of World War II made him uncomfortable. That is also why he let our armed forces deteriorate.

So let us stop hailing the retired Jewish cabinet ministers as great Jews. They failed our people. They failed the scattered bones of our brothers in Europe. And they failed by any standard of conscience and morality.

Howard Roiter
Montreal

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Remembering Munich

September 5, 1972

In 1973, Editions Denöel, Paris, published Medaille de Sang, *written by award-winning French reporter Serge Groussard. The book was a comprehensive account of the Munich massacre, that took place 30 years ago, today, in 1972, when 11 Israelis, hostages of Black September Palestinian terrorists, were killed as they sat in helicopters tied in their seats.*

Groussard's book appeared in English in 1975, translated by Harold Salemson and published by William Morrow and Company, as The Blood of Israel.

It is utterly heartwrenching.

The following is excerpted from The Blood of Israel.

* * *

Wednesday, September 6

"In the fine stadium where the eleven victims had been part of the opening parade eleven days ago, the Olympic Movement foregathered for the memorial ceremony in honor of the Israelis. The doors were open to one and all. A silent, troubled crowd filled the stands. The delegations taking part in the Games had their places facing the official reviewing stand, on the field, where 3,000 seats had been set up. At ten o'clock, the Munich Philharmonic, dressed in black, began the funeral march from Beethoven's *Eroica*. The slow lamento of the strings, in its breathtaking beauty, filled the temple of bodily triumph as in a nightmare…

"A shiver ran through the crowd. No announcement, but all at once 80,000 heads turned toward the Marathon Gate.

"The Israeli team, or what was left of it, seventeen out of twenty-eight, appeared…

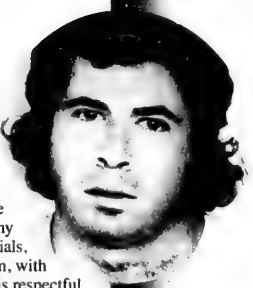
"The Jewish athletes displayed such grief, and such dignity, that in silent spontaneous homage the whole stadium rose to its feet…

"A large part of the IOC was on the stand of honor, with its outgoing President Avery Brundage and his successor Lord Killanin. The highest authorities in West Germany had come, headed by President Dr. Gustav Heinemann… Immortal athletes, such as Jesse Owens and Emil Zapotek, were weeping, without false shame. And then there were those who were absent – deliberately…

"Not one athlete, not one official from any Arab country was present in the stadium. Nor was there anyone from the USSR or East Germany. Apparently, the Yugoslavs and Poles had not come, either. The Olympic flag, in its nacreous whiteness with the five overlapping wheels, waved softly at half-mast, and like it the flags of the 122 nations participating in the Munich Games were also lowered. Before the ceremony ended, there would be wild protests from Arab officials, because of that. Their governments supported them, with cables which in some cases were terrifying. For this respectful ceremony, without any prayer service, was being seen on world television, so that hundreds of millions of people could see the colours of Egypt, Syria, Algeria, and the others, lowered to the mourning position…

"In Jerusalem, an official communiqué was released… Prime Minister Golda Meir had cabled Chancellor Willy Brandt her personal appreciation of his government's decision to 'take action for the liberation of the Israeli hostages and to employ force to that end.'

"The Israeli government ordered a national funeral for the murdered athletes, and a seven-day period of official mourning."



Thursday, September 7

"In ten cemeteries in Israel, and also beyond the oceans, in Ohio on Lake Erie, an honor guard folded back the flags covering the coffins and handed them to the next of kin. The bodies were lowered into the graves. Each person threw three handfuls of earth on to the top of the coffin and the Kaddish, the prayer of obedience and peace… was heard.

"Everywhere the funerals were over before the end of the afternoon, under the same brilliant sky. Then the people of the Book went home and closed their doors.

"The next day, Friday, was Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year, the year 5732, according to the Hebrew calendar.

"It was a day darkened by national mourning. But, in picture and in word, all of Israel, in these hours, bent over the children of those who were the Olympic dead, with wildly determined affection.

"This was triumph over death, the perennation of the Jewish people – of the blood of Israel."

MAY THEIR MEMORIES BE FOR BLESSING

(Clockwise from top left) Yosef Romano, Mark Slavin, Ze'ev Friedman, Amitzur Shapira, David Berger, Eliezer Halfin, Kehat Shorr, Moshe Weinberg, Andre Spitzer, Ya'akov Springer, Yosef Gottfreund.

Terror has many sides

As many readers already know, the Internet is an unending source of surprising information.

Just recently, I read the following:

"Since 1880, 20,000 Jews have been killed in the land of Israel through wars and acts of terrorism. This amounts to an average figure of 160 per year."

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

That is a large number when taken in the abstract, but when seen in the context of history, a different perspective emerges.

The item about Israel went on to say that about 600 Israelis a year are killed in traffic accidents and 10,000 Israeli deaths each year are attributable to smoking. (I do not know what the comparable figures are for Canada, but I am quite sure that they are astonishingly high as well.)

Nevertheless, the above terror statistics are disturbing, and, unfortunately, they are not surprising to those of us who follow the news.

Israel has been in a constant state of siege, and its enemies have had one purpose: not peace or any kind of settlement, but the destruction of Israel altogether. I have written and spoken about this theme before, and I will repeat it again: Israel's enemies are not interested in a peaceful arrangement because that would mean acknowledging the legitimacy of Israel. But the country's enemies have no such intention.

That means that peace between Israel and the Arabs is not possible.

If this sounds overly pessimistic, I admit that it is, for pessimism, unfortunately, is currently, as it has been for so many years, the only accurate way of assessing the situation in the Middle East.

As long as Israel's enemies desire its destruction, peace is not conceivable. Only when the great majority of Arab states and Arabs in general acknowledge the legitimacy of a Jewish State will the situation change. Failing such an acknowledgement and a willingness to deal with the reality of Israel's existence, nothing will change and war will, alas, be a constant part of life for residents of the Jewish State.

For those of us who live in the Diaspora, there is one important lesson to be drawn from this: we have to be aware of the sad reality that, for the foreseeable future, Israel will have to defend its very existence, and it is our responsibility as Jews to support its efforts with the utmost liberality.

Doing anything less means to weaken Israel and neither the land nor we as a Jewish people can afford that.

To all of you, a cordial Shanah Tovah Umetukah!

* * *

On Aug. 15, I wrote that a report on the Internet about a ban on shchitah in the Netherlands may have been a hoax. Jozef Vomberg of St. Catharines, Ont. informs me that shchitah of large steers was indeed banned for a time on a technicality, but has since been reinstated.

Finding my Judaism

They eyed me curiously from behind their mugs of beer and paper plates of chips, whispering among themselves, snatching glances in my direction. It took a little while before one of them finally came up to me at the Hillel orientation for university frosh.

Barbara Balfour in Calgary

"Hi there. Are you Jewish?"

"Yeah, I guess so."

"Really? We've never seen you before at synagogue or at any of the Hillel activities. Or even at school for that matter. Where are you from? Are you sure you're Jewish?"

"Yes, I'm sure I'm Jewish!" I protested indignantly, but the problem was that I wasn't really all that sure. I was 18 years old, in my first year of university and, as clichéd as it may sound, trying to piece together who I really was.

Who was I to think that I could just step into this community of kids who had grown up together, reciting the Torah, learning Yiddish and Hebrew, going to the same day schools and navigating the same social circles?

Let me give you a little background about myself. For the next year, I will be writing this column from the perspective of a fifth-year student at the University of Calgary, where I am taking two bachelor's degrees in Russian and international business.

I've lived in Calgary for half of my of my 22 years, a born-and-raised Canadian of Russian descent. I can't remember when my parents first told me that I was Jewish, but it wasn't until I was at least 12 years old.

At age nine, I found a copy of *The Diary of Anne Frank* and started reading it voraciously, re-reading it every year and inevitably finding some new revelation in its pages.

I loved that book, identifying with it in ways I could not explain (beyond also being a teenage girl). Anne Frank was exotic and different, something other than myself – she was Jewish, just like someone else might be Korean or African-American, and she was definitely not part of my identity.

When my mother finally told me, almost apologetically, that I was Jewish, all I could think about, absurdly, was that I was now like Anne Frank.

Since then, I have been involved in many inner conflicts about my Jewish identity.

After all, my parents immigrated from a country where it was illegal to be religious and it was much worse to be Jewish. In Soviet Russia, the term "Jew" was stamped on their passports under the category of nationality, forever leaving them open to discrimination, human rights abuses and ridicule.

In Russia, it wasn't safe to be Jewish, and my parents carried that mentality with them to Canada.

I had no exposure to religion as a child and after that first terrifying Hillel encounter at university, I shied away from the Jewish community altogether.

I didn't know its customs and strange rituals, its holidays and campsites with the unpronounceable names, and I was terrified of how cliquey the community seemed to be and of the curiosity immediately fixated on me.

It wasn't until I was almost 20 years old that I finally began to test the waters of the Jewish community through a Birthright trip to Israel.

It was amazing to meet other Canadian Jews and to talk to Israelis at a time when suicide bombings were not everyday occurrences. It was also amazing to watch the sun set over Masada and try to let it sink in that – if I made the choice – Israel could be my new home.

Biting into my first falafel sandwich on Ben Yehuda Street, while letting the sauces drip over my chin, was memorable as well. But going to Yad Vashem and thinking about the senseless loss of life during the Holocaust while being struck by the remarkable resilience of the Jewish faith changed my reasoning permanently.

I realized that being a Jew is not something static, nor is it restricted to Anne Frank and kippot and not eating pork. It is an identity that can evolve and fluctuate, defined by what stage of life you are in and what area of the world you hail from.

Above all, I've learned that the Jews are a force to be reckoned with as they continue to survive, beating unbeatable odds. That's something I know for sure.

I can be reached at bbalfour@ucalgary.ca.

Hold on to dreams: they can become reality

Four walls, some windows, a kitchen yet to be koshered, and the hopes for vibrant Jewish student life in Halifax couldn't be higher. It wasn't even a year ago that the phrase "student *bayit*" was met with a skeptical chuckle. It was a grandiose dream with only a faint hope of being realized.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

So often the jokes get thrown around about idealistic youth in their university days. People reminisce about their own carefree times of the past. Everyone relates to that period in life when boundaries seem meaningless. Their hopes are high because they haven't yet been crushed by the "real world."

In university, the mind gets caught up in theory. As we venture into the depths of history, literature and philosophy in the lecture hall, we find ourselves looking towards an ideal. The revolutions of the past elicit a sense of duty for the future. It is only in the unique realm of university life that we can be so deeply ingrained in the theoretical. The mind – power and reason – can rectify any dilemma.

It is also the time of visions. We want to see the possibilities that may arise rather than the inadequacies that currently exist. We risk the laughter and even mockery of our elders because we can still cling to the thought that perhaps our aspirations will one day be met.

Sometimes, that's all it takes: having the ability to stand firm and think that things can work out for the best.

Less than a year ago, the "dream" for a meeting place for Jewish students at Dalhousie University was appreciated, but hardly taken seriously. Now, we just have to buy the pots to get the chicken soup boiling. Both convenient timing and the generosity of the Jewish community of Halifax and individuals in Toronto allowed this project to take off, but it was the belief in the importance of fostering Jewish student life on campus that provided the impetus for action. With every speech explaining our needs, we asserted the nobility of our cause and proved the strength of our convictions. The motivation to prevail and to advocate the importance of this project could not have existed unless there was some hope that we would succeed. That hope belonged to the optimism that has not yet been jaded by experience.

It is easy to succumb to doubt, to wonder if the struggles will ever produce something. The moments of defeat always seem to crush the victories. The challenges seem never-ending – that is, until something big enough happens, something that proves youthful idealism can produce results. When that happens, the struggle is a little bit easier. The problems are not as disconcerting as they once were because there is light at the end of the proverbial tunnel.

Really, the *bayit* is just a house: a bunch of rooms right near Dalhousie. But now that it's ours, we have a foundation of our own. Every face of shock in response to the news of our success solidifies the sense of accomplishment we can share with the community.

These years are tough. Being free isn't always as easy as it seems. The more options, the more decisions to be made; the grander the dreams, the greater the challenge of accomplishing them. The thing is, now is the time when we have to believe that dreams can be realized.

As the new year approaches, it is easy to think that another year will pass by like all the others. There is little to make us think that the obstacles of the past will disappear in the future. A group of disinterested students will not suddenly wake up and run to synagogue. And when you spend your days trying to market a product that is considered outdated and unwanted by many, it can be tough to find the motivation to do so. Insecurity sets in, and you have to wonder if things will really be different with a flip of the calendar page.

This year, though, there is a hope for us that never existed before. As Rosh Hashanah approaches, we can celebrate an added sweetness. We have reason to believe we can evoke change. We can appreciate this phase of our lives and understand that we must cherish our dreams. As long as we have goals to reach for, there is no reason to give up.

The Kirshner File

The Liberty incident: case of mistaken identity

On the early afternoon of June 8, 1967, the Liberty, a U.S. intelligence-gathering ship disguised as a "technical research" vessel, was strafed by Israeli aircraft and torpedo boats in international waters off the coast of the Sinai Peninsula, near the town of El Arish. Thirty four Americans were killed and 171 were wounded in the unprovoked attack, which occurred on the fourth day of the Six Day War.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The incident, which earned the ship's captain, William McGonagle, the Medal of Honor, has been the subject of 13 official investigations by the American and Israeli governments, a few books, five television documentaries and a gaggle of conspiracy theories.

Although the United States exonerated Israel, concluding that the attack was a tragic case of mistaken identity caused by the convergence of Israeli and American mistakes, the incident has yet to be laid to rest.

The Liberty Veterans Association is requesting another congressional study, even though five have been conducted in the past 35 years, and the U.S. Navy newspaper, *Navy Times*, recently reported that 88.6 per cent of its readers want a new investigation.

So the controversy lingers on.

A. Jay Cristol, a U.S. federal judge who spent 38 years in the navy, 18 as an aviator and 20 in the navy's Judge Advocate General Corps, has written a book that should, based on the facts, silence discordant voices who claim that it was a deliberate attack.

The Liberty Incident (Brassey's, Inc.) is nothing if not thorough. In writing this persuasive book, Cristol compiled a mountain of telling data and interviewed more individuals directly involved in the incident than any other previous researcher.

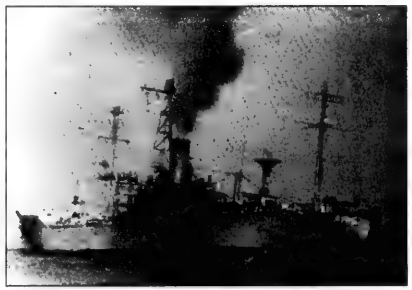
He points out that the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff directed the Liberty to remain 100 nautical miles off the combat zone. The Joint Chiefs sent McGonagle five such stand-off messages, but as a result of mistakes, faulty protocols and technical problems with the U.S. military's communications system, he did not get any of them.

Furthermore, Ernest Castle, the American naval attaché in Israel in 1967, warned Washington to exercise caution, since Israeli forces in and around El Arish had been shelled from the sea by Egypt.

Writers who claim that the assault was premeditated cite the fact that the Liberty was flying the Stars and Stripes. But a U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry stated: "The calm conditions and slow ship speed may well have made the American flag difficult to identify." In a separate message, Admiral John McCain, commander of U.S. naval forces in Europe, observed that weather conditions "produced insufficient relative wind for steaming colors to be seen by pilots." He concluded: "The attack... was... a mistake."

Israel, having sent an airplane to scan the Mediterranean Sea after the shelling, was aware that the Liberty was in the vicinity. Uri Mertez, an officer in naval intelligence, told his colleagues that the Liberty was similar in appearance to the El-Quseir, an Egyptian vessel. He warned them not to mix up the two ships. Having conveyed this message, Mertez went off duty. Then, somehow or other, his warning did not make it through the chain of command.

The Americans initially feared that the Liberty had been attacked by the Soviet Union. On June 2, six days before the Liberty was strafed, U.S. Air Force fighter-bombers accidentally bombed the Turkestan, a Soviet merchant ship anchored in the North Vietnamese port of Cam Pha. Was this payback by Moscow? Before firm conclusions about Soviet perfidy could be drawn, the Israelis informed the Americans that they had attacked the Liberty, and apologized profusely.



The Liberty following the June 8 attack

Dean Rusk, the U.S. secretary of state, was furious. He branded the attack as irresponsible. Clark Clifford, a key member of president Lyndon Johnson's administration, conducted an inquiry. His 1967 report, declassified in 1995, reached several conclusions. The Israeli high command, while guilty of "gross and inexcusable failures," had not carried out a premeditated attack.

Within a month of the incident, the American media was on the case. *Newsweek* reported that the navy "turned up no evidence to indicate the attack was anything but a tragic blunder." In a subsequent edition, *Newsweek* quoted U.S. secretary of defence Robert McNamara as saying that the strafing was "unintentional."

Captain William McGonagle

Shortly afterward, an Israeli court of inquiry, headed by Yeshayahu Yerushalmi, concluded that the Liberty was attacked because of its uncanny resemblance to an Egyptian supply ship.

As Cristol observes, the history of warfare is replete with "friendly fire" incidents. During World War I, a British ship sank a British submarine, and in World War II, a German bomber sank two German destroyers at a cost of 578 lives.

More to the point, four Israeli Mystere fighters attacked a British destroyer during the 1956 Sinai war, mistaking it for an Egyptian vessel. On the first and fourth days of the Six Day War, the Israeli Air Force strafed and bombed Israeli armour and troops.

And in 1995, U.S. jets shot down two U.S. Black Hawk helicopters in northern Iraq. When Cristol asked Thomas Krupp – the American naval attache in Tel Aviv from 1989 to 1990 – if he had an opinion about the Liberty affair, he replied: "The only time I was wounded during my naval career was on April 16, 1972, while serving on the destroyer Worden off Vietnam. The Worden was attacked by U.S. Air Force F-4 aircraft."

McGonagle, whose gallantry on the bridge of the Liberty was cited when Johnson conferred the Medal of Honor on him, described the incident as an example of "gross incompetence and aggravated dereliction of duty on the part of many officers and men of the state of Israel."

James Ennis, an officer on the Liberty and author of *Assault on the Liberty: The True Story of the Israeli Attack on an American Intelligence Ship* (1976), accused Israel of "deliberate, premeditated murder."

He is not the only writer who has cast aspersions on Israel's motives. In 1984, in *Taking Sides: America's Secret Relations with a Militant Israel*, Stephen Green hypothesized that Israel attacked the Liberty so as to draw attention away from Arab allegations that the U.S. Air Force supported Israel during the Six Day War. James Bamford, in *The Puzzle Palace* (1982), claimed that Israel strafed the Liberty to hush up its impending plan to conquer the Golan Heights.

These conspiracy theories were thoroughly dismissed by the U.S. government.

Rear Admiral Isaac Kidd, the president of a naval court of inquiry, said that the attack was "a case of mistaken identity." (His superior, Thomas Moorer, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from 1970 to 1974, refused "to swallow" Israel's story.)

The Central Intelligence Agency similarly concluded that the attack was an error. Yet in a current edition of *Middle East International*, Richard Helms, the CIA director at the time, claims that "it was no accident."

Cristol, after examining the mounds of evidence, concludes that it is simply inconceivable that Israel, a trusted ally, would have jeopardized its pivotal relationship with the United States to attack the Liberty.

As he puts it: "There is an old U.S. Marine Corps adage that is perhaps appropriate here. 'Never attribute to malice that which can be explained by stupidity.'"

Truer words were never spoken.

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Jewish National Fund of Toronto 2002 Negev Dinner

Announcement

Frank A. Wilson, President of the Jewish National Fund of Toronto, is pleased to announce on behalf of the Board of Directors that the 2002 Negev Dinner Honourees are Saul and Toby Feldberg. They are distinguished citizens of our community.

Toby and Saul Feldberg

The 54th Annual JNF Toronto Negev Dinner will take place at the downtown Sheraton Centre Hotel on Sunday, December 1st, in the Grand Ballroom. **Details, tickets, information and reservations are available by contacting the offices of JNF Toronto by telephone 416-638-7200, by fax 416-638-7345 or by email at tor@jnf-canada.org.**

The major project in Israel which will benefit from the proceeds of this tribute to the Feldbergs is ***Halochem Park in the Haruvit Forest.*** This special project for physically challenged veterans of the Israel Defence Forces and for disabled civilians will permit these individuals and their families to enjoy picnic and recreation areas in the forest. For those seeking to spend a quiet day in the realm of nature, ***Halochem Park*** will be a welcome respite. The Park will be located in the centre of the country, between Beit Shemesh and the Re'em Junction. The ***Halochem Park*** will occupy approximately 300 dunams within the larger forest area. Its facilities will be designed to meet the needs of the disabled.

Saul and Toby were both born in Poland and both families were, of course, greatly affected by the war and its aftermath. The Feldbergs - Saul's parents, his brother and himself, as well as the Elsners - Toby's parents, her sister and herself, found new lives, first in Israel and finally in Canada.

Saul and Toby met in 1955 and married in 1957. They are the parents of four and the grandparents of five. David and his wife Elyssa have two beautiful daughters, Alexa and Jordy, while Janice and her husband, Jeff Bly, are the parents of Jake, Ashley and Sydney. Bernie is a bachelor while Joel, their youngest, recently married Melissa.

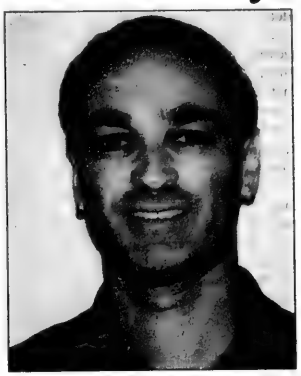
The companies which were established by Saul and Toby - Global and Teknion - are today a major force in the office furniture industry worldwide. All of the Feldberg children play a major role in these companies.

The Feldbergs support many charitable organizations in Canada and in Israel. They are active and recognized as leaders within the communal structure in Toronto. Toby currently serves as President of Beit Halochem Canada, an organization in Israel providing support and services to disabled veterans. The Feldbergs are members of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue.

A team of volunteer organizers and canvassers launched the Negev Dinner Campaign at the Feldberg home on September 4th. At that time, JNF President Frank A. Wilson inaugurated the Campaign, announcing that Campaign Co-Chairs will be Brent Belzberg, Jeff Blidner, David Koschitzky and Edward Sonshine, Q.C. Associate Campaign Co-Chairs will be Philip Feldberg, Ron Hoffman and Michael Serruya. Co-Chairs of the General Canvass are Alex Eisen, Frances Mandell, Jerry Werger, Judith Wilson and Vivienne Ziner. Almost two hundred volunteers, including the Dinner Executive, Tribute Committee and Campaign Team are working to make this event one of the best ever.

Beth Tzedec's new cantor composed musical score for Spielberg documentary

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter



Meir Finkelstein

For a cantor who's been serving congregations for 36 years, Meir Finkelstein looks remarkably youthful. His secret? He began his career at age 14.

On Aug. 1, Finkelstein became senior cantor at Toronto's Beth Tzedec Congregation, the largest Conservative congregation in North America with approximately 3,000 families.

A native of Israel who moved with his family to England at age 4, he followed in the footsteps of his father, Cantor Zvi Finkelstein, and his brother Aryeh, who is a cantor in Boston.

The two brothers sang with their father as children, and at 14, Meir was offered a position with a synagogue in Glasgow, where the family moved when he was 8.

At 16 he left Scotland for Newcastle, where he served as a cantor for two years while attending high school. Although he shared an apartment, he took all his meals with the rabbi's family.

By the time he was 18, Finkelstein had landed a position at Golders Green Synagogue, a major London congregation. While serving Golders Green, he studied singing, piano and composition at the Royal College of Music, graduating with honours.

The lyric tenor considered opera at one point, but he decided to focus instead on chazzanut and composing. During an 18-year stint at Sinai Temple in Westwood, Calif., he composed more than 100 synagogue works as well as a number of Hollywood pieces, including music for television movies and shows including *Dallas* and *Falcon Crest*.

With a congregation that included movie producers and people in the music industry, branching out in that direction was a natural evolution for Finkelstein.

He also wrote the musical score for Steven Spielberg's documentary, *Survivors of the Shoah*. (Spielberg was not one of his congregants.)

"It was a very fascinating experience and very difficult," said Finkelstein of the three-month project. "When you're scoring a film, you have to review the picture over and over, and obviously the subject matter when dealing with the Holocaust is very emotionally draining – but ultimately rewarding."

His most recent commission was a Jewish requiem called *Nishmat Tzedek* written for a full orchestra, chorus and soloist. It's being released worldwide to address the suffering of survivors of suicide bombings in Israel and Jewish survivor families of Sept. 11. The recording will be sent to them as a gift, he said.

He enjoys the variety of his composition work and attributes his style to an eclectic set of musical influences – among them the Beatles, Burt Bacharach, classical, opera, chassidic and cantorial music – when he was growing up.

What did his father think of the Beatles? "Not too much," Finkelstein replied.

His late father, a native of Transylvania who fought in Israel's War of Independence, preferred opera. Finkelstein's mother, Zipora, who was born in England, moved to Palestine with her family as a child, and now lives in Israel again.

Having lived and worked in different parts of the world, Finkelstein said the role of the chazzan in North America is very different to that in England or Europe, where the cantor leads services but is not otherwise as involved in congregational life as is the case here.

When he left England for a position in Chicago in 1974, the culture shock was "huge." In addition to taking on an expanded role, Finkelstein left an Orthodox congregation for a Conservative one. Later, in California, he served a fully egalitarian congregation in which women are counted in the minyan.

"I think, like everything else, once you get used to it, it ceases to be shocking," he said. "You accept as a matter of course that women are an integral part of the congregation and of Jewish prayer and services." At Beth Tzedec, women have been given aliyot unconditionally since 1994, but they are not counted in the minyan.

After a two-year sabbatical in Dallas, one of the things that drew Finkelstein and his wife Monica to Toronto was the Conservative Jewish lifestyle. "It seems to be a wonderful environment for raising children," said the father of a 4-year-old and a 3-year-old.

In services, worshippers will see a cantorial style that Finkelstein says has changed over the years. "I've moved away from the very traditional chazzanut to a much more modern, minimalist and expressive style that encourages participation."

New apartments designated for Jewish community

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Somewhere along the way toward acquiring the building permit for a large rental apartment project, Russell Masters had an idea.

A vice-president of Tower Hill Development Corporation, Masters realized during negotiations with the City of Toronto that it might help expedite the approval process to designate some units at below-market rates because of a serious rental housing shortage.

"If we were going to do that, we wanted to designate it for our own community," Masters said in a recent phone interview.

The Kehilla Residential Program, a registered charity created in 1982 to identify and manage affordable housing initiatives, became involved in the project. Kehilla put Tower Hill in touch with UJA Federation's Jewish Information Service (JIS), which runs a housing registry.

Although Kehilla had been in contact with Tower Hill before regarding housing issues, this is their first joint project.

Along with 25 one- and two-bedroom suites designated in Tower Hill's existing building at 3000 Yonge St., 25 units have been designated at Rosewell Gardens, a planned rental complex near Avenue Road and Lawrence Avenue.

Toronto is short 15,000 to 20,000 apartment units a year, Masters told *The CJN*. Only 22 new units were built last year, although an estimated 25 to 30 per cent of condominium units are rented out, he said.

For most builders, he explained, "it makes no sense [financially] to build apartments. That's why no one's done them in 25 years."

Tower Hill is building apartments on land it has owned for a long time, he explained.

New apartments will replace two-storey walk-up buildings that Masters' grandfather, Reuben Dennis, now 94, built in 1952. Groundbreaking is scheduled to take place Oct. 1, and the project is expected to take 18 months to complete.

Will replace two-storey walk-up buildings

"We think there is a huge middle-income market [of] working people who need a nice place to live," said Masters.

The new project would be "a good choice for somebody new to the workforce," said Barbara Barak, senior co-ordinator of JIS.

Of the designated units, one-bedroom apartments will lease for $863 a month, compared to a market rate of $975, while two-bedroom units – whose typical market rate would be $1,400 – will go for $1,033.

"It's ideal for the young Jewish community member, student, recent graduate or young professional," said Barak.

The apartments are being offered initially to members of the Jewish community. If there are not enough people within the Jewish community who qualify, they will be offered outside the community, said Barak.

For further information on the project, contact Barak or Fran Augenblick at 416-635-5600.

A rendering of the proposed apartment complex

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Elana Erdstein	Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion	Rabbinate
Jacob Fine	University of Judaism	Rabbinate
Elisha Fishbane	Harvard University	Jewish Studies
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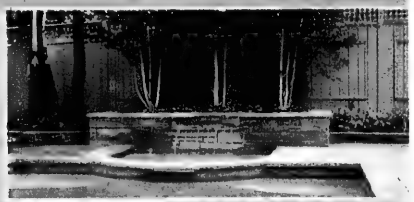

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After the terrorist attack at Hebrew University. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Hebrew University victims remembered

Continued from page 3

Feldman happened to run into Blutstein, her roommate's boyfriend, the night before he was killed. "Before we parted, he told me how excited he was to see his parents. He had a ticket for the next night. Unfortunately he flew home in a casket."

She recalled Blutstein as a serious Torah student by day and a charismatic DJ by night.

Student stops at memorial set up at Hebrew University after the terrorist attack. [Israel photo]

"He was full of energy and full of life.

Rothberg alumna Shari Golberg lit a memorial candle to honour Blutstein, Bennett, Ladowski and the six other victims: Revital Barashi, Dina Carter, Janis Ruth Coulter, David Gritz, Levina Shapira and Dafna Spruch.

Harley Mintz, president of CFHU's Toronto chapter, said the bombing brought the realization that there is "no safe place from terror."

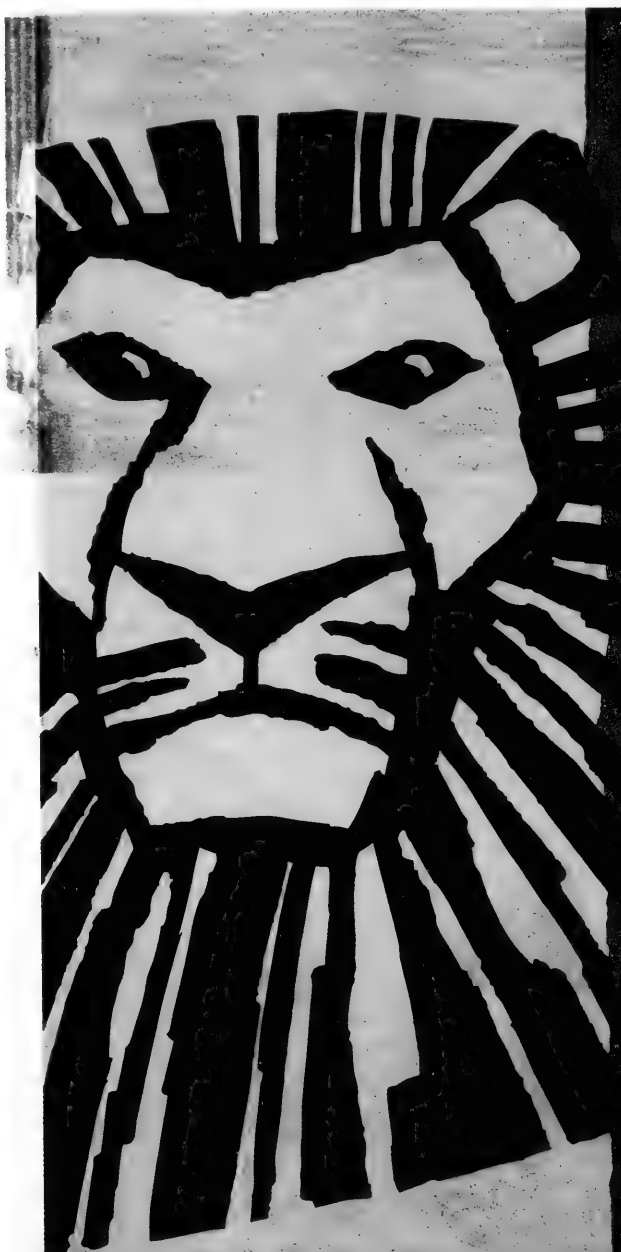
Moshe Arad, the university's vice-president for development, said in a taped message that messages of support have been a source of great strength and encouragement.

"We are proud of being an island of sanity and tranquility," he said. "We are determined to continue to pursue our mission... and to serve as a bridge of co-existence."

Prof. Janice Stein, director of the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies, said Hebrew U has always stood for everything that's the opposite of terror. "From the early days, they took seriously their responsibility to use reason and carefully disciplined thought to find a way though the intractable conflict between Israelis and Palestinians."

She reminisced about her three-decade affiliation with Hebrew University and lamented in particular the loss of the director of the department of student affairs and the serious injuries to most of its staff members. The department will have to be rebuilt from scratch before the new academic year starts in October, Stein said.

Tracy Wilder, a 1988 alumna and past chair of CFHU New Leadership, called on those present to translate their feelings into action and support Israel in ways such as calling or e-mailing friends and family in Israel, buying Israeli products and giving tzedakah.



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Israeli writers, academics face increasing isolation

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Some Israeli writers and academics are finding themselves unwelcome guests at international conferences and speaking engagements. Others are simply being left off the invitation list.

According to the Harbourfront Centre's Web site, the upcoming International Festival of Authors – which features Iranian writer Salmon Rushdie as the opening speaker – does not include any Israeli writers for its readings, although nine authors from Israel have appeared in previous years.

Greg Gatenby, the artistic director of the festival, said that Israeli authors were not invited this year because there haven't been many new Hebrew books translated into English.

"Politics were not a consideration," Gatenby said.

However, some Israeli scholars feel that when it comes to Israel, the only view welcome in academic and literary circles is either criticism or silence.

Haifa University law professor Amnon Reichman, who was visiting in Toronto recently, said that at some conferences, "the entire Israeli population is being branded as enemies of all humanity." If you challenge that outlook, you are attacked on all sides, he added.

The net effect is completely antithetical to the whole idea of academia, where ideas should be allowed to be presented so that the search for truth can proceed. The academic chill on alternative points of view silences Israeli voices that are pro-Israel, Reichman said.

"The most you can do is sit quietly because it becomes clear that if you don't join the anti-Israel view, you will not be listened to."

Michal Govrin is currently writer in residence at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Last summer, the poet and novelist faced academic anti-Semitism when her participation in a writers' festival in Hobart, Tasmania, was cancelled, the organizers said, "to protest against the killing of children."

After the intervention of the state premier, they re-invited her and she reluctantly set out on a trip to Australia, where she was generally ignored by the festival directors.

It was so ironic, she said, to come face to face with chilling hate, crazy accusations and open anti-Semitism in Tasmania, a place where the whites totally exterminated the aboriginal communities.

Instead of a simple literary tour, she found herself dealing with a new face of anti-Semitism and addressing "the deliberate deformation of language and information committed by writers or intellectuals" that legitimizes and encourages further acts of terrorism, she said.

In a phone interview from her home in Tel Aviv, Israeli writer Savyon Liebrecht told of similar experiences she had on a recent European book tour.

"In Germany, it felt as if I was constantly under attack," Liebrecht said.

Since Liebrecht's books deal with issues related to the Holocaust, she found that many of her interviewers focused on the current situation in Israel and compared it to the Shoah.

"They would ask me how I dared to speak about atrocities that happened 50 years ago and for which retribution has been paid without addressing what is going on in Israel today," Liebrecht said.

The writer noted there is a significant difference between her European tours – where most of her readers aren't Jewish – and her appearances in North America, where her audience is mainly Jewish.

Liebrecht said she was embraced by Israelis and Jews at a recent visit to the Hebrew College in Boston.

Reichman confirmed that academic anti-Semitism is currently more severe in Europe than in the United States or Canada.

"It's not a rare occurrence these days that you'll be at a European conference and academics will argue that Jews are not a legal entity and therefore don't have a right to a state."

No attention will be paid to the political realities facing Israelis and the Jewish people and their right to self determination – an issue that Reichman thought was resolved in the 1920s with the creation of the Balfour Declaration.

"What other country has to defend its right to exist over and over again?" Reichman asked.

As for the planned appearance of Rushdie at the Habourfront Festival, Liebrecht sighed and said, "Ah yes, but he's been forgiven. We haven't."

Book sales remain steady

Despite the cold shoulder being given to Israeli writers when they travel, sales of their books remain steady.

If anything there has been an increase in interest in Israel and its political situation since Sept. 11, said Gefen Publishing's Ilan Greenfield.

"Many more people around the world – Jews and non-Jews – are eager to learn the real story. They're tired of the CNN news which victimizes terrorists," Greenfield said.

Israeli writer Michal Govrin said the positive press coverage given to her efforts in Australia to address the attempted boycott of her presence may have actually increased the sales of her novel *The Name*.

"The audience and press reaction [to the attempted boycott]... was wonderful," Govrin said.

Nili Cohen, of the Institute for the Translation of Hebrew Literature, also said they have not noticed any serious decline in the sales of Israeli books.

"The market is a commercial arena – with the usual ups and downs," she said.

"In the long run, there might be a problem. But right now, we haven't seen it."

—A.M.

A Special Message to UJA Volunteers

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 has made spectacular progress so far in order to help relieve Israel's suffering. Together, we've raised $54 million, with gift increases averaging an extraordinary 53%.

Now we have to complete the campaign and we need your help!

From September 9-12, between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, we'll be contacting UJA Federation donors who asked that we call them during our regular campaign period for their **Israel Emergency Campaign 2003** gift.

The gift increases that you secure will go a long way toward assisting victims of terror and their families, increasing security for Israeli school children and providing human services for Israel's vulnerable, most affected by the current, ongoing emergency.

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To volunteer for one of the following telethon shifts at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., please call Donna at 416.635.2883 ext. 320.

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- **Tuesday, September 10 – 12:30-3:30 p.m., 6:00-9:00 p.m.**
- **Wednesday, September 11 – 6:00-9:00 p.m.**
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Notice to Visitors to Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Arrangements have been made by Pardes Shalom to provide complimentary transportation to the cemetery for the High Holidays, for those who require it.

Bus service will be provided on **Sunday, September 15th.**

On each of these days, a bus identified by a sign "**PARDES SHALOM**" will depart from the front entrance of the Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., at 10 a.m.

The bus will make a stop at the parking lot of Betel Centre, located on Steeles Ave. W., at 10:15 a.m., to pick up passengers before proceeding to the cemetery.

The bus will leave the cemetery at 12:30 p.m. for return to the Betel Centre and the Bathurst Jewish Centre.

For further information, and to register, please call the cemetery office 416-635-2883, extension 211 - Trudy, or extension 224 - Esther.

Jewish Life

Benefits of a family newsletter

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Every year before Rosh Hashanah, Judith Caplan publishes about 225 copies of a family newsletter and sends them out around the world. The newsletter is titled *My Multi-Mishpacha Missive* and often runs to 24 pages, plus inserts. It is received enthusiastically in homes in the United States, Canada, England, Holland, Israel, Australia, South Africa and other countries.

Caplan, a former high school teacher in Long Island, N.Y., says the newsletter helps maintain a sense of unity between family branches that are far-flung geographically and whose various members might not have known about each other were it not for her painstaking investigations.

"I am knitting together the family – actually four families," she says. "I am keeping the generations interwoven so they think they know each other even if they don't ever see each other."

A popular feature of the newsletter is the Milestones page, which highlights births, marriages, anniversaries, bar and bat mitzvahs, graduations and other achievements.

"People like getting their names some place, they like getting something published about themselves," Caplan says. "And they like to read that this one graduated and that one had a baby."

Genealogists are often stymied when relatives who seem genuinely interested in the family procrastinate when asked for updates on their local branches. A family newsletter markedly improves the reply rate, Caplan says.

By keeping in regular touch and using the newsletter to give her research a higher profile, she receives an enviable level of co-operation and manages to generate fine team spirit. When proud relatives inform her of a milestone, she sends them a printout that lists members of their local branch, as well as an update card to fill in any blanks. Most reply promptly.

The newsletter also includes descriptions of Caplan's main areas of research and a research wish list, family photographs both new and old, thank-yous to supportive family members, suggestions for baby names, and plenty of e-mail addresses to facilitate greater correspondence between the branches.

Caplan foots almost the entire cost of the newsletter – about $500 (US) for printing and postage – but she figures she saves on Rosh Hashanah cards by sending New Year's greetings with the publication. The time requirement is also considerable, which is why she makes it a yearlong project and doesn't wait for August to start a new issue.

"Basically, I underwrite it," she says. "Some people give me some contributions, but it's my baby. It's mine. I choose to send it out. If someone wants to give me something, they will. I figure as long as they don't tell me not to send it, I'm doing well."

Despite the cost, the rewards can be enormous. Caplan enjoys the task and is confident her family tree is about as up-to-date as any genealogist could hope for. Then come the less tangible benefits associated with helping to repair the frayed tapestry of one's own family history. Earlier this summer, an Israeli Holocaust survivor saw her newsletter and came to New York to meet her. "She said, 'You gave me back my family. I thought there was no one left, that we were the last ones out,'" the genealogist recalls.

Caplan was one of many excellent speakers at the recent IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Toronto. She is also the editor of an online journal about Litvak research (www.jewish gen.org).

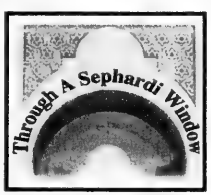
* * *

May I take this opportunity to wish all readers of *The CJN* the very best for the High Holy Days and the New Year. May we see better things unfold in Israel and around the world in 5763.

Keys without doors

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

Officially, no Jews were left in Spain. As of August 1492, the last Jew in Spain was expelled forever.



Among the precious few belongings the Jews were able to carry with them were the keys to their homes. With these keys in hand, they held on to the hope of one day returning and reclaiming their estates. This, of course, never happened. Although, close to 500 years later, the edict of the expulsion was officially repealed, the Jews of Spain never returned. The keys, however, were passed from father to son. With the passing of the centuries, they became important only for their nostalgic value.

I possess one of these keys. A primitive skeleton key, covered in the fine red rust of more than half a millennium. It is a key to some door in Toledo, Spain. I am sure both the door and the estate it locked are long gone. Still, the key hangs in my library, proudly framed for what it represents to me.

This fall, on Oct. 14, the World Sephardi Federation will reunite the descendants of those expelled Jews of Spain at a conference in Granada.

The official insignia for this conference is the Hebrew letter *samach*, together with one of these keys superimposed over it. *Samach* presumably stands for Sepharad (Spain) or Sephardi (Spanish Jew).

While this conference holds much promise, I am reminded of a different and very opposite point of view held by some of the expelled Jews. They chose not to carry the keys to their estates with them. In fact, after being unceremoniously kicked out of their homes, they undertook to never return. Legend has it that the origin of the common Sephardi name Toledano is "Toledo no," meaning "there we will never again come back."

This second group and their outlook proved to be forward looking. History has sided with this point of view. It is one that speaks of the future, one that says life continues, things do not remain static, one moves on and one should not, like Lot's wife, look back, only ahead.

There is a time for looking back, if that looking back is forward-centered. We look back to understand who we are, from where we came and hopefully to where we are heading.

Rosh Hashanah is this sort of time – to look back, but to do so in only the most forward of ways. Yes indeed, review the year past, carry on with what was positive and worthwhile in it, and discard what was not. Welcome change with an embrace, for change is a growth opportunity.

The Jews of Spain did not disappear, they dispersed. They settled in North Africa, the Mediterranean basin, the Balkans, the land of Israel and even parts of Eastern Europe such as Hungary and Romania. Their rich tapestry of traditions, language, foods and music all live on, even if their estates are long gone.

May the Almighty bring us health, peace and prosperity in this new year.

Jewish Life

Hailing Brooklyn

***Jews of Brooklyn*, edited by Ilana Abramovitch and Sean Galvin, Brandeis University Press, 2001, $40 (US).**

Books
Bernard Baskin

When I'm asked where I grew up, I answer proudly and without hesitation, "Brooklyn." When I was about ten, my father became rabbi of a large modern Orthodox synagogue in Brooklyn's Williamsburg section. This was long before the arrival of Chassidim and Puerto Ricans in the area. Our family shook off the relative small-town tranquility of New Brunswick, N.J., and entered a maelstrom of hectic Jewish activity. Brooklyn had a Jewish population of close to one million and its influence was ubiquitous.

On the eve of Passover, the street we lived on was punctuated by small fires as families burned their bread prior to the beginning of the festival.

When Sukkot arrived, my father provided the biblically ordained four species of the festival for congregational members. My brother and I delivered the packages, including lulav and etrog. We vigorously vied for the tips where we knew they would be most generously offered. At the end of the holiday, the schach that was used to cover the sukkahs littered the neighbourhood, the wind blowing the branches in every direction.

Purim was highlighted by the constant arrival of mishloach manot gifts to our home. My mother selected items from the various baskets and bowls to create new and attractive mishloach manot arrangements of her own. It was an impressive balancing and measuring act, based on long experience.

On the second afternoon of Rosh Hashanah, we observed tashlich from the heights of the Williamsburg Bridge, the towers of Manhattan looming in the distance.

My father was a formidable scholar. Whenever he entered the sanctuary, row after row of congregants rose halfway in their seats. It was like a pious wave of respect and esteem. Is this tradition still observed anywhere?

Not long after moving to Williamsburg, I became a student at Yeshiva Torah Vodaath just a few blocks from my home. Etched in memory are the teacher strikes that periodically occurred. Without warning, the underpaid harassed teachers refused to enter their classrooms. In response, the exultant students streaked through the corridors shouting, "Strike, strike." It was a heart-warming cry. Usually, after a few days of frenzied financial wrangling, the reluctant students trooped back to school.

These bittersweet reminiscences arise from reading *Jews of Brooklyn*, an evocative anthology of 40 essays by historians, scholars, folklorists and poets who explore the diversity of the Jewish experience in New York City's most populous borough over the past century.

This oversized book deals with all aspects of Brooklyn's Jewish life – political, social and religious – from the conservative to the radical, from the religious to the secular.

Brooklyn has nurtured enormous Jewish talent. The following are just a few of the world-famous personalities who were either born or raised there: Woody Allen, Danny Kaye, Robert Merrill, Barbara Streisand, Joseph Heller and Norman Mailer.

In addition to its wide-ranging content, *Jews of Brooklyn* has a wealth of expertly selected photographs that stimulate the mind as they attract the eye.

Rosh Hashanah music

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It may not boast catchy tunes like Chanukah's *Maoz Tzur* or Passover's *Dayeinu*, but Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur have some of the most inspiring melodies found in Jewish liturgy. As we approach the Days of Awe, you can listen to some of the tunes that will soon be heard in synagogues around the world.

There are several sites where you can listen to the moving music of the High Holy Days. The Cantors Institute Choir presents renditions of *Aleinu* and *Hayom Harat Olam* ("Today is the birth of the universe") sung in the Musaf prayers on Rosh Hashanah after the shofar is sounded. **[http://learn.jtsa.edu/topics/arts/audhhday/]** For a Sephardi version of some Rosh Hashanah tunes, go to the following page and scroll down about halfway to hear Los Angeles' Yosef Dweck *Selichot* (prayers of forgiveness) and piyutim (liturgical poems) for the month of Elul, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. **[http://www.613.org/music/niggun.html]**

The best site that I have found that allows you to listen to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur music belongs to Temple Sholom of Cedar Grove, N. J. You can listen to many tunes including *Avinu Malkeinu* ("Our Father, Our King,) *Zochreinu* ("Remember Us") and the haunting *Unetaneh Tokef*. **[http://sholom.net/rosh_hashana_music-5761.htm]**

The words of *Unetaneh Tokef* are famous: "On Rosh Hashanah will be inscribed and on Yom Kippur will be sealed how many will pass from the earth and how many will be created; who will live and who will die…" **[http://www.ou.org/chagim/roshhashannah/unetaneh.html]**. The poem is attributed to Rabbi Amnon who lived in Mainz, Germany about 1,000 years ago. Rabbi Ammon had been repeatedly summoned by the Bishop of Mainz to convert to Christianity. Eventually, the bishop had Rabbi Amnon's hands and feet cut off for refusing to convert. Tradition has it that after Rabbi Amnon died of his injuries, he appeared in a dream to Rabbi Kalonymous ben Meshullam and taught him the text of the prayer. You can read a detailed version of the *Unetaneh Tokef* story on the Web.

A version of *Unetaneh Tokef* entered popular culture in 1974 when Leonard Cohen released *Who By Fire*. **[http://www.leonardcohensite.com/prologues/who_by_fire.htm]**

"…And who by brave assent, who by accident,
who in solitude, who in this mirror,
who by his lady's command, who by his own hand,
who in mortal chains, who in power,
and who shall I say is calling?"

Cohen explained that he derived his song "from the melody which I heard when I was sat in a synagogue. And of course the ending of my song is something different. Who shall I say is calling? – This is my kind of prayer: Who is it, or what is it, which determines man's life?" **[http://www.medialab.chalmers.se/guitar/who.by.fire.html]**

Most Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur music is quite solemn. But for something a bit different – and very lively – listen to *Uman, Uman, Rosh Hashana*. **[http://www.breslovcenter.com/article_RHinUman.html]** Uman, Ukraine is the resting place of Rabbi Nachman of Breslov (1772-1810). Every year, thousands of Breslover Chassidim from around the world make the pilgrimage to Uman to honour and celebrate their Rebbe. You can listen to a joyous and generous excerpt from their album online. **[http://www.breslov.com/music/]** The same page also has Breslover renditions of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur prayers that date back to the time of the Ba'al Shem Tov in the 18th century.

It may be quite unorthodox but every Rosh Hashanah since 1997, thousands of Israelis have been getting together in the Megiddo Forest to celebrate the holiday with a different kind of music. **[http://info.jpost.com/C001/Supplements/RoshHashana/green.html]** The Bereshit Festival presents international artists along with Carlebach-influenced Jewish soul music and areas for meditation, tai chi and yoga. One of the regulars at the festival is Rabbi Mordechai Gafni. Asked why he attends the festival, the rabbi answers: "When you have 20,000 people of my family getting together for a Rosh Hashana meal, wherever they are, I'll be there. It's about family."

Shanah Tovah.

Mark Mietkiewicz writes, lectures and teaches about the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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England passes Get law in Canada's and New York's footsteps

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash, B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.

According to the Yiddish newspaper the *Forverts* (*Yiddish Forward*), England's Parliament recently passed a law to help Jewish women obtain a religious divorce ("Get") to enable them to remarry more easily. The newspaper further reports that Jonathan Sachs, the chief Rabbi of England, is happy with the law which "gives the courts the right to require from a couple a religious Get before the Court will grant a civil divorce."

I congratulate all the hard-working English men and women who promoted this new law. It took them many years and a great deal of effort in the face of considerable resistance.

Canada's role in pioneering Get legislation

The law mirrors New York State law, where the idea originated with the noted American jurist, lawyer Nathan Lewin, and others in the early 1980s. We in Canada had such legislation enacted in the Divorce Act of 1991, and in Ontario's Family Law Act as early as 1986!

However, in Canada, a spouse has to raise the issue of his or her need for a religious divorce from her spouse before a Court will prevent the civil divorce from being granted. In 1985/86 and in 1990/91, I had the privilege of drafting and promoting this legislation on behalf of the Orthodox Rabbis of Toronto and B'nai Brith Canada. These groups successfully trailblazed this initiative to assist primarily those Jewish women whose husbands were attempting to extort money or other "rights" in exchange for their consent to a Get.

Since then, the incidence of "Get abuse" has shrunk dramatically. The Canadian legislation goes further than the English and the American: the "blackmailing" spouse can lose rights to property, money and even custody or access to children if he or she refuses to consent to a Get. The Canadian Courts have that power vested in them by Parliament and the Ontario legislature.

Consequences of refusing to grant a Get

The Canadian Jewish Congress, various women's groups and over 50 religious denominations across Canada, including the Catholic Church, ultimately supported the Orthodox Rabbis and B'nai Brith. So did the great constitutional lawyer (now deceased), J.J. Robinette.

They did so for a reason. Without a Get, a Jewish woman is unable to remarry within the Jewish faith. This means that if she gets a Canadian civil (secular) divorce — but not a religious one — then any children with her new husband would be considered under Jewish law as "illegitimate" or "mamzerim". Mamzerim can only marry other mamzerim or converts, and this rules applies to their children and their children's children into the 10th generation!

Under traditional Jewish law, Rabbis and synagogues are mandated not to permit marriages between mamzerim and other Jews. There are even mamzer societies that attempt to locate prospective spouses for such people.

Not only are many observant Jewish woman unable to remarry, they also cannot even date or allow themselves to be alone with a man. They become socially isolated and ostracized, "chained" to their estranged husband indefinitely. Such women are called "agunah" or "agunot" (plural). It is the duty of every Jew to help such women by doing whatever is necessary to persuade their husbands to give a Get, and to do so without conditions.

Ostracization of the agunot

According to Jewish law, the Torah also prevents any Rabbi from granting a "Get" or from making a ruling to circumvent the need to obtain the husband's consent to a Get.

In the Torah, it is one of our 613 Mitzvot to give a Get, when one is called upon to do so. The refusal to do so is no less a sin than stealing, adultery or failing to keep a Kosher diet.

A Jewish court can punish a man for refusing to consent to a Get, but those powers do not realistically exist outside of the State of Israel. In Israel, a man who refuses to grant a Get can be jailed or have his licenses to work or property rights compromised. In specific circumstances (not all), a Jewish man visiting Israel who refuses to grant a Get can be restrained from leaving Israel until he does so, even if he is not an Israeli citizen! (This has actually occurred).

By contrast, in certain situations, a Jewish man can remarry without a Get if he obtains a rabbinical ruling called a "heter", although this practice is frowned upon by the Jewish court in Toronto and is not practiced widely in Canada. It is extremely difficult to obtain such a "heter". Even when Rabbis permit such a procedure, they usually do so on the condition that the husband provide his consent to a Get at the same time. Otherwise, the woman would be left "stranded." Since obtaining such a heter is so difficult (and expensive), a number of men have also resorted to using Canadian law to enable them to remarry religiously.

New Year a time for compassion

As we approach Rosh Hashanah, it is gratifying to see that England is following in the footsteps of Canada and New York. As Canadians, we should all take some satisfaction in having contributed to help the agunot.

At this time of year, we should all pray that the Holy One, Blessed be He, bring an end to their plight. In the meantime, as we pound our chests while in shul this Yom Kippur, we should think of the agunah and commit ourselves to help anyone in our community in her situation (or his). Give her comfort and solace. Do not leave her stranded and ostracized.

And if you are in a position to do so, try to persuade a "blackmailing" or "difficult" spouse to do what is right.

On behalf of myself, my family, B'nai Brith Canada and the firm of Basman Smith, I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of Basman Smith. Neither B'nai Brith Canada, Basman Smith nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 860-1942, or e-mailed at jsyrtash@basmansmith.com. You can also visit www.basmansmith.com and www.spousalsupport.com.

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Landy's message

Continued from page 2

globe as dormant strains of anti-Semitism stirred, cascaded their way through Muslim and Arab lands, Europe and even to the streets of our cities here in Canada. Two years later, neither the war nor the anti-Semitic fallout shows signs of abating.

As Jews, we knew all too well that what connected Durban and the horrific terrorist acts of Sept. 11 was the truism that evil words lead to evil deeds. Without abandoning their intention to deny Jews equal rights, anti-Semites of the 21st century – be they Islamists, radical Arab nationalists or neo-Nazis – go one step further: they delegitimize the world's only Jewish State.

On Rosh Hashanah, we commemorate the anniversary of creation, *Brit HaOlam*. At this time of personal reflection and retrospection, it is hard to ignore the tumultuous events that coincided with this period in the last two years, the ramifications of which are still being felt daily, most severely of course by our Israeli brothers and sisters. It is from their heroism and courage that we draw our inspiration and our unshakable confidence in the perpetual triumph of the State of Israel over the forces arrayed against it. We do so because Israel and the Jewish people, Zionism and Judaism, are inextricably intertwined as part of a single body. Israel is the fulfilment of Jewish destiny and the culmination of the Jewish people's striving for liberation, self-determination and self-realization. Its re-establishment was an act of national redemption, successfully undoing the tragic condition that made of our people the perennially most persecuted minority in history. An attack on one is an attack on the other. Both are anti-Semitism.

It is the task of Jewish defence to preserve the status of Jewish communities as integral parts of their societies and the only Jewish State as an integral part of the community of nations. Many have to be reminded what they seem to have forgotten: that though anti-Semitism begins with the Jews, it never ends with them. The ultimate aim or consequence of anti-Semitism is the destruction of pluralistic democracies. Ridding the world of it, therefore, is a part of defending the democratic values that Canadians and Israelis cherish and share.

Rosh Hashanah ushers in the Yamim Nora'im, a time for spiritual renewal through prayer and self-examination. We ask forgiveness and make amends as we acknowledge our sins and strive to correct our faults. Especially in these difficult times, we draw comfort from our faith, the traditions that we treasure and those that we hold most dear – our families and friends, Israel and Canada. Despite the problems confronting us, we are secure in the knowledge that as we face the challenges, our people, in Israel and in the Diaspora, are as strong, united and resolute as at any time in our history.

Let us pray for peace in Israel and for a better world. I wish you all a sweet year and a meaningful fast.

L'Shanah Tovah Tikateivu.

Shedletsky's message

Continued from page 2

community responded with devotion, vigour and passion. Without hesitation, thousands of us reached deeply to provide generous donations for UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003, which is still underway. In fact, gift increases have reached historic highs, allowing us to send millions to help meet Israel's extraordinary needs and also look after the vulnerable members of our Jewish community.

This year proved that we, the Jewish people, truly believe in ourselves and in the timeless values that have sustained us for thousands of years. This past year of strife and sorrow demonstrated our strength and our resolve to overcome obstacles standing in the way of our survival. It showed that we are truly stronger together.

On behalf of UJA Federation, we wish you, your loved ones and the entire Jewish people a year of health, happiness and peace.

The Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Centre for Jewish Learning at Holy Blossom Temple

Holy Blossom Temple is as much a House of Study as a House of Worship. Our Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Centre for Jewish Learning affords members of the community the opportunity to study nearly every day of the week, at many different times and in many different locations, so everybody who wishes to learn may do so. Come and learn with us.

The Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Fall 2002 Lecture Series at Holy Blossom Temple

Two Years After the Reckoning — Reinventing the future of the Middle East

Two years ago, Yasser Arafat rejected Palestinian statehood, including East Jerusalem as its capital, and walked out of the Camp David talks, starting the second *Intifada* against Israel. Everything changed as violence erupted. This fall, four outstanding analysts will address the current situation and reflect on future possibilities.

A Palestinian State — In Peace or at War?
Ehud Ya'ari
Tue. Oct. 29, at 8 p.m.

Mr. Ya'ari is Associate Editor at the *Jerusalem Report*, author of a number of books and the foremost analyst of Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian political leadership. He is also the head of the Middle East Department at Israel Television.

How the Intifada Has Changed Israel
Yossi Klein HaLevi
Tue. Nov. 5, at 8 p.m.

Mr. Klein HaLevi is the author of *Memoirs of a Jewish Extremist: An American Story* and *At the Entrance to the Garden of Eden*. He is the Contributing Editor and Israel correspondent for *the New Republic* and a regular commentator for the *Los Angeles Times*.

The Middle East: A View from Washington
George Will
Tue. Nov. 12, at 8 p.m.

Mr. Will's newspaper column appears twice weekly in just under 500 newspapers in the United States and in Europe. He is also a regular contributing editor of *Newsweek Magazine* and a founding panel member on ABC television's "This Week with Sam Donaldson and Cokie Roberts."

A Vision of a Renewed Zionism and State
Yuli Tamir
Thur. Nov. 21, at 8 p.m.

Professor Tamir is head of The Rabin Center at Tel Aviv University and the former Minister of Absorption. She is a graduate of Oxford University and is a major and respected figure in Israel's Labor Party.

Other Lectures

Questions of Faith
Three Talks on Perennial Issues, Each with a New Twist

Rabbi Dow Marmur

SANCTITY OR SPIRITUALITY?
IS SPIRITUALITY A THREAT TO JUDAISM?
Wed. Sept. 18, at 7.30 p.m.

HOMECOMING OR HOLINESS?
IS HOMELESSNESS THE PRICE OF JEWISHNESS?
Wed. Sept. 25, at 7.30 p.m.

ASSIMILATION OR EXCLUSION?
IS INTEGRATION A THREAT TO JEWISH EXISTENCE?
Wed. Oct. 2, at 7.30 p.m.

More on the Vatican and the Holocaust: Reviewing Evidence from France

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK

Professor Michael Marrus
Wed. Nov. 6, at 8 p.m.
Controversy over the role of the Holy See during the Holocaust continues unabated. In an effort to put some of this debate into its historical context, this lecture will re-examine one crucial piece of evidence — a confidential diplomatic report to Marshal Philippe Petain, the French head of state, which reveals much, not only about Vatican attitudes but also about the French leadership of the anti-Jewish campaign that immediately preceded the Holocaust.

Other Study Opportunities

SATURDAY SHABBAT MORNING TORAH STUDY
THE GENESIS PROJECT: A LOOK AT WHEN THE WORLD WAS YOUNG
Rabbi John Moscowitz
9 a.m., ongoing
What is the worldview of the extraordinary book of Genesis? Can we trust this book — both as a factual document and as the word of God? What is God's plan for the Jewish people — and how do we fit in today? We will explore these and other critical questions as we engage in a line-by-line exploration of Genesis, now focussing on the Story of Abraham.

SUNDAY STUDY
Rabbi Jason Rosenberg
Sundays at 9.15 a.m., Oct. 6, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8, 2002 and Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 2, Apr. 13 and May 11, 2003

WOMEN AS LIFESAVERS
Rabbi Dow Marmur
Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m., Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6 and 13, 2002

WAR AND PEACE IN JEWISH LAW AND TRADITION
Rabbi Yael Splansky
Wednesdays at 8 p.m., Oct. 30, Nov. 6, 13 and 20, 2002

VIEWS OF LAND AND HOME: ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIANS
Professor Rivanne Sandler
Tuesdays at 8 p.m., Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10 and 17, 2002

ANTHONY TROLLOPE AND THE JEWS
Professor Emeritus Harvey Kerpneck
Thursdays at 7.30 p.m., Oct. 3, 31, Nov. 21 and Dec. 12, 2002 and Jan. 9, 30 and Feb. 20, 2003

Library Lectures

The Library Committee is proud to present lecturers with a special interest in Jewish arts and letters. All lectures begin at 7.30 p.m.

ARCHITECTURE OF THE SYNAGOGUE: FROM ITS ORIGINS TO THE PRESENT DAY
Corey Keeble, *Curator, Decorative Arts, Royal Ontario Museum*
Thur. Oct. 10, 2002

THE JEWISH BLACK EXPERIENCE
Courtney Doldron (Moderator), *Teacher, Monsignor Percy Johnson Catholic High School*
Dalton Wells, *Graduate Student, Clinical Psychology, York University*
Micha Etienne, *Project Engineer*
Melanie Creighton, *Program Co-ordinator*
Wed. Nov. 27, 2002

ISAAC BABEL'S ODESSA STORIES
Richard Marshall, *Professor Emeritus, Department of Slavic Studies, St. Michael's College, University of Toronto*
Tue. Jan. 7, 2003

DETHRONING FREUD: THE ANSWER TO FREUD'S QUESTION
Phyllis Grosskurth, *Professor Emeritus, Department of English, University of Toronto*
Tue. Mar. 11, 2003

HOLOCAUST: POPE PIUS XII AND JEWS
Jacques Kornberg, *Professor Emeritus, Department of History, University of Toronto*
Tue. Apr. 8, 2003

Looking Ahead to 2003

CANADA, THE MIDDLE EAST AND BEYOND: FOREIGN POLICY IN A NEW CENTURY
Professor David Dewitt, *Director, Centre for International and Security Studies, Professor of Political Science, York University*
Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m., Jan. 14, 21, 28 and Feb. 4
Building upon last year's mini-course on international security and the Middle East, these four sessions will explore a few of the many international and foreign policy issues that engage Canada and Canadians. Topics explored will include the impact of the end of the Cold War on Canadian foreign, security and defence policy and Canada, the Middle East and the politics of marginalization.

The Harry Posen Memorial Lectures with Shira Herzog
ISRAEL AND THE CURRENT MOMENT
Shira Herzog, *Vice President, Kahanoff Foundation*
Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m., Apr. 30 and May 7

Lawrence and Frances Bloomberg Spring Author's Lecture
As always, this lecture will be offered by a major Jewish author (TBA).

READING THE RAV
Rabbi John Moscowitz
Tuesdays at 7.30 p.m., Apr. 8, 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 13 and 20
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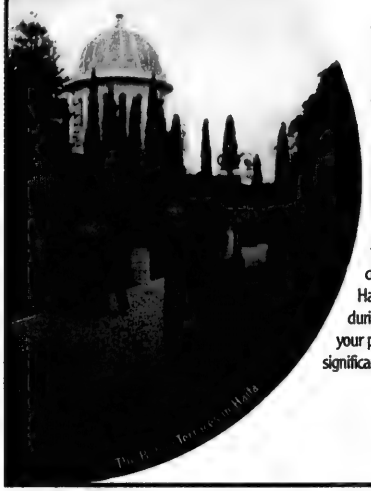
DISCOVER ISRAEL

So What's New this New Year?



Israel. No matter how many times you visit our modern and ancient nation, it feels like the first time. But there are actually many new events, sites and attractions to captivate tourists. The first step is a renewed commitment this Rosh Hashana to visit Israel during difficult days when your presence will make a significant difference in every way. Now, let's check out what's new.

The Davidson Center, Jerusalem Take a spectacular step back to the Temple Period of Israeli life at this extension of Jerusalem's Archaeological Park near the Old City's Southern Wall excavations. Here in this ironically high-tech facility - just over a year old - view excavated remains from the Roman era and a computer-generated film about life in Temple times.

The Israeli Children's Museum, Holon – Open since March of last year, just south of Tel Aviv, this museum is structured the way kids like it. You won't find "do not touch" signs here because that's what kids are supposed to do – touch and even enter the exhibits in this 40,000 square foot building where learning and fun go hand in hand.

The Baha'i Terraces – High atop Haifa's Mt. Carmel, 19 terraced gardens create one of the world's most stunning sites. Built by the Baha'i World Centre, headquarters of the Baha'i faith, the terraces – officially opened last year – stretch 225 meters up the mountain, complementing the magnificent flower displays that had lured tourists for decades.

Getting to Israel this coming year couldn't be easier. Contact the **Israel Government Tourist Office** for a compete list of group missions and individual travel options.

After all, Israel is yours. So please say I care and I'm going.

To you, your families and the entire Jewish people a healthy, happy and peaceful New Year. Shana Tova.

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EL AL ISRAEL AIRLINES

Greater Toronto Area

Yacoubov made her mark in the Jewish community

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Fran Yacoubov was not a high-powered community leader, but her personal warmth and depth of community involvement were reflected in an unusually large attendance at her funeral.

Obituary

Rabbi Lawrence Pinsker, who delivered a comprehensive eulogy, noted afterward that the crowd of 1,100 was more typical for the funeral of a dignitary.

Yacoubov, the former national administrative director of Canadian Friends of Haifa University (CFHU) died Aug. 14 of a massive heart attack. She was 48.

Fran Yacoubov

For the past six years she served as administrator at the Toronto Heschel School, but Rabbi Pinsker, who was the school's first president, said in reality Yacoubov served as guidance counselor for students, parents and staff. She was known for taking out-of-towners under her wing and offering wisdom and comfort to people who confided in her.

"The children gave her such a great deal of satisfaction," her husband Haim told *The CJN*. "She used to talk with them like they were all her children." In addition to the couple's own three boys, there were always other kids at the Yacoubov house. "They were just happy here," he said.

"We are grieving terribly at Heschel," said school principal Gail Baker, who knew Yacoubov as a fellow hockey mom at Goulding Park Community Centre before the school opened. "She gave of her time to everything that she believed in [and] she always made a point of getting to know people."

Yacoubov conveyed a sense "that life was a delight," said Rabbi Pinsker in his eulogy. "No challenge, no task, no situation seemed insurmountable; no moment was empty of reasons for optimism about the future."

A high point in her work at CFHU was being interviewed by Barbara Walters about her work organizing a fundraising dinner honouring television personality Monty Hall, the rabbi said.

She also served as president of the board of Gan Yeladim Day Care Centre for 10 years and stayed on as a volunteer long after her children had finished attending, Shelley Wise told *The CJN*.

A native of Toronto, Fran Yasny graduated from Northview Heights Secondary School before leaving to live in Israel in 1973. It was there that she met her husband. They celebrated their 25th anniversary in July.

Yacoubov is survived by Haim, children Yoni, Jordie and Jesse, her mother Lilian Yasny and her sisters Adele Wootton, Karen McElroy and Lisa Comeau. A Web memorial was in the process of being set up last week at www.lifetimes.ca.

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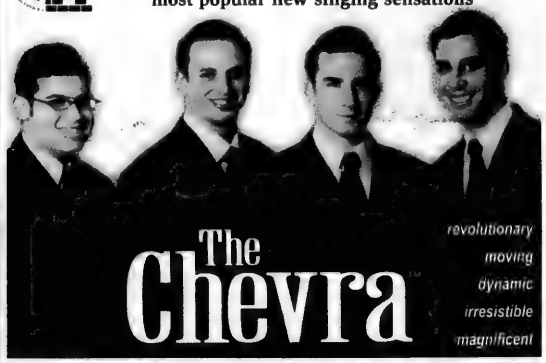

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CHABAD of DOWNTOWN

Gitai premiers Israeli film *Kedma*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Kedma, a feature film from Israeli director Amos Gitai, will be premiered at this year's Toronto International Film Festival, which runs until Sept. 14.

It's the story of European Jewish refugees who arrive in Palestine only a week before David Ben-Gurion – Israel's first prime minister – proclaims statehood in May 1948.

Toronto International Film Festival

The film turns on the opposition the refugees face from British forces based in Palestine.

Gitai is best known for *Kadosh*, which examines the lives of a troubled haredi couple in Jerusalem, and *Kippur*, which is set during the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Apart from *Kedma*, films of Jewish interest include *Nowhere in Africa*, *Blind Spot: Hitler's Secretary*, *Max*, *Fuhrer Ex*, *The Trials of Henry Kissinger*, *La Derniere Lettre*, *Frida* and *Ticket to Jerusalem*.

Written and directed by Caroline Link, *Nowhere in Africa* is adapted from an autobiographical novel by Stefanie Zweig.

It's about a middle-class Jewish family from Nazi Germany that settles on a farm in Kenya during World War II.

Blind Spot: Hitler's Secretary, by Andre Heller and Othmar Schmiderer, describes, for the first time, the career of Traudl Junge, Adolf Hitler's private secretary from 1942 onward.

Hitler dictated his last will and testament to Junge, whose exposure to Nazism apparently left her with a vehement hatred for the Nazis.

Max, directed by Menno Meyjes and starring John Cusack and Noah Taylor, is about Max Rothmann, a promising German Jewish artist who, after losing an arm in World War I, opens an avant-garde art gallery.

There he meets an aspiring artist named Adolf Hitler, who dreams of greatness. Rothmann takes Hitler under his wing as his protégé. But as Hitler comes under the influence of racist ideas, his friendship with Rothmann crumbles.

Traudl Junge

Fuhrer Ex is based on a book by Ingo Hasselbach, a young man from eastern Germany who was attracted to neo-Nazism before repudiating it. The film's director is Winfried Bonegel.

The Trials of Henry Kissinger, by Eugene Jarecki, claims the former American secretary of state committed war crimes in Cambodia, East Timor and Chile in the 1970s. Based on a polemical book by left-of-centre journalist Christopher Hitchens, this is nothing if not an irreverent film.

Frederick Wiseman's *La Derniere Lettre* takes place on the eve of Germany's 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union and revolves around a Jewish doctor and her son.

Frida, directed by Julie Taymor and starring Salma Hayek, probes the turbulent life of the half-Jewish Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, whose mentor and husband, Diego Rivera, was an icon in Latin American art.

In *Ticket to Jerusalem*, Palestinian filmmaker Rashid Masharawi uses the medium of cinema to portray the political volatility of Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank.

This year's festival will present 344 films from 50 countries, Piers Handling, the festival's director, announced at a press conference.

There will be 31 Canadian features and 27 Canadian shorts, including co-productions.

Police, community groups discuss security

Representatives from Jewish organizations across Toronto met recently at the offices of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, to discuss ways of improving security at schools, synagogues and other Jewish facilities.

Presentations were made by Det. Stephen Irwin, a member of the anti-terrorist and threat investigations unit of Toronto Police Services, and Doron Kay, a vice-president and partner of a private security firm in Toronto. Both agreed that the community must remain proactive to ensure its continuing safety.

Also in attendance were representatives from six major law enforcement agencies and a police officer from New York who is participating in an exchange program between Toronto Police Services and the New York City Police Department.

Security meetings are hosted by CJC, Ontario region, on an annual basis as part of its mandate to assist the community in developing effective security.

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Rules: To be eligible to win a pair of tickets to **Klezmer Conservatory Band**, please print your name, address and daytime phone number on a piece of paper along with the answer to this question:

How many band members are in the Klezmer Conservatory Band?

(Hint: the answer can be found in the photograph of the band printed in their advertisement elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by 1 p.m. on Fri., Oct 4/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Mon., Oct. 7/02 at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: 'Klezmer' Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 'Klezmer' Contest, 416-391-0949.

Employees and family members of The Hummingbird Centre for the Performing Arts or *The CJN* are not eligible to enter.

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Greater Toronto Area

THREE GENERATIONS AT ASSOCIATED:

Associated Hebrew Schools is welcoming the third generation of the Kurtz family to school this September. Ruth Kurtz is a former preschool supervisor at Associated and her four children graduated from the school. Here she accompanies her three daughters and grandchildren to the Neptune campus. Pictured (from left) are: Lee Cohen, Shelley Zimner, Ilan Zimner, Tami Kurtz-Zimner, Ellen Kurtz-Cohen, Cathy Kurtz-Fishbaum, Ruth Kurtz, Jesse Fishbaum and Laura Fishbaum.

New organization for women aims to unite all Toronto Jews

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

A new group for women called One-One-One aims to unite Jewish Torontonians from all backgrounds in solidarity with Israel during these troubled times.

To that end, One-One-One is planning programs in Orthodox, Conservative and Reform synagogues. Its first program, which will be held Thursday, Sept. 12 at 8 p.m. at Chabad of Markham, will include videos, eyewitness accounts from victims of the intifadah, the recitation of Psalms and refreshments.

One-One-One, which stands for One Hour, One Prayer, One Purpose, is also planning programs at Shaar Shalom and Temple Har Zion in October.

The organizers, including Lynn Catzman, Jeanette Berger, Anna Mae Belmont and Marilyn Taitez, want to encourage education about Israeli history and current affairs.

They plan to respond to media reports and statements by politicians, to support Israel's economy, to support organizations providing services and comfort to victims of terror and their families, to keep in touch with family and friends in Israel and to recite Psalms every day.

In a recent interview with *The CJN*, the organizers talked about their accomplishments so far and their future goals. They have gone to several supermarkets, including the Hilda and Clark Sobey's in Thornhill, to put identifying stickers on Israeli products.

They want to encourage people to buy gas from companies that purchase their stock from non-Arab sources, to send condolence cards and correspond with families who have lost members to terror, to visit Israel, to respond to media misinformation and compliment accurate reporting and to donate to, and invest in, Israel.

Programs can be arranged in private homes, so that small groups of women can recite Psalms together, discuss what they can do and hear about what is happening in Israel. Kits are currently being prepared with suggestions for taking action, a list of media contacts and charities and facts and statistics about the Jewish State.

One-One-One is an informal group of women planning what they can do to help Israel, Catzman said.

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She will be sadly missed

Upcoming Events for Seniors!

Art Presentation
Wednesday, September 11 at 2:00 p.m.
Join us at Forest Hill Place for a slide presentation on the art of Russian/French painter, Marc Chagall. Presented by local art expert, Sharon Goelman.

Shaya Petroff Trio
Wednesday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m.
Forest Hill Place is pleased to welcome back the wonderful Shaya Petroff Trio as they dazzle us on piano, violin and cello.

For more information, or to register for events at **Forest Hill Place**, please call Gwen or Susan at **(416) 785-1511.**

Smile Theatre
Tuesday, September 17 at 7:45 p.m.
Smile Theatre is back again with their new production, *Beautiful Dreamer* – celebrating songwriter, Stephen Foster, who composed such classics as "Oh! Susanna", and of course, "Beautiful Dreamer".

Musical Evening of Broadway Songs
Wednesday, September 25 at 7:45 p.m.
Come for a relaxing evening of Broadway songs from the past and present, featuring Canadian actor/singer, Gregory Cross.

Refreshments will be served and admission is free.
For more information, or to RSVP please call Pam or Kimberley at **Glynnwood (905) 881-9475.**

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Fence along old Green Line may have limited value: Inbar

Continued from page 5

bilities. We can do much more damage to Palestinian society, but we don't, for domestic and international reasons."

Inbar warned that unilateral separation, a concept advocated by an increasing proportion of Israelis in the face of Palestinian suicide bombings, would be of little benefit.

"It's a slogan, like peace now. It reflects Israeli impatience and a desire for an easy solution."

He pointed out that the fortified fence Israel is building along the old Green Line may be of limited value. "Do you know that most of the suicide bombers come through regular Israeli checkpoints?"

At most, he said, the fence may reduce the frequency of the bombings.

Turning to a related topic, Inbar chided Egypt for permitting Palestinians to build tunnels into Gaza from the Sinai Peninsula. Israel has accused the Palestinians of using these tunnels to smuggle weapons.

Inbar said that if Saddam Hussein deploys chemical and biological against Israeli civilians, following an American attack on Iraq, Israel may well bomb Iraq's dams.

Responding to reports that Israel may retaliate with nuclear arms, Inbar said that Israel would only use them if its very existence is at stake.

A land-for-peace deal with Syria is not in the cards, Inbar said. "I don't see any reason, under any circumstances, for Israel to give back the Golan Heights. The price is too high. The status quo is good for Israel. There is quiet, and we have the Golan."

Inbar said that the Islamic movement in Israel is growing. "It has the potential to become a serious problem. We could see a real fifth column inside Israel.

"The majority of Israeli Arabs are law-abiding citizens, but they are torn between their sympathy for the Palestinians and their desire for prosperity. It's not clear what they'll decide."

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26th Annual Jewish Book Fair at the Leah Posluns Theatre
Opening Night: JOHN LOFTUS, author of "The Truth about Terrorism" and "The Secret War Against Jews". KAREN LEVINE, author of "Hana's Suitcase" with FUMIKO ISHODA, Director of the Tokyo Holocaust Education Centre will speak on Nov. 4 at 10:30am & 1:30pm. For more information and tickets, call (416) 636-1880 x281

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On Campus

Security to be tight when Netanyahu speaks at Concordia

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Concordia University is taking all security measures necessary to ensure that former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's public speech at its downtown campus on Sept. 9 will not turn into what one Jewish community official privately called a "circus."

The hawkish ex-Likud leader, who has been invited by the Hillel Jewish student association, will speak in the main auditorium of the downtown campus free of charge.

Concordia has been the site of high-profile pro-Palestinian activity over the past two years and there have been tensions between Arab and Jewish students.

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota said the university suggested that Hillel hold the event in the hockey arena at the Loyola campus in Montreal's west end, but has accepted Hillel's refusal of that offer.

Hillel insisted on the downtown location because it is more accessible and will give the event more visibility.

Mota said the administration would have preferred that the event be held at Loyola because its arena seats 2,000, while the Hall building's room H-110 downtown accommodates about 630, after space is set aside for the media and dignitaries.

Mota acknowledged that security concerns were also a factor. "Absolutely it would be more secure," she said of the arena, because of the relative isolation and greater openness of the Loyola campus in Notre-Dame-de Grâce.

As for concerns that Concordia's image might suffer if it became the scene of another controversy related to the Middle East, Mota said "the bottom line is we are doing all we can to assist Hillel. We offered Loyola, but it is going ahead downtown, and all security measures required will be taken. Let's look forward to an interesting talk."

Both Concordia and Hillel expect Netanyahu to draw protesters. The question is how many and how aggressive they will be.

In November, 2000, Netanyahu's appearance at the University of California, Berkeley had to be cancelled when hundreds of rowdy protesters prevented some 2,000 ticket-holders from entering the theatre.

Netanyahu spoke privately in Montreal in May. His appearance was not publicized and the media were not allowed to attend.

Mota said the downtown auditorium venue "complicates" security arrangements because it is off the campus's main lobby, where traffic is expected to be especially heavy Sept. 9. That will be during Orientation Week when many other activities are scheduled.

"It's the first full week of classes. Thousands of students will be pouring through the lobby," she said.

Meetings have taken place between the university administration – including rector Frederick Lowy and dean of students Donald Boisvert – its head of security, the Concordia Student Union (CSU), and Hillel to discuss how to ensure the event goes smoothly.

Benjamin Netanyahu, who said goodbye to political life in 1999, will be in Montreal next week to speak at Concordia University. [Israel photo]

The CSU has given its approval to Netanyahu's appearance. The CSU, which has in the past been accused of being anti-Israel, is now run by a new executive that was elected last spring.

Although he expects demonstrators during Netanyahu's appearance, Hillel executive director Simon Bensimon said he has no fear that the Berkeley debacle will be repeated in Montreal and does not think Hillel is needlessly throwing oil on the fire.

"An open university should encourage debate. It should be a free marketplace of ideas," he said.

He said Hillel decided to invite Netanyahu, who has been touted as a future contender for Israel's highest office, after it learned in early August that he would be in Montreal to speak to Jewish community leaders.

legacy of life - Harold Lederman 1932-2001

A new feature about extraordinary individuals who have left their mark on our community

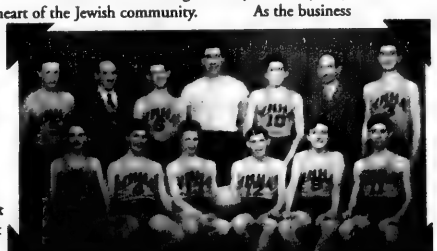
Harold Lederman drew attention to himself whether he liked it or not. Yet it wasn't just his good looks or winning smile that had people talking. No, Mr. Lederman drew people close simply by being a genuinely nice guy with a generous heart.

"Harold was a very warm, bright and articulate person with a quick wit," says his son-in-law Allan Brown. "He had so many friends. And when you were his friend, you were his friend for life."

Still, being so terrific wasn't easy for someone as unassuming as Harold Lederman. Although he was a strong supporter of Jewish communal life, he ducked out of the limelight whenever he could. It was no easy feat staying anonymous as the leader of UJA Federation's Annual Campaign, chairman of Baycrest Centre Foundation, a major backer of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and UJA Federation's Vaughan Campus, and a Board Member of the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation.

Luckily, Harold's bubbly wife Shirley basked in the spotlight. The two were inseparable from the moment they met in the early 1950s, yet Shirley was the outspoken one who ran the show. Her husband treated her like gold. Says his brother-in-law Gerry Ross: "If Shirley was Miss America, Harold was Miss Congeniality."

Perhaps it was Harold's modest upbringing that molded him. Born in Toronto, he and sister Pauline were raised by parents Edward and Elsie in a small rented house on Grange Street in the heart of the Jewish community. He was a popular kid and a star basketball player at Harbord Collegiate Institute but "Harold and school weren't cut out to get along," says Ross. He tried his hand as a film booker but soon found success selling floor tiles. When his boss fired him for being too good at the job, the newly married Mr. Lederman persuaded a relative to lend him money and soon he was a partner in a small tile store.



Front row, far right is Harold Lederman on the 1947 Ontario Championship YMHA Basketball Team

"Harold was anxious to be successful," recalls his close friend and business partner Leo Goldhar. "We trusted each other with any decisions we made for the business and always backed each other up. He was extremely sincere and honest, and he'd never say no to anybody who needed help."

As the business flourished and grew into the highly successful Sterling Tile & Carpet, Harold began giving back to the community that gave him his start. He not only became actively involved in UJA and Baycrest, he was also a major philanthropist for a host of other Jewish and secular organizations.

"Harold was driven by a keen social conscience of what was right and what was wrong," says Ross. "Continuity was important to him. He taught his children to put away what they would need to live and give the rest to the community. When Harold passed away, his children Lisa and Richard continued giving."

Shirley and Harold died of cancer within three years of each other – Shirley in 1998 and Harold in 2001. But their legacy lives on. In April 2003, the Harold and Shirley Lederman Palliative Care Centre at The Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto is scheduled to open, offering patients diagnosed with advanced or terminal cancer a comforting setting for their end-of-life care. The Volunteer Lounge at Baycrest's new Apotex Centre bears their names. And UJA Federation has established The Harold Lederman Award for Philanthropic Leadership.

"Harold's message was to be responsible," says Ross. "He led by example, not by rhetoric. I miss his presence, his warmth and, above all, his leadership."

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Sept. 9, is deadline for Sept. 19 issue and Tuesday, Sept 17, is deadline for Sept. 26. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Sunday, Sept. 8

HIGH HOLY DAY SERVICE

Annual High Holy Day Service at Kehilat Beit Avot of the Cummer Lodge Home for the Aged in Willowdale, 2 p.m. Sponsored by the Mitzvah Volunteers of the lodge for residents and their next of kin. Traditional refreshments served. For information, call **Diana** 416-661-5578 or **Ann** 416-492-1960.

Tuesday, Sept. 10

BB FRENCH LODGE

The French lodge B'nai Brith La Fraternite monthly meeting (in French) 8 p.m. at 15 Hove St. Topic: What to Expect from This New Canada. Guests welcome. For information 416-255-6086.

SECULAR JEWISH SCHOOL

The Morris Winchevsky School is celebrating its 75th anniversary. The 2002-2003 school year opens with a Meet the Teacher and Registration Night 6:30-8 p.m. at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Video presentation, displays, curriculum overview and presentation by education director **Frances Handlarski**. Classes for kindergarten to Grade 7 are held every Sunday, beginning Sept. 22, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. 416-789-5502.

LECTURE ON STRESS

The Entertainment and Cultural Connection and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood present chiropractor **Paul Goldbach** discussing Stress: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, Walking the Stress Tight Rope With Ease. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. **Jerry** and **Sandra Genesove**, co-ordinators. 416-789-3213.

Wednesday, Sept. 11

PROSTATE CANCER

Prostate Cancer awareness meeting, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Civic Garden Centre, Floral Hall Room, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. Topic: New Treatment Concepts and Hormone Therapy, presented by **Dr. John Trachtenberg**, Princess Margaret Hospital/University Health Network. 416-932-8820.

Thursday, Sept. 12

MEDINA AUDITIONS

Medina Theatre Ensemble auditions for a staged reading of *Hanna Senesh*, written by **Aharon Megged**, directed by **Ralph Small**. Young adults to seniors welcome. Résumé and recent photo required. Medina Theatre Ensemble members 7:30-9 p.m., non-members 9:05-10 p.m. at the Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. **Fran** 416-785-1074 or **Susan** 416-485-1967.

HEALTH INFORMATION

A free public health session on Strains and Sprains, 6:15-7:30 p.m. at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., part of the Living Well health and wellness sessions presented by the Miles Nadal JCC and Mount Sinai Hospital. Register 416-924-6211

And What Else Is New

SECULAR OBSERVANCE

Secular community observance of Yom Kippur, Sunday, Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m. at the **Winchevsky Centre**, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Readings, poetry, music. Guest artist **David Wall** (of the Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band) will sing Kol Nidre and other holiday selections. Reserve: 416-789-5502.

TALMUD-GEMARAH CLASS

Weekly Talmud-Gemarah classes resume Wednesdays at 9:15 a.m. at

Continued on page 31

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What's New

Continued on page 30

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, starting Sept. 11. Group starts its study of the concluding chapter of the tractate Yoma. Newcomers are welcome. Classes conducted in English by **Aaron Nussbaum**. 416-633-8097.

AT ANSHE MINSK

Rabbi Ezriel Tauber speaks on A Time for Renewal on Thursday, Sept. 12, at 8 p.m. at Anshe Minsk Congregation, 10 St. Andrew St. For details, call 416-595-5723.

Rabbi Tauber also conducts a Shabbaton, featuring the topic Online with Hashem, Friday, Sept. 13 and Saturday, Sept. 14.

JVS ANNUAL MEETING

JVS annual general meeting, Thursday, Sept. 19, 6:30 p.m. Reception 6 p.m. Civic Garden Centre, Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. W. RSVP by Sept. 9. **Lela Kornberg**, 416-787-1151, ext. 210.

BIBLE CLASSES

Beit Rayim continuing interactive Bible classes with lecturer/educator **Channa Sargon** every other Tuesday at 8 p.m. starting Sept. 10 at the synagogue, 9711 Bayview Ave. 905-770-7639, ext. 31.

PHENOMENAL WOMEN

Explore and celebrate your potential! An entertaining evening with Juno-award-winning singer **Amy Sky** and CTV television personality **Adrienne Gold**. MC is **Esther Libman**. Sunday, Oct. 20, 8 p.m. at City Playhouse, Bathurst St. and New Westminster Dr. For tickets 905-764-1818, ext. 371 or 416-785-1107. Silent auction 7 p.m.

HATHA YOGA CLASSES

Register now for classes in Hatha Yoga at Pride of Israel Synagogue, 55 Lissom Cres. Mondays, Sept. 9 to Dec. 9. 6-7 p.m. and Thursdays, Sept. 12 to Dec. 12. 6-7 p.m. Pre-register. **Helen Mittleman**, certified Hatha and Raj teacher, 416-661-0433.

ISRAELI FOOD PRODUCTS

A basket of Israeli food products and fine wines is on display in Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation's main lobby during the High Holy Day season, concluding Sept. 29. The display was arranged with the assistance of **Kevin Hopps**, manager of Sobey's supermarket at 441 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. The wines are available at selected wine stores and LCBO outlets.

HEBREW CLASSES

Conversational Hebrew made fun and easy by **Yael Lev**. Day or evening classes, all levels, Ulpan method. Special classes for parents with children in Hebrew schools. Fall term starts the week of Oct. 7. Classes are in co-operation with Associated Hebrew Schools. Register. 416-225-6151.

VENDORS WANTED

For craft and gift sale being held at Bayview Village Shopping Centre, Sheppard and Bayview avenues, on Monday, Oct. 14, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Under the auspices of Clubs Beersheba and Aviva, Na'amat Canada. Proceeds to charity. 416-636-5425 (days) or **Malka Mirsky** 416-633-6538.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Get ready for the Simchat Torah dance party. Sept. 5, bingo; Sept. 12, video movie; Sept. 19, bingo; Sept. 26, video movie. Sunday, Sept. 29, Simchat Torah dance party, 7 p.m., music, light supper. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

New Horizons Day Centre, a Hungarian speaking seniors club, meets 5 days a week at 3565 Bathurst St. Monday afternoon, bingo. Once a month out for lunch. New members welcome. 416-256-1892. **Edith** or **Vigo**.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For information, 416-630-9444.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002. Sunday dances Oct. 6 and 20, 7-10 p.m.; Saturday dances Oct. 12 and 26, 7:30 p.m.; Niagara Casino, Oct. 17; Atlantic City Nov. 3-6. $50 (US). cash in casino bonuses. Bingo every Tuesday, 1 p.m. 416-395-7881.

Young at Heart Seniors stay at glatt kosher Saxony Hotel in Miami Beach, Fla. Efficiency includes free breakfast, free bar. With meals or efficiency, 2 weeks and up. **Helen** 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Current Events with **Art Robbins** Tuesday, Sept. 10, 10-11:30 a.m. An in-depth discussion on the current event topic of the day. For information, **Barbara Zigler,** ext. 134.

Let's Have Fun With Yiddish, Thursday, Sept. 12, 1 p.m. Share jokes, anecdotes, watch videos, hear speakers.

Israel Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. **Anna**, ext. 110, Sept. 10, lecture; Sept. 17, picnic; Sept. 24, concert.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

NEW TEAM: Adath Israel Congregation recently installed its new executive. From left are: Sheldon Parker, past president; Howard Goldstein, immediate past president; Paul Feldman, treasurer; Mark Alter, president; Eric Gossin, first vice-president; Avrom Brown, second vice-president; Michael Lipton, secretary.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Registration is now on for fall children's programs, ages 3 months to 5 years start Oct. 6. After-school program, ages 5 to 13, starts Sept. 17.

Kids! Study violin, flute and cello with the Suzuki Method. Phone **Gretchen Paxson** 416-466-0208.

Aquatics Programs, tots to adults, including leadership, certifications and scuba diving. Register.

Two New Music Programs:

Klezmer 101, Tuesdays, 7:30-9 p.m., 6 lectures. Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 4, 11. with **Jordan Klapman**. Register.

Hava Nashira: Sing the Music of Israel, a 6-week program begins Monday, Oct. 21, noon to 1 p.m. with **Ritasue Charlestein Fisher.** Register.

Beginning Jewish Meditation, a 6-week program beginning Tuesday, Oct. 22 at 7:30 p.m. with **Chashi Skobac**. Register.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/ Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Folkdancing classes:

Israeli folkdancing Mondays, new beginners class 8-9 p.m. and intermediate class, level 1, 9-10:30 p.m., starting Sept. 23.

Israeli folkdancing Tuesdays ongoing all year, intermediate level 2, 8-9 p.m.; intermediate/advanced 9-11 p.m.

International folkdancing Wednesdays, 8-10:30 p.m. starting Sept. 18.

All folkdancing classes held at Studio Theatre-Leah Posluns Theatre. For information **Teme**, ext. 364.

A dance lecture and lesson by **Irving Naftolin**, Tuesday, Sept. 10, 1-2:30 p.m.

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Coast to Coast

Explanation sought for damaged Israeli goods

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – What was supposed to have been a sorely needed opportunity to conduct business here turned into the loss of perhaps thousands of dollars in damages for one participant in the recent Israeli vendors fair.

Artisan Shimon Ben-Dor's silver Judaica art, shipped from Israel by UPS, arrived dented and broken apart in Montreal despite being securely packed.

Ben-Dor was one of 27 Israeli merchants who were at the Cavendish Mall for a recent two-day fair organized by members of the Jewish community.

The goal of the event was to help Israeli merchants whose business has suffered because of the lack of tourism in Israel and the general economic downturn as a result of terrorism.

Ben-Dor makes handmade sterling silver and gold ritual objects in Mitzpei Chagit, a small community in the northern Judean desert.

More than half of his merchandise failed to arrive in time for the fair's first day. When it arrived after noon on the second day, he was greatly relieved – until he opened the package.

Intact and sealed with tape, the large cardboard box encasing the goods appeared not to have been tampered with. But when Ben-Dor opened it, he discovered that the two metal carrying cases it contained were broken. The bottom of one was completely detached. Several of the objects the cases held were dented or broken apart. Nothing appeared to be missing.

Ben-Dor held up a lid with three distinct dents in it, something that would take considerable force to make in solid silver.

"These cases are especially designed to ship artwork," said Ben-Dor, who was clearly shocked. "They cost $300 (US) each."

He said he has shipped his work to numerous exhibitions around Israel and in different parts of the world.

"I don't know what to think," he said. The total value of the goods was around $5,000 (US), he said.

Ariela Cotler, a volunteer with the fair who hosted Ben-Dor at her home, said an investigation has been opened by UPS.

A UPS spokesperson last week confirmed that the investigation was underway but said, "It might be difficult to establish how or where it happened."

He acknowledged the curiosity of the fact that the exterior cardboard was untouched but that the casing and the goods inside were damaged.

Ben-Dor, back in Israel by the time the investigation was opened, was not available for comment.

The fair, which was modelled on similar events that have taken place in other North American cities since May, drew a large number of people, especially on its first day, a Sunday. Monday was quieter.

Nina Glick, who organized the event with husband Rabbi Mordechai Glick, said she didn't know how many people attended the event.

"Some estimate there were 10,000," she said. "Certainly, there was no parking space in the mall lot."

Volunteer Jerry Goffman described the first day as a "madhouse" because it was mobbed with so many people.

Buyers saw the fair as a chance to support the Israeli economy and to show their solidarity with ordinary Israelis who are having a hard time making a living.

The goods ranged widely. Among the most common items were Judaica giftware, ritual objects and jewelry. There were also T-shirts, prints, backpacks, cosmetics, herbal remedies and books.

The vendors fared differently. By Monday afternoon, just a few hours before the fair's close, there was still merchandise on most of the tables. Brian Bergner of Caesarea, who said his mezzuzot made of Jerusalem stone and jewelry of ancient glass sold fairly well, was thankful for the experience.

"It was a generous thing to do," he said. "From an emotional point of view, it helped me a lot."

The fair also received praise from Sandra Winston, the Montreal representative of the Israeli Economic Mission.

"This is a great initiative," Winston said. "It gives local people who cannot go to Israel the opportunity to feel they are supporting its economy. It allows them to feel good about contributing in their own way.

"I hope the merchants made enough revenue to make it worthwhile."

Consulate prepares to close

MONTREAL – Preparations for the closure of the Israeli consulate in Montreal were being made last week, but an official said the consulate will remain open until further notice.

Sandra Winston, Israeli trade commissioner in Montreal, said a representative of the Israeli Ministry of Finance from its New York office was at the consulate last week to take inventory and do paperwork in the event of a closure.

"We have been told that we can see clients for at least the first or second week of September," Winston said. "But we honestly don't know any more than that."

She said she had heard that talks are continuing behind-the-scenes between the Israeli government and leaders of the Montreal Jewish community, but the consulate staff is not privy to what is going on.

Whatever happens, Consul General Shlomo Avital will leave at the end of this month. He has been appointed ambassador to Senegal.

The Jewish community appears resigned to closure. Last Friday, the last of the weekly noon-hour, pro-Israel demonstrations in Dorchester Park across from the consulate was held.

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Coast to Coast

CEMETERY DEDICATION:

On a warm summer afternoon members of Am Shalom Congregation and some special guests consecrated a new Jewish cemetery near Barrie. It is a 100 plot demarcated area in the Innisvale Cemetery at Highway 400 and Innisfil Beach Road. Rabbi Bernard Baskin led a moving dedication service. From left is Marc Brenner, head of the cemetery committee; Bernice Grant, Gerald Levine, president of Am Shalom; Marshall Green and Rabbi Bernard Baskin. For information on the cemetery or Am Shalom activities, please call 705-721-6126.

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מה יהיה

איך מתמודדת מדינה דמוקרטית נגד כוחות טרור שמצחירים שלא תחיה פשרה, ושיהודי ארץ ישראל הם בני מוות בכל מצב? לפני יותר מחודש ירו מטוסי חיל האויר טיל שהרג את רב הטרוריסט שחאדה ואיתו את אשתו וילדיו. לא חלפו דקות והאנטישמים האירופאיים פצחו בזעקות הצדק שלהם. אלה זעקות שעולה מהם ריח תאי הגאזים של הנאצים. אז נתחיל בעניין הצדק: על פי אמנת ג'נבה, אסור ללוחם מכל סוג שהוא להתחבא בתוך אוכלוסיה אזרחית. אם הוא עושה זאת- אין חלים עליו פרטי האֲמָנָה. בעברית פשוטה יותר- מנהגם העלוב והפחדני של טרוריסטים ערביים להתחבא בין נשים וילדים הוא נגד החוק הבינלאומי.

בעניין זה כתב ראלף פיטרס בָּ- ול סטריט ג'ורנאל: "העולם חייב ללמוד שכאשר אזרחים מאפשרים לטרוריסטים להשתמש בהם- האזרחים הופכים למטרה צבאית לגיטימית". וג'ון ג'ונָס כותב את הדברים הבאים בנשיונאל פוסט: " יש סיכוי טוב שמה שקרה בעזה לא היה טעות, אלא ארע בדיוק כפי שתוכנן. מנהיגי ישראל התעייפו מזה שאזרחים שעורכים קניות, שחוגגים חתונות או נוסעים באוטובוסים ייִרצחו באכזריות מתוכנת. שרון החליט לענות להם באותה שפה. שרון הגיש לפלשתינאים אזהרה שטרוריזם הוא משחק שישראל יכולה לשחק כמוהם. מדוע הישראלים בכלל מתנצלים? כנראה שלא נוח להם לעסוק בָּרוע שבו אויביהם עוסקים ללא שום בושה".

המועצה לביטחון לאומי היא גוף ציבורי שאמור לייעץ לממשלת ישראל. השבוע הוציאה המועצה את הדו"ח הראשון שלה ובו היא קובעת שכל עוד לא תיפתר בעיית האיבה- לא תתאושש הכלכלה הישראלית, ושכלכלה ופלשתין כרוכות יד ביד. על כן מאמינים אנשי המועצה שנטייתו של שרון שלא להחליט היא מוטעית. לדעתם עליו להחליט עכשיו על גבולותיה הסופיים של פלשתין ולצאת משאר השטח בצורה חד צדדית, אחרת תהפוך ישראל למדינת אפרטהייד כמו דרום אפריקה, עם ביטחון ברמה של דרום לבנון.

תגובתו של שרון?- דוחה בשתי ידיים (יענו הצחקתם אותי). אוי חבל חבל חבל על המוח שנפל, הוא נפל מראש העץ, התכווץ והתפוצץ. אבל שיישאר בינינו.

מצגע

קם ראש עיריית חיפה, שהוביל את העיר להישגים מרשימים בשלוש קדנציות, והחליט לרוץ לראשות הממשלה מטעם מפלגת העבודה. הוא מכונה "הגנרל האחרון של השמאל", אחרי קריירה צבאית מרשימה, ועל פי הסקרים הוא לוקח את בן אליעזר בחליכה, אבל מפסיד בגדול לשרון. טוב, סך הכל שבועיים במירוץ.

אבל יש בעייה רצינית איתו: איש חרוץ ממוצא יֶיקי שלא מסתחבק, לא שם צ'אפחות ולא מתחנף, איש ישר והגון שסירב לקבל מכונית שרד מהעירייה, כדי שיוכל לתת את המכונית לבנו בימי ששי. גוועלד! איך יוכל איש כזה להישרד בפוליטיקה הישראלים! הרי יאכלו אותו חי תוך שבוע! אבל מה- שישאר ביניו. (מה יש, לא מגיע לַמדינה המשוגעת הזו מנהיג נורמאלי?).

המלצות

הקיץ מתקרב לקיצו במהירות מבחילה. אז הינה כמה סרטים שאסור להחמיץ.

סרט שבדי נחדר שעניינו סיפור אהבה בין איכר פשוט ואישה יפה ומסתורית. גם חזק וגם רומנטי (Under the Sun). תשע בסולם קורן.

סרט בריטי על חוקר וחוקרת (גוונת פַּלטרו) סִפרותיים שמשתפים פעולה כדי למצוא ראיות לרומן שהתנהל לפני מאה חמישים שנה בין שני משוררים מפורסמים, רומן שלא היה ידוע להסטוריה הרשמית. היפָה בסרט הם היחסים המקבילים שמתפתחים בין החוקרים לצד היחסים הרומנטיים לפני מאה חמישים שנה. (Possession). שמונה וחצי בסולם קורן.

וסרט חזק מאוד על חייהם העצובים מאוד של הומוסקסואלים יהודיים דתיים שמנסים לשוא להשתלב בקהילה ובבית הכנסת. זהו סרט דוקומנטרי שמשאיר אותך לשבת על קצה הכיסא (Trembling Before G-D). עשר בסולם קורן.

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A Challenging Environment for Growth and Continuity

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Professor Martin Lockshin, Director, Centre for Jewish Studies

The name that Jews use today to refer to the holiday that will be observed this weekend, *Rosh ha-shanah*, The New Year, is a relatively recent name. Early Jewish texts often called it "the Day of Remembrance" *(Yom ha-zikkaron)*.

At York University's Centre for Jewish Studies we are dedicated to Jewish memory. We are committed to enriching and making meaningful students' knowledge of Jewish history, language, literature and philosophy.

While many of the teaching and research activities of our Centre relate to the theme of "remembrance," I would like to highlight a project that we inaugurated last year that looks toward the past and toward the future as well. Our program "Learning from the Past, Teaching for the Future" trains future high school teachers both here and in Europe to teach the Holocaust in a meaningful way. The first group of these teachers completed their training this February with a week-long seminar and conference at York. We are confident that they will now be more effective teachers about the sad history of antisemitism in general and of the Holocaust in particular.

Our York students will also have the benefit of learning more on this topic this year as we welcome to York Dr. Keith Weiser, the first Silber Family Professor of Holocaust and Eastern European Jewish Studies. This Chair is the first of its kind in Canada, focusing on remembering both the Holocaust and the vibrant Jewish life in Eastern Europe before the Shoah.

5762 was a difficult year for Jews in many countries. We at York believe that bringing knowledge of the Jewish past to both Jews and non-Jews can strengthen the Jewish future. We ask for the community's continuing support for our efforts.

On behalf of my colleagues and myself I would like to wish you all the best for 5763. *Leshanah tovah tikkatevu*!

Centre for Jewish Studies
at York University

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CENTRE HIGHLIGHTS 2001-2002

Prof. Irwin Cotler, M.P. delivered the keynote address at ***The Future of Memory***, an international conference on ***Changing Contexts for Holocaust and Anti-Racism Education*** held at York University on February 9-10, 2002. The conference was part of a larger project for future teachers in Canada, Germany and Poland and followed field-study in Germany and Poland during the summer of 2001.

- The **inauguration of the Koschitzky Family Chair in Jewish Teacher Education** and the **appointment of Prof. Alex Pomson to the Chair** took place on May 29, 2002. Jack and Anne Weinbaum, Carol Weinbaum and husband Nigel Schuster, partners in the Jewish Teacher Education Programme, joined in the celebration. Seated left to right: Julia Koschitzky, Aleta Shiff, Laura Walsh-Mida, Prof. Shoshana Kurtz. Standing left to right: Prof. Michael Brown, Barry Shiff, Israel Mida, Ruth Lockshin and Prof. Martin Lockshin, Tanya Pomson and Prof. Alex Pomson.

- **Prof. Irving Abella**, incumbent of the J. Richard Shiff Chair for the Study of Canadian Jewry, received an **Honourary Doctor of Laws Degree** from the Law Society of Upper Canada, February 7, 2002.

- The Centre for Jewish Studies inaugurated a renovated **"Reading Room"** furnished by **The Art Shoppe** and honoured **Allan and Leslie Offman** at a reception on March 18, 2002. Prof. Michael Brown (left) chaired the event that included congratulatory remarks by Julia Koschitzky, Chair, CJS Advisory Committee.

HONOURABLE MENTION

- **Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto** Annual Awards Night was held on May 8, 2002. **Prof. Michael Brown** was bestowed with the **Founding Friend of the Campus Award**. Josh Goodman, Robin Hermolin and Sivan Raz received awards for their work on behalf of the Jewish Student Federation at York University.
- **Prof. Sara Horowitz**, Associate Director of the Centre for Jewish Studies, was appointed as a member of the **Academic Advisory Board of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.**, one of two Canadians on that Board.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND PRIZES 2001-2002

Benarroch-Hazan Book Prize
Daniella Galbut Hailey Saleman Moshe Weinstock

Benarroch-Hazan Sephardi Studies Award*
Moshe Weinstock

Tom and Mary Beck Jewish Studies Award
Tova Goldstein

Alan S. Berg Jewish Studies Award
Tamar Chaimovitch

Hy & Helen Bergel Prize in Jewish Studies
Antonina Kuznetsova

David and Lois Buckstein Bursary
Klara Ashkenazy

Canadian Friends of Hebrew University Scholarships*
Catherine Chochinov Maytal Helfand
Mark Jesin Keren Romm

Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University
Rebecca Wortzman

Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University Vera Dolly Denty Award*
Hannah Wortzman

Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University Marnie Kimelman Award*
Rebecca Wortzman

Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University Louis Manpel Award*
Desirée Abecassis

Dorot Foundation Travel Grants
Hannah Wortzman Rebecca Wortzman

Molly Eisenberg Memorial Award in Jewish Studies
Ilana Romberg

Essay Prize in Canadian Jewish Studies
Val Strawczynski

Gertrude and Jack Friedman Memorial Award
Keren Romm

Shoshana Kurtz Book Prize
James Bitton

Metro Toronto Lodge B'nai Brith Prize
Alan Naiman

Alyce Orzy Award in Jewish Teacher Education
Naomi Pfeffer

Samuel G. Rosen Memorial Prize
Charlotte Dafoe

Esther Sarick Bursary in Jewish Studies and the Arts*
Jory Scherer

David Morris Schrage Bursary
Josh Goodman

Helen Schrage Bursary
Aliza Jesin

Abraham Isaac Silver Scholarship
Anat Davidzon

Judith Rosner Siegel Vanier Award
Allan Socken

Leonard Wolinsky Scholarships*
Catherine Chochinov Keren Romm

Western Canada Jewish Teacher Initiative Bursaries
Ur Barzel, Edmonton Ziona Benjamin, Edmonton
Ian Brojges, Winnipeg Avraham Gislason, Winnipeg

York-Hebrew University Exchange Scholarship
Carla Girvitz

Joseph Zbill Memorial Book Prize
Sara Goldberg

** Ontario Student Opportunities Trust Fund Scholarships*

Congratulations to Prof. Eric Lawee. He received The Nahman Sokol-Mollie Halberstadt Jewish Book Award for Biblical and Rabbinic Scholarship for 2001, on June 4, 2002 at the Leah Posluns Theatre for his publication of ***Isaac Abarbanel's Stance Toward Tradition: Defense, Dissent and Dialogue***.

JCC-Maccabi Games hailed as Montreal triumph

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

The 1,500 Jewish teens aged 13 to 16 who straggled home giddy and exhausted last Friday from the JCC Maccabi Games Aug. 18 to 23 would surely have agreed the games were a hit even before the first running shoe was laced on Day 1.

That's because the tone for the 20th anniversary games was set at the opening ceremonies at the Molson Centre, with thousands in attendance, a glitzy "parade of nations," and appearances by notables including Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay and hockey legend Jean Béliveau.

The event also included American swimmer Lenny Krazelberg, a Maccabi movement veteran who won three gold medals at the Sydney Olympics two years ago.

Steven Levy, head of the British delegation, said he had been to several previous JCC-Maccabi Games, but Montreal was the best.

"The opening ceremonies were incredible," he said. "We had a fantastic time."

Montrealer Jacqueline Hopmeyer, 16, who competed in basketball, echoed that sentiment. From the beginning, the games, she proclaimed, were "very cool."

When it was all over five days later, the champions turned out to be not only the medal winners (who numbered in the hundreds), but the 650 host families, 1,000-plus volunteers, and numerous Y staffers – especially games director Néhal Nassif – who pulled it all off with only the occasional turned ankle to put a wrinkle in an otherwise seamless operation.

"We were here to see that the athletes were happy and had everything to eat," said volunteer Hy Boronsky, 75.

Montreal was one of five sites across North America hosting the games in recent weeks (the others were Baltimore, Memphis, Omaha and Springfield, Mass). The Montreal Y was hosting them for the first time.

Other Canadian cities represented at the games were Toronto (about 90 kids), Windsor (10), Winnipeg (14), and Vancouver (about 50). Israel brought a 12-member delegation.

As things got started, organizers lifted the media blackout that had been promised for the duration of the games. In the months leading up to the games, organizers felt that tight security was necessary. The day competition began, the story was on page 3 of the *Gazette*.

Scenes from the JCC-Maccabi Games held recently in Montreal.
[All photos by Jeff Daniels]

The seven nations that took part – Canada, the United States, Great Britain, Israel, Mexico, Venezuela, and Australia – earned medal after medal. According to the games' Web site, www.montrealmaccabi.com, the United States garnered 178 medals to Canada's 112. Way back were Australia (10), Mexico (5), and Venezuela (1).

Montreal, with a contingent of about 350, scored a big upset with a boys basketball

Continued on page 37

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Games also about forming bonds

Continued from page 36

bronze medal over the favoured U.S. team. Toronto girls scored a big silver medal in basketball.

Canada seemed to dominate in golf, the United States in basketball, while the golds, silvers and bronzes went both ways in tennis and bowling. Table tennis honours were shared by Canada, the United States and Australia.

Canada was also pleased to receive silvers in boys baseball (despite U.S. dominance) and girls softball, and bronzes in boys basketball, boys inline hockey, and boys and girls soccer (complete results – except for swimming – were available at writing on the games' Web site).

But as teens from Miami to Mexico, and organizers themselves, said in interviews, the games were not really about medals, but about forming social and community bonds to be nurtured their whole lives.

Mix the host family barbecues, parties, evenings at Jillians and the Palace with the natural tendency of teens to socialize, organizers said, and you had the recipe for the incredible high spirits that prevailed throughout the games.

"I remember on the third or fourth day, we were talking about a certain activity that was being planned, and someone said: 'By the way, does anyone know how the sports are going?'" joked Linda Kislowicz, the Y's executive director.

Part of the Canadian team.

Roy Salomon, the games' honorary chair (the official chair was Martin Schwartz), said that while participants acquitted themselves well in the competition (many JCC-Maccabi veterans have gone on to compete at the Maccabiah Games in Israel), the spirit of camaraderie that prevailed was special.

"You have to remember," Salomon said, "that some of the athletes who participated come from communities where the level of Jewish identification or community involvement is not as great as in Montreal.

"It was a revelation for them to see that. Making homemade kippahs, a great Israeli presence, a place for hang time – this is all part of the future of building Jewish leadership.

"Two girls from Edmonton who were there could not believe that everyone at the Molson Centre was Jewish."

Israeli Ofir Naim, who competed in basketball here as well as at the JCC games this year in Baltimore and Memphis, said that while his team won no medals – "We're not that good" – he enjoyed every minute in Montreal.

The best part of the games, he and everyone *The CJN* spoke to said, was "meeting people."

They also were impressed by the Day of Caring/Day of Sharing midway through the games, in which the kids spent a few hours doing community volunteer work to reinforce its importance in the Jewish ethos.

Kislowicz summed it all up: "We really have to congratulate the community for the warmth and spirit with which it embraced [the kids]," she said.

"Our Montreal community really came forward."

Waving the Israeli flag at the JCC-Maccabi Games.

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How many licks will Israel take from the CBC?

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Since returning to Israel in August, Neil Macdonald, the Mideast correspondent for CBC TV News, appears to be on an intensified mission: as of Aug. 27, CBC had aired five of his reports, all wholly negative toward Israel.

In his Aug. 20 report, he gave what can only mildly be described as a disapproving slant on Israel's withdrawal from Bethlehem and parts of Gaza, a story that most other journalists portrayed as a small but promising development in reducing Israeli-Palestinian tensions.

Macdonald paints the withdrawal as a Palestinian "sellout" to Israel. Of course, he does not say this himself. Rather, he cites various Palestinian officials, adding: "That is certainly the view of every single militant group here including armed factions of [Palestinian Authority President Yasser] Arafat's own political party."

By failing to provide any counter to the "sellout" charge, however, Macdonald gives it credence. Moreover, he fails to add any information that gives a wider context for the charge: that Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza is, in any event, not enough for those "militants" (Macdonald continues to shun the term "terrorists") who want to destroy Israel.

Macdonald's report is visually set up to contrast the comforts of "Jewish west Jerusalem" and the hardships of Ramallah, where Macdonald physically positions himself amid the rubble.

This, of course, creates visual sympathy for the Palestinians and thus can very easily also persuade the viewer to accept the "militants'" dedication to what one Palestinian official in the report calls "resistance against the Israeli occupation."

In reviewing all of Macdonald's recent stories, and in the absence of any countervailing view in his Aug. 20 report, one cannot be faulted for assuming that Macdonald is taking sides, expressing his own personal attitudes through the words of others. Indeed, Macdonald's reports have sounded so one-sided that CBC's commitment to fairness and balance appears to lie in tatters.

CBC management has all along maintained that Macdonald's reports, like all CBC news reports, achieve balance over time. But that assertion appears to be nothing more than a fiction, especially when compared with Adrienne Arsenault's studiously even-handed reporting from Israel earlier this summer. The contrast with Macdonald upon his return could not be starker and more jarring.

In its own *Journalistic Standards and Practices* guidebook, the CBC insists that "[o]ptimum objectivity and balance... *must* characterize CBC information programs" (emphasis added). Under the heading of fairness, the CBC requires that a report must reflect "equitably the relevant facts and significant points of view." Under credibility, the guidebook also states: "In order to maintain their own credibility and that of the CBC, on-air personnel... must avoid publicly identifying themselves *in any way* with partisan statements or actions on controversial matters" (emphasis added).

Macdonald's depiction of Israelis as faceless oppressors and the Palestinians as innocent victims found a new expression in the concluding line of the Aug. 20 report. In it, Macdonald describes an incident in which undercover Israeli soldiers killed a wanted Palestinian in Ramallah. The man is referred to as "quarry," thereby depicting the Israelis, in effect, as bloodthirsty hunters.

Is Macdonald determined to get in as many licks at Israel as he can before his stint in the Middle East draws to a close? Does the CBC intend to continue to let him get away with it?

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I am the mother of a child with a severe peanut allergy. Although most schools and camps are nut-aware now, I am continually amazed at how unaware parents of non-allergic kids are as to what they can and can't send to school. Can you help explain what is involved?

A. I am thrilled to take this opportunity to help educate parents. This is such an important topic and there is frighteningly little information about it disseminated to parents.

My first suggestion to parents of *allergic* kids and to schools (and other institutions) is that instead of only telling parents what they can't send or do, tell them what they can send or do. Put together a list of nut-free snacks and outline hand- and face-washing procedures for children prior to coming to school. Parents of non-allergic kids will likely be far more compliant if they can shóp with a list of safe snacks in hand, instead of having to spend hours in a grocery store trying to decipher labels and ingredients.

To parents of non-allergic kids: please don't be lazy at the possible expense of a child's life. I am infuriated when I hear a parent tell me, that he or she sent Nutella to school because "I was tired and in a rush and had nothing else in the house." If that's the case, please send bread and butter instead.

Remember, that "nuts" does not only mean peanuts. Foods with nuts include breads with sunflower seeds, walnuts, etc., as well as granola bars with almonds, chocolate bars with nuts or peanut butter, chips fried in peanut oil, pistachios and all foods labelled "may contain traces of nuts," not to mention many others that are not labelled this way. You must read labels for nut ingredients, as companies are not legally required to note that a product may contain traces of nuts.

Ask your child's school or camp to provide you with a list of safe snacks to make life safer and easier for everyone.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions send them to The CJN.

Coast to Coast

B'nai Brith wants authors of 'anti-Semitic' Web site penalized

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Concordia University was consulting its lawyers last week after B'nai Brith Canada complained that the Web site of a Muslim student group hosted by the university's server was linked to "virulent anti-Semitic materials."

In a letter to rector Frederick Lowy, Amos Sochaczevski, national chair of B'nai Brith's Institute for International Affairs, and Yoni Petel, Quebec youth chair, refer to the site of the Students Association for Muslim Awareness (SAMA).

In the letter, B'nai Brith "requests that the university shut down the SAMA Web site immediately, and conduct a thorough investigation of SAMA's adherence to Concordia's anti-hate and Internet use policies, as well as the university's code of conduct for student groups."

The fate of the Web site was in question by the middle of last week, apparently as a result of a story on B'nai Brith's objection that appeared in the *National Post*. The SAMA site said "Under construction/Check back later."

Two days earlier, the address of the SAMA site's link to material denying the Holocaust and to Henry Ford's 1922 anti-Semitic treatise *The International Jew* was changed to a non-existent address. Another link to a pro-Hezbollah site with a defence of suicide bombings against Israeli civilians was also changed.

The changed links and the "Under construction" message do not alter B'nai Brith's demand that SAMA be "sanctioned" for having disseminated material that "incites hatred and condones violence," research director Raphael Lallouz said.

"Strong action has to be taken by the administration, either through the law or the university internal disciplinary system," he said. "We also wonder if the CSU will continue to provide funding to [SAMA]. Is students hard-earned money going to finance an organization that advocates hate and violence?"

The site was hosted at Concordia's main site, http://alcor.concordia.ca/ ~sama.

It could also be accessed through the Concordia Student Union site, which lists all registered student groups.

SAMA did not return a phone call from *The CJN*.

When its site was up, SAMA described itself as "a religious and political association dedicated to bring [sic] awareness to the student body of Concordia about the religion of Islam and the political, social and economic situation around the world."

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota said the university's "lawyer and external counsel are investigating… There seems to be some confusion over whether the [SAMA] site is hosted on our site."

The SAMA site's "library" section reproduced Ford's classically anti-Semitic work, subtitled The World's Foremost Problem, which accuses Jews of conspiring to gain power and influence.

Another link under the heading "Islamic Resistance" originally led to www.moqawama.tv, the site of the pro-Hezbollah Islamic Resistance Support Association. After B'nai Brith's complaint, the link was apparently changed to the non-existent www.moqawama. org.

In its Articles & Opinions section, the SAMA site also contained a link to a lengthy unattributed piece entitled "Questions on the Holocaust (A German Point of View)."

In a question-and-answer format, it denies there is proof that the Nazis practiced genocide and says the figure of six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust is "an exaggeration of possibly 1,000 per cent."

It also describes the present-day Auschwitz site as "a fake, pure and simple, a flimsy tourist trap," and says no gas chambers or crematoria were used for killing in the concentration camps.

The article alleges that 300,000 Jews died in the camps, mostly from typhus.

It accuses Jews of using the Holocaust "story" to "shield them from any criticism over their political, economic and social behavior" and to raise "guilt money" from Germany and other international sources.

"This is a blatant treatise of Holocaust denial, which stands out amongst a menu of egregious and inflammatory accusations against Israel," wrote Sochaczevski and Petel.

Lallouz later commented that changing the link addresses was "playing foolish tactics, rather than acknowledging a mistake or apologizing to the Jewish community. You really wonder what kind of people are behind that."

Lallouz said he knew nothing about SAMA and had no contact with it.

B'nai Brith also objected to a third SAMA link to www.bayynat.org, apparently an information site on Islam. Under its Muslim Scholars section, there is a link to an interview with Sayyed Mohammed Hussein Fadlullah, whom B'nai Brith describes as a Muslim religious authority based in Lebanon with ties to Hezbollah.

Fadlullah argues that "there is no difference" between the soldier who uses conventional methods and the Palestinian "martyrs" because both are trying to achieve what they believe in, even if the targets are civilians. He criticizes those who oppose suicide operations as being in violation of Islamic law.

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Feature

A fictitious account of medieval Jewish philosopher

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

British author Iain Pears has created a literary character named Gersonides, based on the actual medieval French Jewish philosopher of the same name, known to Talmudists as Levi ben Gershom or by the acronym Ralbag.

The character appears in Pears's new novel, *The Dream of Scipio* (Knopf Canada, $37.95), itself a complex intellectualized study of Provence in three different historical periods – the time of the collapse of the Roman Empire in the 5th century, the Black Death in the 14th century when Gersonides lived, and the relatively modern Holocaust era. The narrative intertwines the fortunes of three men, one from each era.

Books

"The book is about certain ideas, including anti-Semitism, and how they are transmitted over the centuries," explained Pears during a recent interview.

Gersonides is an associate of one of the book's central characters, a medieval Christian poet named Olivier de Noyen who consults with him on a philosophical matter. This is apparently much in keeping with real life, since little is known of the Ralbag's life, the Encyclopedia Judaica relates, "beyond the fact that he maintained relations with important Christian persons."

Since our only knowledge of Gersonides is derived from the many works he wrote on mathematics, astronomy, biblical, philosophical and other subjects, Pears acknowledged that he used full artistic license in inventing a character for him.

"He was this immensely erudite and impressive figure. I found him appealing because he was written out of history," he said. "One thing is clear, we have absolutely no evidence at all about his personal life. Everything we know about him comes from his output. So I had to give him a character that seemed to match his output."

Although the presence of an oft-cited Talmudic sage in a novel may intrigue those who have encountered his writings or reputation in other contexts, Pears explained his novel in a much wider context.

"It's all about the centrality of the Jews to the whole of Western civilization – positively and negatively," he said. "Western civilization is defined by its relation to the Jews and would be something very different if the Jews weren't there."

He said he conceived of the book as a means of explaining "how the French people of the 1940s could have done what they did" to the Jews during the Second World War.

The book's main character is Julien Barneuve, a supposedly "civilized" intellectual who joined the Vichy government as minister of education, in which capacity he "introduced some anti-Semitic legislation that chucked all the Jews out of their jobs."

"This was not a man who was not obviously anti-Semitic – he was a good man – so the whole book is an investigation of how someone like that could have done what he did and why."

Pears is the author of seven earlier works, mostly highly-praised detective novels like *An Instance of the Fingerpost*. He is also the author of a book of art history and many articles on artistic, financial and historical subjects.

But *The Dream of Scipio* "took me by surprise. It was supposed to be just a story when I started writing it. I didn't realize it was going to come out like this." As Jews are fundamental to the story, the 47-year-old Oxford-educated author explained that he became intrigued with the subject because his wife and family are Jewish.

As for Gersonides, Pears said he grew to like him while writing the book. "He'll come across for what he was, a man of immense wisdom. I have no way of telling if my interpretation of his character is correct. I became rather fond of him. I gave him a rather likeable character, if a somewhat cranky one. Whether he would like that or not, I don't know."

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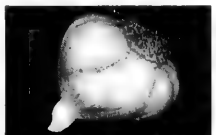

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Feautre

Genealogical quest sends author on an odyssey

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Books

Ten years ago, American historian Emily Rose became curious about a pair of fine oil portraits that had hung above the fireplace in her grandparents' apartment in New York.

One of the paintings showed a portly, distinguished man, the other a woman adorned in a lace bonnet and pearls. Since they derived from the mid-1800s, their elderly subjects had likely been born in the 1700s. But no one in Rose's family could identify them.

A few old family papers gave some details from an old 19th-century German-Jewish register: Berlizheimer, Gundelfinger and other surnames jumped out, also Muhringen and other town names. Rose knew of her Berlizheimer ancestors, but little more of her family's past in rural Germany.

Stationed in Frankfurt in 1994 while her husband was learning German, she drove several hours south to Muhringen, and found some ancestral stones in local cemeteries and many family-related documents in local archives. Three weeks of research and many villages later, she had begun an odyssey that would result in a book – *Portraits Of Our Past: Jews of the German Countryside* – that was published by the Jewish Publication Society in 2001.

Because it was sparked by a personal genealogical quest, the reader might expect this endeavour to focus rather narrowly on the experiences of a given family line. But the author offers a surprisingly thorough and scholarly discussion of the many historical forces and events that affected the Jews in rural Germany from the period of the Enlightenment to about the mid-19th-century.

The narrative then crosses the Atlantic, following the early wave of German-Jewish settlers to America and presenting some of their experiences in the new land. *Portraits Of Our Past*, therefore, is an intriguing blend of personal genealogy and historical scholarship. Trained as a historian, the Naples, Fla.-based author possesses the double blessing of an impressive command of her subject and a clear writing style.

Jews of the German countryside lived substantially different lives than their counterparts in cities like Frankfurt and Berlin, Rose observes, contending that not much has ever been written on them in English.

To learn more about these rural Jews, she visited many town archives and the Wurttemberg State Archive in Stuttgart, where she found that her Berlizheimer ancestor was a signatory to an early emancipation petition. She also read the stories of 19th-century writer Berthold Auerbach and pored over an invaluable cache of old papers that had been retrieved from the attic genizah of the Michelbach synagogue.

Rottweil, one of the towns that comes under the author's microscope, was caught in a severe crisis when the French army, under the command of Napoleon Bonaporte, marched through in 1799, demanding cash rather than grain and goods from the local government.

The town turned in desperation to Rose's ancestor, the wealthy Jew Moises Kaz of Muhringen, who paid fair market rates for all the valuables of the town's churches and guilds.

"Thus, Moises saved Rottweil by acting quickly and by taking the risk that he might actually be unable to sell the silver and gold in those difficult and dangerous wartime years," Rose writes. "The town never forgot his efforts."

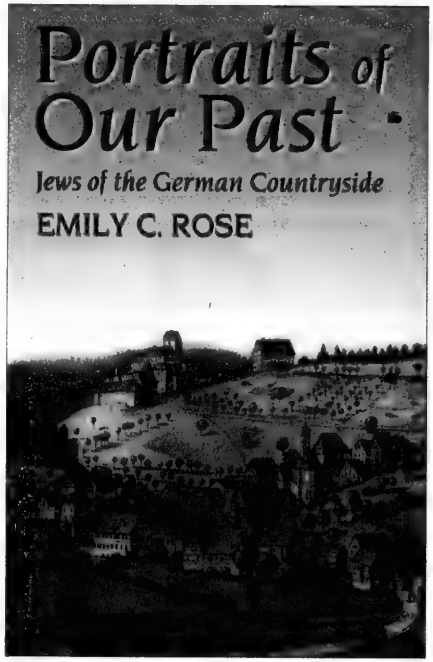
The book, which was also published in German as *When Moises Kaz Saved His Town from Napoleon*, is filled with many such stories. Rose spent months in archives and photocopied thousands of documents in hard-to-read German gothic script, many pertaining to her own family; managing, ultimately, to reconstruct a vivid picture of a vanished milieu.

(The feat seems instantly comparable to that of Montreal historian Gershon Hundert, whose book *The Jews in a Private Polish Town: The Case of Opatow in the Eighteenth Century,* appeared in 1992.)

One story that was discovered too late for inclusion in Rose's book concerns the fate of one of her 19th-century cousins who became a legendary success in America. Settling initially in Providence. R.I., Maximilian D. Berlizheimer (1852-1921) shortened his name to Berlitz and founded the famed world-wide chain of language schools.

Incredibly, no one had previously recognized that he had been Jewish. Although Rose has presented solid evidence to Berlitz International, the company has yet to alter its official corporate history or even accept that its founder was Jewish, she says.

To order or learn more about her book, visit the websites www.PortraitsOfOurPast.com or www.JewishPub.org.



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Sports & Leisure

Chess player Kaufman named to Canadian under-10 team

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Harris Kaufman possesses a unique set of talents not often found among today's nine-year-old kids. Unlike many youngsters who are easily distracted and need constant sensory stimuli, young Harris has the special ability to focus his attention, concentrate on the task at hand and plan his moves far in advance.

Handy skills indeed if you're a champion chess player – which Harris certainly is. Though like most kids, Harris would rather be playing his favourite game – "hockey, hockey, hockey" – it's at chess that he's really excelled, becoming one of Canada's best young players.

Harris was recently named to the Canadian chess team that in November will travel to Heraklio, Crete for the 11-day World Junior Chess Championships. He made the team following the National Championships, a qualification tournament held in Montreal. Harris is one of three players in his age group to be named to the team, not surprising given that the Chess Federation of Canada has rated Harris second in the nation for kids under 10.

Harris Kaufman

Though it may not be hockey, Harris enjoys a good game of chess, especially the part about competing and winning.

When last we checked in on young Harris three years ago, the precocious lad had just won a national tournament and was the country's top-ranked player among kids in Grade 1.

Of course, in those days, an interview with *The CJN* ended quickly, as milk and cookies beckoned him and a friend.

Since then, Harris continued his rise up the chess ladder, racking up victories and improving his national ranking. What's more, he's gradually built up a nest egg of earnings that has already exceeded that of kids much older than he.

Harris' mom, Vicki Sterling, said Harris sometimes comes home with $100 in prize money following a weekend tournament, far in excess of the $9 per month allowance she and her husband Allan have set aside for him. Harris would love to spend the money on an expensive computer game, but she and Allan are worried that would distract him from concentrating on chess.

When it comes to chess, Harris combines natural talent with plenty of hard work. Besides the fact his paternal great-grandfather, Harry Silverberg, was a very good player in Winnipeg, and his maternal grandfather, Irving Sterling still enjoys a good match, Harris practices and plays a lot. He's coached by Youri Ochkos and has trained at the Chess 'n Math club on Bayview, near Eglinton.

Prior to the Montreal tournament, Harris was one of 30 youngsters who challenged international grand master Igor Ivanov to simultaneous games. Harris was one of only two or three kids to beat him.

For Harris, "that was probably the best game I played in my life."

The win, coming just before the start of the tournament, "helped me be very confident," he said.

It showed. Harris began the competition by defeating his first opponent in 15 minutes and the second in nine moves.

Day two proved more difficult as the competition became "fierce," Sterling said. Harris lost his next two games, putting him in the unenviable position of needing to win the remaining four matches to qualify for the national team. That's nearly impossible, Harris later said.

Considering two of his last four games were against top Canadian players, Harris was probably right to worry. Still, employing the Sicilian Defence, Harris defeated Kevin Me, the number one ranked player in his age group, and followed that up with a victory over one of Ontario's top players.

In the end, he fought his way on to the national team.

Following the Montreal tournament, Harris' Canadian Chess Federation (CCF) rating improved to 1597. Canada's top player under 10 is Shiyam Thavandiran, who has a rating of 1991.

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Israel pushes projects, Palestinians play politics

By MICHAEL BELLING
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JOHANNESBURG – Israel was hoping its practical experience in dealing with environmental issues would prove attractive to other nations at the UN World Summit for Sustainable Development, according to Israel's environment minister.

While Israel is "only a tiny speck on the planet" and its contribution to solving environmental problems is limited by its size and resources, it can offer valuable knowledge and expertise to many of the 170 countries at the summit, Tzachi Hanegbi said in an interview last Thursday.

"We can contribute our successful experience in many areas, relating to solar heating, making run-off water fit for agriculture and irrigation and our technology that enables us to get it up to the standard of drinking water and the struggle against desertification and many more," areas, he said. "Our work on desertification is not theoretical, but was done in the most empirical laboratory of all in the Negev and the Arava."

Hanegbi was one of the two Israeli cabinet ministers who attended the summit, which ran Aug. 26 to Sept. 4. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was also due to arrive last weekend.

Several meetings were scheduled with South African officials, Hanegbi said, and Israel wanted to use them to propose a number of co-operative projects.

An "infinite number" of joint projects could be carried out with the Palestinian Authority (PA) that would benefit both sides, Hanegbi said.

"Our prime minister is aware of our attempts to promote a professional dialogue with the Palestinians," he said.

Hanegbi said he had asked a senior UN official at the summit to try to arrange a meeting in Johannesburg with Hanegbi's PA counterpart to renew a dialogue on environmental issues. So far, he said, he had had no success.

"It's very sad," Hanegbi said. "Up to the year 2000," when the intifadah began, "we had ongoing contacts with the Palestinians, even though there were hardly any practical results."

In the last two years, professional dialogue has "gone underground" because the Palestinians refuse to meet with their Israeli counterparts, Hanegbi said.

Several issues affecting both sides could be tackled jointly, such as pollution caused by run-off water and joint purification plants to treat it, or the mosquito-borne West Nile disease.

"We have a lot to offer them on how to combat" West Nile disease, Hanegbi said. "Of course, if they don't do so in their areas, the mosquitoes don't stop at the army checkpoints."

By contrast, joint projects still are being carried out with Jordan, he said.

Last Sunday, Jordan and Israel were to present a plan at the summit for a canal between the Red Sea and Dead Sea to keep the Dead Sea from drying up. Jordan's water ministry and Israel's environment ministry are co-operating on the project.

According to Jordanian experts, the level of the Dead Sea has fallen by some 60 feet in the last 40 years. If not addressed, the size of the sea will shrink by a third in the next decade, they say.

Under the plan, a canal would channel water from the Gulf of Eilat toward the Dead Sea and would be desalinized. The desalinized water would be used by population centres in Jordan, while the leftover salty water would be channeled into the Dead Sea, raising its water level.

However, such plans have been proposed in the past and have never gotten off the ground.

According to Hanegbi, Israel must emphasize the importance of regional co-operation with its neighbours "in a common struggle against the many problems that affect Jews and Arabs equally."

"The air we breathe does not distinguish between Palestinians and Jews, nor does the water we drink," he said.

Regarding Palestinian efforts to exploit the conference to attack Israel, Hanegbi said Israel had not, as of last Thursday, been forced to make a serious effort to defend itself this year, as it did at last year's UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban.

"All in all, I think there is sympathy for Israel here. The Israeli teams are received enthusiastically and they have spoken in the plenum without interruption," he said. "We feel the latest Palestinian attempts to create a confrontational profile against a Middle East background has actually failed."

The Israeli flag is held high in Johannesburg. [Isranet photo]

But this could still change, Hanegbi cautioned late last week.

Palestinians and their supporters had scheduled a major march and rally for Saturday, when the Israeli delegation can not respond because of Shabbat.

The Palestine Solidarity Committee of South Africa, which has been co-ordinating anti-Israel activities at the conference, said it had received a commitment from several South African government ministers to attend the rally, which it said is intended to "inspire new victories in the fight against USA-Israeli terrorism."

Hanegbi met last Thursday with South Africa's deputy foreign minister, Aziz Pahad, and told him that if South African ministers march against Israel, it would "explode the conference and shift its focus to Middle Eastern politics," according to the *Post*.

Palestinian activists tried to provoke Israelis every day since the summit began. Until last Thursday, most of the disturbances had taken place at the forum of nongovernmental organizations or in street protests, not at the summit's official proceedings.

On Thursday, however, the director-general of Israel's Regional Co-operation Ministry was interrupted as he spoke to the main plenum about regional development.

The PA representative stood up and asked Majallie Wahabee, who is Druze, how Israel could speak about development when the Israeli army is killing Palestinians. The Palestinian invited Wahabee to come to the Gaza Strip to "see the destruction."

Mordechai Yedid, deputy director-general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, responded from the plenum by calling for renewed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue.

"Israel co-operates with its Arab neighbours in several regional development programs and we look forward to deepening the regional co-operation process, but unfortunately the situation with the PA has been less encouraging because terrorism causes serious obstacles to the promotion of sustainable development," Yedid said.

He also called on the Palestinians to return to the "path of dialogue."

The Palestinian responded by saying that Israel's dialogue is the "dialogue of destruction."

JIAS CANADA
NOTICE
2002 Annual Meeting JIAS Canada
The 2002 Annual Meeting of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada will be held in Vancouver, BC in the Dayson Board Room at the Jewish Community Centre, 950 West 41st Avenue on Sunday, Oct. 20, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. For further information call 416-630-9051, ext. 3. **AGENDA** 1. To receive and consider reports of JIAS activities. 2. Election of Board members. 3. Other business.

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Olmert: Gov't must prevent collapse of southern wall on Temple Mount

By NADAV SHRAGAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert called last week on the government to take immediate action to prevent a potential "historical and human disaster" should the southern part of the Western Wall collapse.

The area of the wall in question has gradually moved outward from its original position. Some people have claimed the shift is the result of illegal construction on the Temple Mount by the Waqf, the Muslim religious trust.

"In my opinion, we have reached the moment of truth," Olmert told Israel Radio. "The government of Israel has no alternative but to decide to exercise our natural authority with regard to the Temple Mount.

"We made all kinds of efforts to reach understandings [on the issue] – which I cannot fully reveal here because of their sensitive nature both here in Israel and abroad - to pinpoint the reasons [for the movement of the Wall], so we can properly address the matter," said Olmert.

Early last week, a citizens' watchdog group sent an urgent letter to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon warning of "a clear and present danger that the southern part of the Western Wall and the Temple Mount might collapse" as a result of the Waqf's construction. In the letter, the Committee for the Prevention of the Destruction of Antiquities urged Sharon "to take immediate action to deal with the problem before a disaster occurs."

"To date, no steps have been taken in the matter, which means that nothing can be done to correct the situation," said archaeologist Eilat Mazar, a member of the group. The question now is "whether the Wall will collapse on thousands of worshippers or if it will happen in a controlled manner."

Two weeks ago, the Foreign Ministry, intervening on behalf of a delegation of Jordanian engineers, returned to the group special drilling equipment that had been confiscated by border authorities.

The Jordanians had intended to use the equipment, under the supervision of the Waqf, in the area of the southern wall of the Temple Mount. Israel has suggested that renewed Jordanian involvement on the Temple Mount stems from the Waqf's refusal to allow the Antiquities Authority to examine and treat the extensive bulge that formed in the southern wall of the Temple Mount compound over the past few years.

Following a series of contacts made before last week's incident – including a conversation between Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Jordan's King Abdullah and a cable from the Prime Minister's Office to Egypt – the Waqf agreed to allow the Jordanians to investigate the problem. Israel, for its part, agreed to allow the drill findings to be examined in a laboratory in Amman.

But something went awry. The Jordanians returned to Amman without carrying out the drilling operations. Israel said the Waqf, which is strongly influenced by the Palestinian Authority, did not hold up its side of the agreement. The Waqf said there was no agreement and that only the Muslim religious authorities are in charge of the Mount.

The bulge in the wall is not a new development. The Committee for the Prevention of the Destruction of Antiquities links the problem to work carried out in recent years in the area of Solomon's Stables, located undergroud at the Mount's Southern Gates.

Jerusalem District archaeologist Gon Zeligman, however, said he does not believe the work near the stables is connected to the current problem.

Adnan Husseini, the director-general of the Waqf, agreed, saying that since the mid-1970s he has been aware of the problem. Antiquities Authority Director-General Shuka Dorfman said that the bulge appears in photographs as far back as the early part of the 20th century.

The amount of the wall's swelling over the past year is also under debate. Zeligman said that based on measurements made by the authority's engineers, the bulge along the exterior of the southern wall grew by 1.5 centimetres over the past year. Eilat said the depth of the bulge doubled from some 70 centimetres a year ago, to around 1.5 metres today.

Conference On Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Inc.
Claims Conference website: www.claimscon.org

Holocaust Compensation

In recent negotiations, the German government agreed to pay survivors of certain camps it had previously determined were not eligible for the Claims Conference Article 2 Fund.

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Survivors currently receiving pensions from the German Government (under the BEG) are not eligible. Applicants who **at the time of persecution** were citizens of certain Western European countries may also not be eligible. Current income will also determine eligibility.

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British Chief Rabbi Sacks: *The Guardian* misrepresented views

By YAIR SHELEG
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd

LONDON — British Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks says his views on Israel were badly misrepresented in an interview published in the British newspaper *The Guardian* last week.

In the interview, Rabbi Sacks said the conflict with the Palestinians "is forcing Israel into postures that are incompatible in the long run with [Judaism's] deepest ideals" and "generates hatreds and insensitivities that in the long run are corrupting to a culture."

The comments created a storm both in Israel and in Britain, and right-wing groups in Britain even demanded that Rabbi Sacks resign.

In a letter to Israeli Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, Rabbi Sacks said the "sensationalist headlines" the paper gave the interview, which emphasized these statements, did not match the message he was trying to convey.

Rabbi Sacks also protested that the statements were "used to portray me as a critic of Israel."

"For the past two years, I have consistently supported Israel and made its case in the British media, with all the love I feel and all the power I have," he wrote to Rabbi Lau.

"To make Israel's case effectively, I have spoken not only to the media who support Israel, but also to Israel's critics. As anyone who has read *The Guardian* interview in full will see, it contains a strong defence of Israel, the strongest that this paper has printed."

Rabbi Sacks ended the letter by pledging to continue defending Israel before every possible audience.

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Protesters disrupt Israeli ecology presentation

By MICHAEL BELLING
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JOHANNESBURG — A little bit of Durban has come to Johannesburg.

Mirroring the efforts of anti-Israel demonstrators who tried to prevent Jewish groups from participating in sessions of last year's UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban, pro-Palestinian demonstrators last week disrupted an ecological workshop given by Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund (JNF) at the World Summit for Sustainable Development.

Despite the pro-Palestinian interruptions – the fracas at the JNF workshop was one of several that took place from the time the conference opened last Monday – Palestinian activists were unable to take over the summit, as they did last year at the anti-racism conference.

The workshop highlighted the JNF's professional expertise in areas relevant to the environmental summit, as well as ways the organization could help other countries.

More than 150 people crowded the workshop premises, designed to hold no more than about 80. About one-third were pro-Palestinian delegates to the non-governmental portion of the summit.

As the workshop started, Uri Davis, a pro-Palestinian Israeli activist who wrote the book *Israel: An Apartheid State*, tried to interrupt the proceedings by raising a procedural point. Davis was brought to South Africa by anti-Israel elements for both last year's Durban conference and this year's summit.

The workshop chair would not allow Davis to proceed.

Yehiel Leket, world chair of the JNF, said the purpose of the workshop was to have JNF experts present Israeli experiences with sustainable development.

"Our line here is that we are not involved in politics and do not want to get drawn into politics," Leket said. "We have much to share on sustainable development. So far we have managed to keep it that way. Coming here only as a professional body has borne fruit."

There has been significant interest in what JNF has to offer, both from governmental representatives – the United States, Germany and even Oman – and from NGOs, Leket said.

Demonstrators protesting on Israel's behalf in Johannesburg.
[Israel photo]

Members of the JNF technical team spoke on the use of scarce water resources, rehabilitation of degraded areas in the Negev, sustainable biodiversity and ecological forest renewal.

Team member Paul Ginsberg was using a 1930s photograph to illustrate the need for creating new forests when a demonstrator came to the front of the room and shouted that the picture had been taken in the West Bank in what was then Mandatory Palestine.

When security officials removed the protester, Palestinian supporters began chanting "Free, free, Palestine," and "Free, free, West Bank."

The Jewish Agency for Israel said the demonstrators were led by the lawyer for Marwan Barghouti, a Palestinian militia leader jailed in Israel awaiting trial on terrorism charges.

Minor scuffles ensued as police removed the demonstrators, allowing the presentation to continue after a 30-minute delay.

During the presentation, demonstrators distributed anti-JNF propaganda. One document, issued by the Movement Against Israeli Apartheid In Palestine, alleged that over 700,000 trees were uprooted in one year in "Israeli-occupied Palestine" and demanded that the conference disqualify the JNF, which it called "the mainstay of Israeli apartheid."

A second document, called *Factsheet Jewish National Fund* and issued by LAW – The Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment, accused JNF of helping to carry out the Jewish state's "undeclared aim of getting rid of Israel's indigenous population."

JNF executive member Zvi Lidar said JNF expertise could be useful to many countries, particularly in Africa.

"We are committed to remaining focused on the critical issues of sustainable development," he said. "But the Palestinians are coming here and polluting this conference."

Israeli arms were bound for Iran, Germany alleges

By BARUCH KRA
and AVI SHMOULI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — As an impounded cargo ship said to be carrying rubber gaskets for armoured personnel carrier (APC) treads began making its way back to Israel from Hamburg, the Defence Ministry handed over documents to the police to investigate whether the containers were being sold to Iran by a private Israeli company.

Hamburg customs inspectors discovered the two containers holding the rubber gaskets in mid-August on the Zim Antwerp I, when it docked in the German port. The cargo was to be transferred from one freighter to another for transport to Iran, German customs authorities said in a statement.

German arms export laws forbid the sale of military equipment to Iran, so the German Economics Ministry blocked the transport, the statement said, adding the load was to be shipped back to Israel.

Iran denied involvement, and German officials refused to give further details, but Israeli officials said they and Germany were conducting a joint investigation.

"We are treating this issue very seriously," Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer told reporters in Jerusalem.

The contents of the containers were sold by Avichai Weinstein, owner of P.A.D., and according to his lawyer, the shipment was on its way to Thailand.

"It's not arms, its only treads for armoured personnel carriers. It's not something that can kill people," said attorney Haim Misgav.

Misgav said the goods had been sold to a Thai company, and so should not be Israel's concern any longer. "The Thai company, which is the owner… can do whatever it wants with them," he said.

In Tehran, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said: "The Islamic Republic of Iran has no sort of relationship with the Zionist regime and such propaganda suggests that Israel considers the world's public to be naive."

Israel's international crimes squad will examine the material from the Defence Ministry to decide if and when to question Weinstein. Weinstein and his former partner – and brother-in-law – Eli Cohen, have been questioned in the past about selling U.S. army surplus to Iran, but the inquiry did not yield definitive results.

It is unclear whether P.A.D. knew the shipment would end up in Iran and Weinstein was refusing to discuss the matter with the press last week. The police international crimes department will work with the German customs authorities to determine if there is cause for an investigation, and if there is, the Shin Bet will likely become involved.

Although the containers were sent to Hamburg on a Zim ship, the Israeli shipping company had nothing to do with the containers, Zim officials said. They said the containers were sent by another shipping agent.

The shipping documents in Zim's hands say the containers held "machinery," without specifying the nature of that machinery. Zim Antwerp I, the ship returning the containers to Israel, is due to dock in Ashdod on Sept. 7.

The last case involving Israeli arms sales to Iran was that of Nahum Manbar, a prominent Jerusalem businessman now serving an 18-year prison term after being convicted in 1998 on treason charges after he was found guilty of selling components for chemical munitions to Iran. He claimed he did so with the knowledge and approval of the intelligence community.

The treason law includes a death penalty, but it has never been applied.

Prior to the Manbar case, Israel was notoriously involved in the Reagan administration's arms for hostages effort, known as the Iran-Contra affair, in the 1980s, when through Israeli intermediaries, the United States. sold arms to Iran to free U.S. hostages and used the sale proceeds to finance arms for anti-Communist guerrillas in Central America.

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Israel prepares for U.S. attack on Iraq

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

As speculation mounts that the United States is planning a massive operation to topple Saddam Hussein, Israel, having been attacked by Iraq during the 1991 Gulf War, is preparing for Iraqi chemical and biological attacks.

Last week, as the Bush administration ratcheted up its anti-Saddam rhetoric, Israel announced that 15,000 health care and hospitalworkers, police officers and soldiers would be inoculated against smallpox – a deadly virus Iraq may possess and could use if Saddam's repressive Baathist regime is cornered in what is likely to be a concerted American military campaign to oust him. Israel also informed its citizens that they should update their gas masks.

For the past six months, Washington has let it be known that regime change in Baghdad is its preferred policy, though the timing has yet to be determined. The United States seems ready to launch an assault without first defusing the Palestinian uprising, a surprising turn of events.

Last week, in the Bush administration's most powerful case for a pre-emptive strike, Vice-President Dick Cheney claimed that Saddam seeks to dominate the Middle East and take control of its oil supplies. Cheney added that he is close to acquiring nuclear arms and would not hesitate to use weapons of mass destruction.

In an unmistakable signal that Washington means business and will not be deterred by increasingly strident objections from its Arab and European allies, Cheney added that the return of United Nations arms inspectors to Iraq would provide "no assurance whatsoever of [Iraq's] compliance with UN resolutions."

Under these resolutions, passed after Iraq's defeat in the Gulf War, Iraq is obliged to destroy all weapons of mass destruction. From 1992 to 1998, UN inspectors found and destroyed many of Iraq's prohibited weapons, despite cat-and-mouse efforts by Iraq to obstruct their mission.

When the UN concluded that Iraq would continue to hamper their work, the inspectors were withdrawn, and the United States bombed Iraq from the air. Since then, Iraq has been free to develop its military arsenal without interference.

The basic assumption in Israel is that an American offensive aimed at unseating Saddam, which the Israeli government is encouraging, will automatically lead to an Iraqi attack on Israel.

Should Saddam feel that he and his regime are in jeopardy, he will lash out at Israel in an act of desperation, Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said recently.

During the Gulf War, Saddam fired 39 Scud missiles at Israel, causing considerable property damage in Tel Aviv. He did so in an effort to break up the coalition against Iraq, but also in retaliation for Israel's 1981 destruction of Iraq's nuclear reactor near Baghdad.

Prior to the Gulf War, Israel threatened to counter-attack if it was the object of Iraqi aggression.

"Whoever attacks Israel won't live to remember it," said David Levy, the foreign minister. But succumbing to U.S. pressure, Israel exercised remarkable restraint and refrained from retaliating.

Israeli and western intelligence services have no hard evidence that Iraq has an atomic bomb. But they believe that Iraq has stockpiled chemical and biological weapons that can be unleashed by jet aircraft, pilotless drones or long-range missiles.

Both Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Ben-Eliezer have warned that Israel will respond forcefully to any strike on its territory by Iraq. Some have speculated that Israel will resort to nuclear arms.

The commander of Israel's air force, Gen. Dan Halutz, has said that Israel is much better prepared today to handle an Iraqi attack.

In collaboration with the United States, Israel has developed the Arrow anti-missile, one of the most sophisticated systems in the world. Washington, too, has promised to ship Patriot missile batteries to Israel should war be imminent.

Aug. 26

• The Palestinian Journalist Syndicate (PJS) banned journalists from taking photos of Palestinian children holding weapons because such photos harm the Palestinian cause. The Foreign Press Association called on the PJS to rescind the ban.

• Information was released that seven Israeli Arabs were arrested on charges of assisting in an Aug. 4 suicide bombing that killed nine people and wounded 50.

Aug. 27

• A town dating to 2,000 BCE was discovered in northern Israel. Among the findings, Haifa University archeologists unearthed a wall and a patch of tiling that suggested the existence of a paved road.

• Israel agreed to begin lifting restrictions on Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Bethlehem.

Aug. 28

• Emigration from the West Bank and Gaza Strip is up by 50 per cent this year, Palestinian officials said. Some 80,000 Palestinians have left the territories since the beginning of 2002.

Aug. 29

• Palestinian Authority (PA) Interior Minister Abdel Razak Yehiyeh and Mohammed Dahlan, advisor to PA President Yasser Arafat, cancelled their meeting with Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, citing the deaths of four Palestinian civilians in Gaza by Israeli tank fire the previous day.

Aug. 30

• Three Israeli soldiers were wounded during exchanges of fire with Palestinians near the southern entrance to the Jenin refugee camp.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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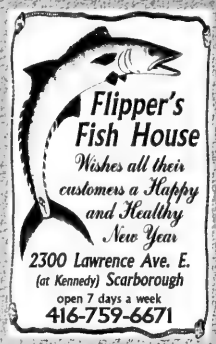
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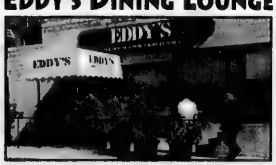

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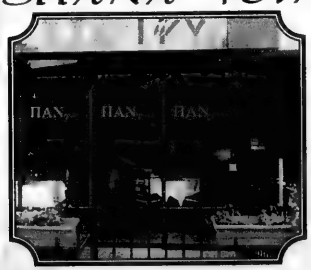

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Sisters working for a cause: Eat to the Beat

By REBECCA GLUCK
Special to The CJN

Sisters Abby and Lisa Slater were raised according to their parents' credo, "Do for your Jewish community and beyond." The credo stands strong today.

Abby, 44, a banker by profession with a keen business sense, and Lisa, 51, a certified nutritionist, long involved in food services, and currently the Bakery and Specialty Team Leader of downtown Toronto's Whole Foods organic food store, pooled their skills to form the ever-growing fund-raiser called Eat to the Beat.

Now in its seventh consecutive year, Eat to the Beat will take place at Roy Thomson Hall on Oct. 7. The event is the primary fund-raiser for Willow, a Toronto-based telephone service offering support and resources to breast cancer victims. Willow's service is provided by volunteers, all of whom are breast cancer survivors. Since it opened in 1994, it has been survivor-directed and is the only known facility in Toronto that offers non-medical, peer support.

Abby and Lisa have long been contributors to various charitable causes but never felt their contributions were substantial. The sisters had owned and operated the bakery café chain, BakeWorks, and in a campaign called PennyWorks, a penny for every bagel they sold was designated for a community charity. Still, the impact wasn't entirely satisfying.

"We were anxious to use our business to help others, aside from it being a profit venture," said Abby. "We didn't want to attach ourselves to a big organization because we weren't sure how much we could really give."

Shortly after the PennyWorks campaign was launched, Abby was invited to a fund-raising event for Willow. There she heard the heroic stories of breast cancer survivors, including the story of Sharon Hampson, of the entertaining trio Sharon Lois and Bram. Hampson, a founding member of Willow, and other women spoke openly about their fight against the disease. Their candour and strength inspired Abby: She and Lisa were going to focus their charitable efforts, both personally and corporately, on Willow.

Lisa's long-term involvement in the food business was to play a key role in their plans. She had co-chaired the first Taste-of-Toronto – a fund-raiser for The Daily Bread food bank featuring Toronto chefs – and was eager to involve women in a comparable setting for Willow.

"So often, women chefs play second fiddle to male chefs and it was time to put women in the spotlight," said Lisa.

So, Lisa set out to recruit a number of female chefs from the Toronto area. The idea was to present an evening of delectable foods, prepared on site before several hundred guests. With the purchase of an event ticket, participants would be free to sample the chefs' fare in unlimited quantities. Proceeds from ticket sales, combined with other activities of the evening, would go to Willow. In addition to food, the event would include a silent auction, live entertainment and a celebration of gastronomical creativity.

In its seven years, Eat to the Beat has grown from 20 women chefs to more than 40. Last year's event raised more than $190,000, contributing nearly one-third of Willow's operating budget.

The evening's silent auction will feature a Designer Showcase, which is a series of rooms created by some of Toronto's top interior designers – including Applecart Design, uw design group, Costa Design, Andree Beauchamp Design Consultants, and Just Two Creative Women Inc.

The event also attracts leading chefs. "The women chefs relish their involvement in such a purposeful event," remarked Lisa. It offers the chefs a chance to network while contributing to a worthy cause. The chefs cover the cost of all ingredients and prepare enough to feed several hundred attendees.

An added advantage for the chefs' participation is this year's launch of the first *Eat to the Beat* cookbook. It features the recipes of Eat to the Beat chefs of past and present. Amongst the contributors is the renowned Lillian Kaplan, dubbed the quintessential Jewish chef and credited as the inspiration to most Jewish bakers in Toronto today.

The name of the event, created by Abby, encapsulates the mood of the evening: savouring delicious dishes to the sound of live, upbeat music while raising money to help support a worthy cause. Each year, a swing band called The Advocats, comprised of a group of lawyers, perform. Like so many involved with the event, their performance is on a volunteer basis.

To order tickets, contact Willow at 416-778-5000 or order on line by visiting www.willow.org. Willow's toll free hotline is 1-888-778-3100.

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[Jacob El-Baz photos]

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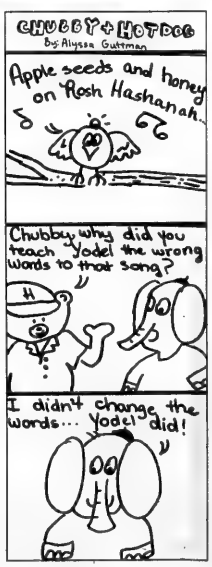
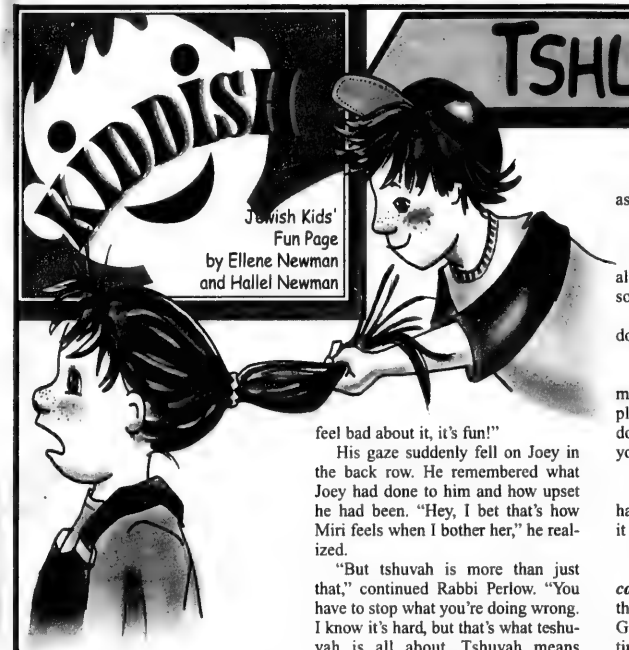

CHUBBY + HOTDOG
By Alyssa Guttman
Apple seeds and honey on Rosh Hashanah.
Chubby, why did you teach Yodel the wrong words to that song?
I didn't change the words... Yodel did!

CJ Kids

KIDDISH

Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

TSHUVAH



"Jacob, stop!" shrieked Miri as her brother yanked her ponytail.

"Why should I?" he laughed, giving it another pull.

"Mommmmy!"

"Jacob, stop that right now! You're going to be late for Sunday school," scolded his mother. Jacob grabbed his backpack and walked to the car.

When he arrived at the shul, he noticed his classmate Joey standing by the entrance. The two of them had never liked each other much. "Jacob," reminded his mother, "remember, Mrs. Tehrani is going to drive you home."

"Yeah. Thanks, Mom."

Jacob got out of the car and ran up the steps to the main entrance.

"Hey, Jake," leered Joey, knocking off Jacob's baseball cap.

"Stop it!"

"Why should I?"

Jacob was so angry he wanted to hit Joey, but Joey was much bigger and stronger than he was. Sighing, he picked up his baseball cap, dusted it off, and ran into class. He was late. Rabbi Perlow was saying, "Since Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are coming, we'll be learning about tshuvah, repentance. Everybody makes mistakes, but God allows us to repair them. To truly repent, you have to feel bad about what you've done wrong."

Jacob thought to himself, "I guess when I bother Miri and pull her hair, that's wrong. But I don't feel bad about it, it's fun!"

His gaze suddenly fell on Joey in the back row. He remembered what Joey had done to him and how upset he had been. "Hey, I bet that's how Miri feels when I bother her," he realized.

"But tshuvah is more than just that," continued Rabbi Perlow. "You have to stop what you're doing wrong. I know it's hard, but that's what teshuvah is all about. Tshuvah means returning, returning to-God."

On the way home, Jacob thought about how he treated his sister. He felt bad about it, but he didn't think he could stop.

He ran into the house. "Miri!" he screamed, feigning terror, "the police are here to arrest you! You're gonna go to jail . . . forever!"

Miri started crying. "No I'm not, no I'm not!"

"Jacob, what are you doing?" asked his father.

"I'm sorry," said Jacob.

"Are you really?"

"I sure am. Rabbi Perlow said we all have to feel bad when we do something wrong. And I do."

"If you feel bad, why do you keep doing it?"

"Cause I can't stop!"

"Of course you can. What you mean to say is that you can't completely stop right now. Nobody can do that, it's nearly impossible. But you can ***start*** stopping."

"How?"

"Well, if you pull your sister's hair 10 times a day and you only do it five times, that's *tshuvah*!"

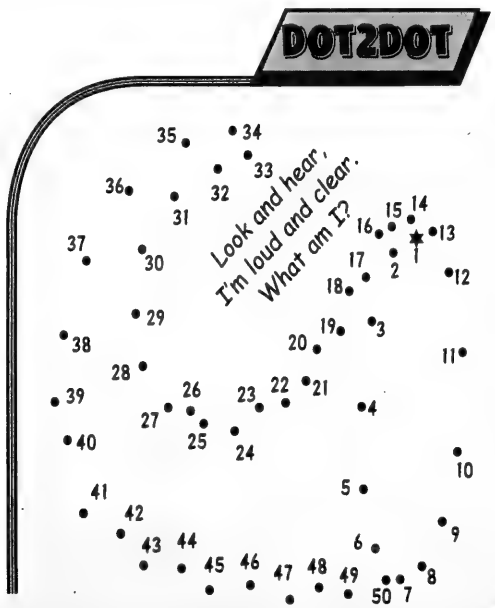
"Really?"

"Absolutely. Of course it's not ***complete*** teshuvah, but it's a step in the right direction. And that's all God wants from you—one step at a time."

Jacob smiled. He could do tshuvah.

And he did.

DOT2DOT



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Notebook and memories inspired *Let Us Eat Cake*

BY JUDY BART KANCIGOR

Journalism 1.1, Rule No. 1: The interview is about the interviewee, not about you. Ask a question, then listen. Obviously the instructor never met Sharon Boorstin, who is as interested in you as you are in her. My list of questions goes out the window.

With Boorstin you bond. The noted restaurant critic and food writer is already collecting food memories and recipes for a sequel to *Let Us Eat Cake: Adventures in Food and Friendship* (ReganBooks/HarperCollins), her tantalizing memoir, recipes included, of food, family and friendship, and we're invited to share by e-mailing her at sharonboorstin@aol.com.

"I'm fascinated by women and their relationships with their mothers and grandmothers and where they came from," she says. "I grew up in a family obsessed with food. With women's lib everything changed, and I wanted to explore how women's attitudes toward cooking and food changed as well."

She shows me a loose-leaf binder bulging with recipes, some handwritten, some on yellowed newsprint, dating back three decades to her newlywed days. The discovery of that long-forgotten notebook and the memories it recalled were the catalyst for *Let Us Eat Cake*.

Every recipe told a story: the brandied stuffed chicken legs she and friend Laurie slaved over to woo two brothers, a doctor and a lawyer (they never called back); the signature Canlis Salad from Seattle's best restaurant; her Yiddish-speaking grandmother's blintzes; her mom's legendary egg-bread stuffing.

"Food is actually a really good bonding thing. Everyone has it in common, and women talk about it easily," says Boorstin. "And I have the most fun talking to Jewish women, because they get it right away. They have all these stories and light up when they talk about their grandmothers."

Despite the differences in our backgrounds – Boorstin grew up in the "boonies" outside of Seattle where she and her sisters were the only Jewish kids in class; I was raised in a Jewish "ghetto" in a New York suburb – I found myself saying "me too!" on almost every page: Growing up in the '50s, the angst about boys, the love-hate relationship with food and obsession with dieting, the deep emotional connection with women friends, the ease of friendship in our 50s.

"You have what you've gone through together, what you have in common, and let go of old resentments," Boorstin says. "Life is precious, and you don't want to be petty."

In the '50s you learned cooking to catch a man, she observes. The book's grand finale Husband-Catcher Cake came from friend Mary Lou, whose college roommate's grandmother had advised, "Men can get sex from any woman, but not a good chocolate cake. And this one is good enough to get you a husband."

Readers of any age will relate to the connections Boorstin celebrates with the women in her life and share a giggle at her often hilarious food memories: the "salmon dowry" wrapped in newspaper she presents to her future in-laws (her dad was vice-president of a fish company) or gourmet potato pancakes fried by Suzy Gershman (of *Born To Shop* fame) in her muggy Paris apartment wearing panties and an apron (photo included).

Sharon Boorstin

Neither does Boorstin hold back the painful episodes in her life: her broken engagement (his therapist delivers the news), her sister's mental illness, the death of a soul mate, friendships extinguished and miraculously rekindled.

"Women bond over food the way men do over sports," she asserts as she cooks her way through life's triumphs and challenges. "On the afternoon of 9-11 I was so upset, I was crying and started making blintzes. I was sort of reattaching to my roots. It was very comforting."

When daughter Julia goes off to college, a puffy-eyed Boorstin seeks the solace of friend Joyce, who must know Boorstin well. "We'll have a glass of wine, we'll cook. You'll feel better," she tells her.

Scattered throughout are delicious vignettes starring famous foodie friends: Barbara Fairchild, editor-in-chief of *Bon Appétit*; La Brea Bakery's Nancy Silverton; Barbara Lazaroff, Wolfgang Puck's partner and wife; Mary Sue Milliken and Susan Feniger, the *Two Hot Tamales*; Paul Newman's daughter, Nell. Even Julia Child makes an appearance.

In the tradition of her mother and grandmother, Boorstin is a self-described *shitarein* cook. That's Yiddish for why measure? You just throw something in, and a wonderful dish emerges. Far from haphazard, it's a style born of confidence, instinct and skill. With *Let Us Eat Cake* the ebullient Boorstin has *shitareined* a delightful and tasty friendship stew.

MOM'S EGG-BREAD STUFFING

This is a recipe that cries out for improvisation; you can toss in just about anything that adds crunch and perhaps a bit of sweetness, and it will taste good. Just be sure you use egg bread as your base. It is also a recipe for which it is difficult to give precise measurements. Taste and adjust the ingredients and seasonings for flavour and texture. It makes enough for a 20-pound turkey with some left over to bake in a casserole.

4 to 5 loaves sliced egg bread, crusts removed
3 to 4 big onions, chopped
1 stick margarine
1 bunch celery, chopped
2 cups chopped mushrooms
1 each turkey giblet, heart and liver, chopped
1 to 2 tbsp.poultry seasoning
1 to 2 tbsp. salt
pepper to taste
1 to 1½ cups sliced water chestnuts, well drained
2 to 3 pippin or Granny Smith apples, chopped
1 to 1½ cups dried cranberries or chopped dried apricots
2 carrots, chopped (optional)
1 cup sunflower seeds or chopped walnuts or almonds (optional)
4 eggs, beaten
3 to 4 cups chicken broth, at room temperature

Cut the bread into cubes about 1½ inches square. Set aside for a day or two so that they dry out, tossing occasionally, or toast them lightly in a 350-degree oven, until they are crisp but not brown.

In a large, heavy pan over medium heat, sauté the onions in the margarine until they are soft, about 10 to 15 minutes. Stir frequently and be sure the onions do not burn. Add the celery, mushrooms, giblet, heart, liver and seasonings and cook over medium-high heat for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring often, until the turkey parts are cooked. Remove from the heat and let cool completely.

In a large pot, in batches, add the cooled onion giblet mixture and about ¾ of the bread cubes. Toss gently. (You may need to do this with two wooden spoons or with your hands.) In batches, add the water chestnuts, apples, dried fruit, and any optional ingredients, tossing gently after each addition.

In a separate dish, whisk the eggs with 3 cups of the broth, and gradually add the liquid to the stuffing mixture, blending gently. Add more broth-egg mixture and the remaining bread cubes if needed. You do not want the stuffing to be soggy, but it shouldn't be dry either. Adjust the poultry seasoning, salt and pepper to taste. Just before roasting the turkey, stuff it loosely – do not pack it in. Bake the remaining stuffing in a greased casserole, covered lightly with foil, at 350 for approximately an hour, until brown on top.

Adapted from *Let Us Eat Cake: Adventures in Food and Friendship* by Sharon Boorstin (ReganBooks/HarperCollins)

THE HUSBAND-CATCHER CAKE

For the cake:
2 sticks butter, softened
1 (16 oz.) box brown sugar
3 extra-large eggs or 4 large eggs
3 squares unsweetened chocolate, melted
2 tsp. vanilla extract
1 tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt
2¼ cups sifted all-purpose flour
1 cup buttermilk

For the filling:
6 oz. apricot or raspberry preserves, or orange

Continued on page 55

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Let Us Eat Cake

Continued from page 54

marmalade
1/4 cup fruit-based liqueur to match the above (i.e. apricot brandy, raspberry eau de vie, or Grand Marnier)

For the frosting:
3 1/2 tbsp. light Karo (or other corn) syrup
1/2 stick butter
2 tbsp. water
1 tbsp. Kahlua, brandy, coffee liqueur, orange liqueur, or vanilla extract
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each, and then add the chocolate and the vanilla. Mix well.

Preheat the oven to 350. Add the baking soda and salt to the flour and mix. To the chocolate mixture, alternate adding the flour mixture and the buttermilk, a little of each at a time, beginning and ending the process with the dry ingredients. Do not overmix.

Pour the batter into 2 greased and floured or non-stick round cake pans, and bake for 30 to 35 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted into the middle of each cake comes out clean.

Cool the cakes on a wire rack. In a small saucepan, over boiling water, mix the filling ingredients well. Cool. Invert one cooled cake layer onto a serving plate, then spread on the cooled filling. Carefully top with other layer.

Cover gently but tightly with plastic wrap covered by aluminum foil and refrigerate overnight. Bring the cake to room temperature before icing. In a medium saucepan, mix the Karo syrup, butter, water and liqueur or vanilla, and bring to a boil. Stir in the chocolate chips. Let cool and stir until the frosting is the consistency of whipping cream. Frost top and sides of the cake.

Cake celebrates fall harvest

Children, adults and staff at the Brooklyn School for Special Children/Block Institute enjoy the fruits of creativity of the school's director of food services, Todd Adelman.

To celebrate the fall harvest season Adelman has developed this Pumpkin Apple Cake perfect for the festival of Sukkot.

Brooklyn School for Special Children/Block Institute is a not-for-profit, non-sectarian agency serving children and adults who are developmentally delayed. The education program serves children three to five years old both with and without developmental delay in an integrated setting. Adult programs include day habilitation, vocational training and residences.

PUMPKIN AND APPLE STREUSEL CAKE

For Apples:
3 tbsp. sweet butter
4 large Granny Smith apples
1/4 cup orange juice
3 tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon

Core and peel apples. Dice apples and place in bowl. Add orange juice and toss to coat. Melt butter in large skillet. Drain apples, discard liquid. Add apples to skillet. Saute over medium high heat until apples begin to brown (approx. 5 min.). Add sugar and cinnamon and toss to coat. Saute until apples are golden brown (approx. 5 min.). Cool.

For Cake:
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 cup light brown sugar (packed)
1/2 cup sweet butter
1/2 tsp. salt
3/4 cup canned pumpkin purée
1/3 cup sour cream
2 tbsp. sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. ground cloves
1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
1/4 tsp. ground ginger
1 tsp. baking soda
2 large eggs

Cut butter into small pieces. Preheat oven to 350. Grease 9-inch springform pan. Combine flour, brown sugar, butter and salt in large bowl. Beat in food processor (turning it on and off several times) until mixture resembles coarse meal. Remove 2/3 cup of mixture and set aside for streusel topping. Add pumpkin, sour cream, sugar, spices and baking soda to mixture in processor. Beat until smooth. Add eggs. Beat until smooth.

Pour batter into prepared pan. Smooth out top to even. Spoon apples evenly over batter. Sprinkle with reserved streusel topping. Bake for approx. 1 hour and 10 minutes, or until toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean. Cool for 15 minutes in pan. Remove from pan. Serve at room temperature.

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Side dishes back up the main course

BY EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

There comes a point in your menu planning when the main course and the dessert are done, and you realize you need more side dishes.

These dishes can be put together in under ½ hour and can be made in advance and reheated.

WILD RICE, PORTOBELLO AND BROCCOLI CASSEROLE

This fresh and crunchy wild rice recipe can be served hot or at room temperature. The vegetables can be varied according to your family's taste.

2½ cups cooked wild rice (⅔ cup uncooked)
¼ cup red pepper, diced
1 cup portobello mushrooms, sliced
¼ cup minced onions
2 cups fresh broccoli, cleaned, peeled, and cut into ¼-inch pieces
6 tbsp. olive oil
½ cup water chestnuts, sliced
salt and black pepper to taste

In a large pot or microwave-proof container, cook the rice in about 4 cups of lightly salted water. If you are cooking the rice on a conventional stove, simmer for about 35 minutes; in the microwave, bring the water to a boil, and cook the rice on medium-low for about 30 minutes.

The rice should be just tender and starting to open. Drain the water. Saute all the vegetables in the olive oil. When the vegetables are just starting to become crisp/tender remove them from the heat and add them to rice. Season with salt and pepper and then place the mixture in a greased oven-proof bowl and cover. This recipe can be made several hours in advance and then heated at 350 for about 20 minutes just before serving. Makes 10 servings

CURRIED PUMPKIN SOUP

I always try to serve plenty of squash and pumpkin dishes for yom tov. If you prefer to use fresh pumpkin or variety squashes, go ahead. You need to cook the raw vegetable in the broth until it is tender, and then purée the mixture before proceeding.

¼ cup olive oil
1 medium onion, finely chopped
1 medium tart apple or quince, peeled and finely chopped
1 tbsp. curry powder
2 cups vegetable stock
1 lb. can pumpkin purée
3 tbsp. flour
3 cups of pareve creamer or rice or soy milk
salt and pepper to taste
⅓ cup toasted pine nuts to serve as a garnish

Heat half of the oil in a large pot, and gently saute the onion until translucent but not brown. Add the apple and saute until soft. Add the curry powder and cook for 2 minutes. Add the stock and pumpkin. Simmer for 5 minutes. In another pot, heat the remaining oil, stir in the flour, and cook for a minute. Then whisk in the milk or pareve creamer.

Cook until the mixture thickens slightly. Blend the two mixtures, adjust the seasoning, and serve with the toasted pine nuts. You can add more curry or some hot paprika if this is not spicy enough for you. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

SMOKED FISH AND POTATO SALAD

This salad is an unusual variation, combining the whitefish and a tangy dressing. Served on a bed of lettuce this salad is the perfect start to any meal.

1½ lb. smoked whitefish, skinned, boned and flaked
2 cups peeled, sliced cooked new red potatoes
1 cup thinly sliced, peeled cucumber
½ cup sliced black olives or Calamata olives
¼ cup thinly sliced carrot
¼ cup finely chopped onion
2 tbsp. fresh chopped parsley
½ cup mayonnaise
1 tbsp. Dijon mustard
1 tsp. lemon juice
1 tsp. rice wine vinegar
salt and pepper to taste

In a large bowl combine the fish and potatoes, cucumber, olives, carrots and onion. Mix to combine and set aside. In another bowl combine the parsley, mayonnaise, mustard, lemon juice, vinegar and seasonings. Blend thoroughly, and add the dressing to the fish and potato mixture. Toss lightly. Serve chilled with lettuce and tomatoes. Serves 4 to 6.

CURRIED CORN SALAD

A totally amazing salad that only gets better the longer it sits and is equally compatible with poultry, fish or meat.

30 oz. canned corn
2 tbsp. olive oil
1½ cups diced red onion
1½ cups each green, red and yellow pepper, diced
1½ to 2 tsp. curry
½ tsp. dry oregano
salt and pepper
½ tsp. turmeric (optional)
¾ cup pimento stuffed green olives, sliced
1 to 2 tbsp. mayonnaise, or to taste

In a skillet heat oil and saute the onion for 2 minutes. Add the peppers and cook an additional 2 minutes and remove the mixture from the heat. Add the curry, oregano and turmeric and mix to combine. Cool slightly and add the salt, pepper, corn and mix to combine. At this point adjust the seasonings to your taste. Cover and refrigerate.

Just before serving stir in the green olives and mayonnaise and serve. Serves 6 to 8.

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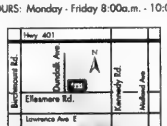

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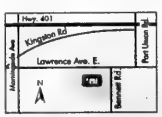

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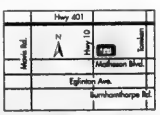

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Vegetables – A healthy alternative for the holidays

By ROBERTA KALECHOFSKY
Special to The CJN

Dozens of delicious vegetarian dishes have become traditional for the Rosh Hashanah meal, such as tzimmes, apple dishes, stuffed dates and figs, fruit pilaf, rice pudding, spinach strudels, chickpeas and couscous, stuffed zucchini, kugel, candied fruits and plum pie.

We bind Rosh Hashanah to Yom Kippur with the custom of dipping challah: on Rosh Hashanah we dip challah in sweet honey, and on Yom Kippur, to break the fast, we dip challah in olive oil spiced with cumin.

For centuries, Jewish families have prepared for Rosh Hashanah by cleaning the house from top to bottom. The best cutlery is polished, the finest table linens, china and crystal are brought out. New clothes for the whole family at Rosh Hashanah are a long tradition.

While immaculate houses and elegant tables still honour the holiday, formality in dress disappeared in the liberating breezes of the '60s and '70s, when parents were pleased if post-adolescent children turned up at all and were grateful if they turned up neat and clean.

Many young people became vegetarians during this period, and the trend has persisted, along with a general move towards a lighter and more healthful diet.

Grown children often live too far away now to return for the holidays and many senior citizens seek an easier life in the sunbelt. This has given rise to new possible alternatives for enjoying the holidays. We may spend them now with neighbours, friends and colleagues who share the work of planning, shopping and cooking. Many of these groups form their own food traditions and establish menus that persist for years, with each cook contributing a specialty.

Traditional foods often continue to appear, no matter what shape the family or social unit takes. The most familiar symbolic foods for the holiday are the round challahs and the apple dipped in honey. The circular shape of the challah represents infinity, eternity, the New Year wish for a long life.

The apple reminds us of the Garden of Eden, though scholars believe that the fruit mentioned in the Bible was more likely a pomegranate than an apple; the sweet honey tempers our exile from Eden and conveys the hope for a sweet year ahead.

Many other dishes served at the dinner table are also sweetened with honey, carrying out this theme. Though most of us will buy honey in a jar from a supermarket, the honey that is cited among the seven sacred species of Israel was date honey. Honey from honeycombs probably did not exist in Israel until the era of the Roman occupation. Prior to this period, sweeteners were extracted from grapes, dates and figs.

Sephardi cooks offer foods that imply abundance and fertility by their very profusion: black-eyed peas, pomegranates (for the seeds), sesame seeds, grains of rice and couscous. When cooking the Rosh Hashanah couscous, they leave the lid of the pot slightly ajar to indicate that the year is not yet closed.

The head of the family recites special blessings, all beginning with Yehi ratzon. (May it be Thy will) over several kinds of vegetables whose names or appearance reflect the good things desired in the coming year.

For instance, a gourd stands for fullness, and the head of a fish, a rooster or other animal indicates the hope that all Israel, and each of us individually, will be the head, and not the tail – that we may go forward, not backward, in the year ahead.

This tradition is based on the passage in Deuteronomy 28:13: "and the Lord will make thee the head, and not the tail."

In *The Jewish Vegetarian Year Cookbook*, co-authored with Rosa Rasiel (Micah Publications), we symbolize that wish in the vegetable world, either by presenting a whole roasted head of garlic, or by using a whole head of beautiful red or green cabbage as part of a centerpiece. You can use all vegetables or a combination of vegetables and fruit, including, for example, a pomegranate, whose myriad seeds are said to equal the 613 commandments we hope to honour in the year ahead.

MOCK CHOPPED LIVER

Incredibly delicious and sure to be a favourite for other holidays as well. Can be prepared the day before.

½ package (1 cup) brown lentils
1 large diced onion
1 cup chopped walnuts
salt to taste

Put lentils in a 2- or 3-quart pot, and cover with water. Use water sparingly so that lentils absorb all the water. More water can be added as needed.

Bring water to a boil, partially cover and simmer for about 45 minutes. Check occasionally to make sure water has not boiled off, and add water as needed. Sauté onions until lightly golden and tender.

Purée lentils in food processor. Purée walnuts until slightly coarse. Mix all ingredients together. Salt to taste. Chill about 2 hours. Serve with crackers or rye bread, or on lettuce leaves.

LENTILS AND RICE WITH CARAMELIZED ONIONS

⅔ cup dried lentils
1 small onion, halved
2 cups water
3 tbsp. oil
3 cups coarsely chopped onions
1 cup long grain rice
2 tsp. cumin or to taste
½ tsp. salt

In a medium saucepan, combine lentils, onion halves, and water. Bring to a boil, lower heat and simmer covered for 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, heat oil and sauté chopped onion in medium skillet over medium-high heat, stirring often, until onions are golden brown. Reduce heat and continue cooking, stirring occasionally until onions are a rich, dark brown, about 30 minutes. Set aside.

Drain lentil cooking liquid into a 2 cup measure. If necessary, add water to equal 2 cups. Discard onion halves. Return liquid to saucepan with rice, cumin and salt. Stir. Bring to a simmer and cook covered over very low heat until all liquid is absorbed and rice and lentils are tender, about 30 minutes.

Serve topped with caramelized onions. Serves 4-6.

SWEET POTATO APPLE BAKE

This longtime favorite is less sweet than similar dishes.

6 medium sweet potatoes
1½ to 2 cups thinly sliced Cortland apples
lemon juice (optional, if needed)
½ cup brown sugar
3 tbsp. margarine
½ cup water or apple-cooking water
cinnamon

Cook potatoes in boiling water to cover, 30-45 minutes until soft. Drain, cool and peel them. Cut them into ½ inch thick slices.

Meanwhile, cook apple slices in water barely to cover until almost tender. Drain and save the cooking water Preheat oven to 350.

In a greased baking dish, make alternate layers of potatoes and apples, sprinkle with brown sugar, lemon juice if using, and dash of cinnamon; dot with margarine. Pour ½ cup reserved apple water over them. Bake uncovered for 1 hour. Serves 6-8.

ZUCCHINI BAKED WITH RICE AND TOMATOES

Good company dish. A different way to combine these popular Mediterranean ingredients. Cook rice and onions in advance and assemble the dish at your convenience.

2 lb. zucchini, scrubbed, trimmed, and sliced.
2 cups sliced onions (about 2 medium)
3 medium tomatoes, sliced
1¼ cups rice
4 tbsp. olive oil, divided in half
1-2 tbsp. wine vinegar
1-2 cloves garlic, crushed
salt
paprika
⅓ cup chopped fresh parsley

Cook rice in boiling water in usual fashion. In medium saucepan, sauté onions in 2 tbsp. oil until light golden brown.

Preheat oven to 350. Oil shallow baking dish. Arrange rice, zucchini, onions and tomatoes in alternate layers, ending with tomatoes on top. Bake 30 minutes or until zucchini slices are tender.

Meanwhile, make a dressing from remaining oil, vinegar, garlic, salt and paprika to taste. When ready to serve, sprinkle casserole with chopped parsley and pour dressing over all. Serves 8-12.

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Remnants of Jewish life in a tiny corner of Italy

By GERALD SCHWARTZ
Special to The CJN

PITIGLIANO, Italy — In the middle of the beautifully wooded area of Tuscany known as the Marmare sits the medieval village of Pitigliano, known as *La Piccola Gerusalemme*.

I first heard about this village while researching places of Italian-Jewish interest on the Internet. After a month of studying Italian in Assisi, I had two weeks to travel freely. From Orvieto by bus, transferring in San Lorenzo, I arrived on a mid-Friday afternoon and quickly checked into the Albergo Guastini, the main family-owned inn.

I immediately went to the former Jewish ghetto and found the synagogue on Vicolo Manin off the Via Zuccarelli, in time for a tour of both the restored shul (from the 16th century and most recently restored in 1995) and the Jewish cemetery outside the walled town.

Signora Elena Servi, the wonderful Jewish-Italian hostess of the *sinagoga* from Pitigliano who speaks some Hebrew, and a wonderful local Italian gentleman showed me around.

Though today there is no Jewish community in Pitigliano, Jewish cultural events take place in the town.

The views from the women's balcony to the bimah below and to the green fields from the outside terrace are beautiful. A plaque outside honouring those deported by the Nazis to the death camps was unveiled in 2001.

The synagogue of Carmiel, in Israel, houses Pitigliano's 18th-century ark.

Besides the shul itself, there is a mikvah, matzah oven (*forno delle azzime*) and the local Jewish cemetery outside the walls.

Pitigliano sits in a mountainous area of Tuscany in the province of Grosetto, not far from the famous Terme Saturnia Spa. The town clings to a cliffside, with the original ghetto of cobble-stoned alleyways fully occupied and a living museum. Roman arches precede the ghetto's entrance and there is a Roman aqueduct at the valley's entrance below.

Like in Jerusalem, there is a "Welcome to Pitigliano" sign made from shrubbery and plants as you round the last turn before ascending to the town itself. Jews originally settled here in the 15th century for familiar reasons – escaping persecution in the nearby papal state, both the Medicis and the Lorenas gave them refuge.

Of course, there were restrictions, but despite this, the Jewish community flourished and prospered. They were involved in both local trade and agriculture (there is still an excellent kosher white wine produced here). At various times, they made up about 10-20 per cent of the local population and the town was an oasis of tranquillity until 1799, when the invasion of Napoleon and nearby pogroms occured.

View of Pitigliano's historic centre. The synagogue is below the tall church tower. Pitigliano is known as "Little Jerusalem." **[Gerald Schwartz photo]**

In the golden years of Pitigliano's Jewish era, there was a kosher butcher and most women worked in the matzah factory that supplied a large area of Italy. The village was the birthplace of many notable sages and scholars including Samuel Colombo (rabbi of Livorno, Moses Montefiore's hometown) and the biologist Mazzini Pergola.

Wandering Pitigliano's narrow streets is delightful. The ancient city walls and arches, floodlit at night, are indeed reminiscent of Jerusalem. The local tourist office is one of the most organized and knowledgeable I found in all of Italy. The local population, estimated at 5,000 people, is wonderfully warm.

On Sunday, I returned to the synagogue to say goodbye to Signora Servi. She was busy welcoming both Italian and German tourists. I wished her *sta bene* (Italian for *zei gezunt*). A cousin of hers, Edda Servi Machlin, is a noted chef specializing in Italian Jewish cuisine, who has written cookbooks as well as a memoir about her youth in Pitigliano called *Child of the Ghetto, Coming of Age in Fascist Italy: 1926-1946*.

I left Pitigliano by direct bus to the railway station of Orbetello on the coast, which is on the main Rome-Livorno line, with mixed feelings of both sadness and joy. Sadness for what once was and existed no longer, and joy for the present public interest in the rich Jewish life that flourished in this lesser-known corner of Italy.

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

As we turn the page into the New Year of 5763, Eye On Arts presents its annual survey of what some people in the arts and literary community are reading.

* * *

Toronto Yiddishist **Shirley Kumove** says that *Austerlitz* (Knopf, 2001) by **W. G. Sebald** "is a hard book to read, but it's certainly rewarding." The book focuses on the experiences of a young man sent to England on a kindertransport, but it is "not strong on narrative," she says. "It's a philosophical novel and narrative is not its strongest point.

"What's he's really talking about is the death of civilization. He's talking about the 20th century, the seminal event of which was the Shoah . . . It's really a meditation on what it means to be alive after such a horrible event, what it means in terms of civilization."

Kumove is currently compiling a third book of Yiddish sayings and translating an interwar Yiddish novel by **Yehoshua Perle** into English.

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Totto-Chan, The Little Girl At the Window, by Japanese talk-show host **Tetsuko Kuroyanagi** (Kodansha NY, 1990) is a "beautifully written and very touching" memoir of her experiences in an alternative school in Japan, says Toronto musician and music teacher **Brian Katz**.

"In the school she discovers the beautiful details – the 'extraordinary in the ordinary' as the Buddhists say, the magic of the moment, the magic of doing the simplest things."

The book is a bestseller in Japan and internationally. "I'm drawn to it because I'm very involved in arts education. It presents a very holistic view of education. Rather than a top-down model where the curriculum is set from the outset, it presents a model in which the curriculum comes from the children's experiences."

Katz and fellow jazz-klezmer musician **Martin Van de Ven** released a new CD last week at the Ashkenaz Festival.

* * *

Helen Zukerman, administrator of the Zukerman Family Foundation and executive director of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival, has been reading *Six Days of War and the Making of the Modern Middle East*, by Jerusalem-based historian **Michael J. Oren** (Oxford 2002).

Currently on the *New York Times* bestsellers' list, the book utilizes many new sources to provide a fresh account of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It's a compelling read – "like a detective novel," Zukerman says.

"His theory is that history is made up of vicissitudes, missed opportunities and miscommunications, the consequences of which we never know until afterwards."

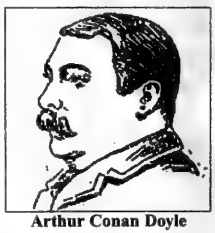
Oren is scheduled to speak at the Leah Posluns Theatre on October 20; the visit is sponsored by the Zukerman Family Foundation in connection with the Jewish Book Fair. Tickets are $10.

* * *

Toronto publisher and literary agent **Malcolm Lester** is highly impressed with *Thinks*, a "wonderful novel" by British writer **David Lodge** (Penguin Canada). "It has a very serious theme – namely, what is consciousness, and can we ever know what another person is thinking," he says.

Lester is also reading *The Woman Who Laughed at God: The Untold History of the Jewish People*, by **Jonathan Kirsch** (Viking). "The title refers to Sarah, who laughs when she's told by God that she's going to bear a child. Kirsch uses that as a kind of touchstone story that we (the Jews) can challenge accepted authority."

* * *


Arthur Conan Doyle

First published in 1901, **Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's** *Hound of the Baskervilles* has maintained its popularity over the century, and new print editions and film versions keep appearing, notes **Barbara Rusch**, chair of Holocaust Education Week, who re-read the classic work recently.

"Arguably, it's the greatest horror story ever written. It was really on the cutting edge of a new literary genre which combined Victorian gothic thriller with detective murder mystery. That's one of the things I find so interesting about it – it's so innovative."

Rusch is also president of the Ephemera Society of Canada and the Bootmakers of Toronto, a local Sherlock Holmes society. For a good Conan Doyle biography, she recommends *Teller of Tales*, by **Daniel Stashower**.

* * *

Still Life With A Bridle by the Polish poet **Zbigniew Herbert** (Ecco Press NY) "is a book about the golden age of Dutch painting," says Toronto poet **Ken Sherman**. "I would say it's a kind of long essay on Dutch art but it's really about much more than that. It's about what art is about and how it interrelates to society.

"It's really short. I like short books – unless you're talking about **Tolstoy** or somebody who can really write."

Sherman, who teaches at Sheridan College, is working on a new collection of essays.

Romanian-born Vladimir Radian plays many roles

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Though veteran performer Vladimir Radian has been onstage for years, he is awed at working with Michael Douglas.

"It's intimidating," Radian says, adding that it's also "a great chance to learn from direct interaction with a master of the craft – all day long, take after take, line after line."

The Romanian-born Radian, who is currently in Toronto with Douglas filming *Till Death Do Us Part*, is a poet, singer and songwriter as well as an actor. He has worked in film, radio and television and has performed in operas, Shakespearean dramas, operettas and other musical theatre.

This fall, he will be seen in Oliver Stone's film, *Beyond Borders* featuring Angelina Jolie. He recently appeared in *The Threepenny Opera* at the Persephone Theatre in Saskatoon in the title role of Macheath (*Mack the Knife*) and opposite Ben Affleck in a film adaptation of the Tom Clancy bestseller, *The Sum of All Fears*.

In November 1999, he hosted a concert titled *Rozhinkes mit Mandlin* (Raisins and Almonds), where he performed chassidic, Israeli, Yiddish and Broadway tunes.

Five years ago, his lyrics won a CBC competition and became the new text of the traditional Canadian anthem, *The Maple Leaf Forever*.

The versatile performer has also performed in the operas *La Traviata*, *Un Ballo in Maschera* and *La Boheme* and the title role in *Don Giovanni*; in the musicals *The King and I*, *Kismet* and *Fiddler on the Roof*; and in several Shakespearean plays, including Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*.

Radian says what he loves most about performing is "the exquisite feeling of establishing a vibrant and true communication with the audience.

"What results in the best performances is... a feeling of togetherness, of being *tsvishn menshn*, of having touched and been touched in return," he says.

Radian, who received musical and acting training in Romania, came to Canada 12 years ago as a mathematician and computer scientist. For eight years before that, he lived in Israel, where he taught at the Israel Institute of Technology (known as the Technion).

Soon after he arrived in Toronto, he got a position in business, but says he "realized it wasn't the direction I wanted."

He began to take workshops in drama and music at the Royal Conservatory of Music and courses in film acting and dance and eventually gave up his job to pursue a stage career.

"To my delight, audiences seemed to respond to what I had to offer and I got more and more engagements," he says.

The move, he says, was natural.

"I was onstage since high school," he says. "I've always loved the theatre. [The activity of] teaching, the fact of being in front of a few dozen people, is akin to being onstage."

For his most recent engagement, the upcoming film *Till Death Do Us Part*, Radian plays a submarine commander. But he doesn't reveal much else.

"I'll just tell you that the film has spies and love and explosions and flying Jewish foot doctors," he says.

Legendary klezmer act to play Toronto

Boston's legendary Klezmer Conservatory Band (KCB) brings its raucous brand of klezmer stylings to the Hummingbird Centre for one night only on Thursday, Oct. 17 at 8:00pm.

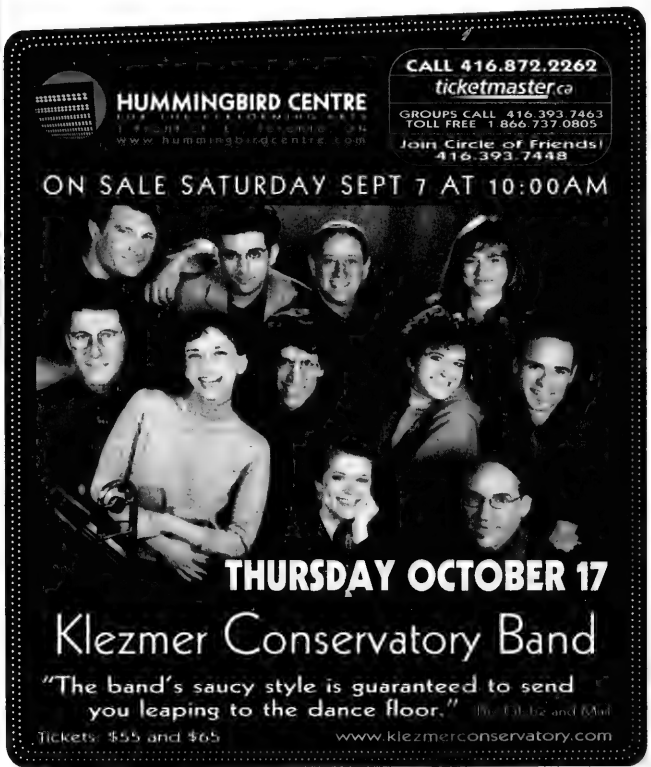
Now in its 22nd season, the 11-piece KCB brings a lively, creative spirit to a rich and diverse musical heritage. Lusciously musical and overwhelmingly energetic, the KCB embodies 1,000 years of culture with their exquisite arrangements and lively rhythms.

Blending boisterous Jewish music from the old world, Yiddish theatre orchestrations that equal Broadway's finest and tunes infected with the rhythms of American jazz, they have emerged as a primary force in the current popular resurgence of eastern European and American Jewish music traditions around the globe.

Founder and bandleader Hankus Netsky (saxophone, accordion) is one of the world's foremost Jewish musicians and scholars, and chairman of the jazz studies department at the New England Conservatory where the band was formed in 1980.

KCB has performed concerts from coast to coast, regularly touring Europe, and has headlined international festivals including Toronto's Ashkenaz Festival in 1999. KCB recordings include *Yiddishe Renaissance*, *Klez, A Touch of Klez*, *Oy Chanukah*, *A Jumpin' Night in the Garden of Eden*, *Old World Beat, Live! The Thirteenth Anniversary*, and *Dancing in the Aisles*. The KCB was featured on Itzhak Perlman's CD *In the Fiddler's House*, filmed in Krakow and New York for PBS.

Tickets ($55 and $65) go on sale on Sept.7 at 10:00 a.m. by phone at 416-872-2262, on line at www.ticketmaster.ca Visit Hummingbird Centre Box Office, 1 Front St. E. or any Ticketmaster location. Groups of 20 or more call 416-393-7463 or toll free 1-866-737-0805 $55.00 and $65.00



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Arts & Travel

Carlebach a hit at summer camp

Neshama Carlebach entertains kids at Camp Ramah .

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By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Internationally known singer, composer and storyteller, Neshama Carlebach performed recently at Camp Ramah in Utterson, Ont.

"It was strange and amazing to be back at home," says Carlebach, 27, who was born in New York and grew up in Toronto.

"Having never attended a camp as a child, I felt embraced and uplifted by the experience; singing with children of all ages and being surrounded by them is overwhelming and fulfilling."

Carlebach, who attended the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) and York University and now lives in New York City, is following in the footsteps of her late father, Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach.

Recently, Carlebach, who travels extensively to perform throughout the world, spent the weekend in Ontario performing for campers and staff.

She also performed, accompanied by her five-piece band from New York, at three other Camp Ramahs in the United States, and various other camps.

"There is nothing like the feeling I had when the campers ran up to sing and dance with us on the stage," she says.

There is a joy that permeates Carlebach's soul music and her inimitable performance of her father's recognizable music. It is estimated that Shlomo created about 5,000 songs, of which 1,500 were recorded.

Performing at Camp Ramah in Ontario in a camp hall, Carlebach's powerful charisma and warm gestures captivated campers and staff throughout her concert which included some original songs.

Prior to his death in 1994, father and daughter, then 19, harmonized to Shlomo's music. They completed a recording titled *HaNeshama Shel Shlomo*. This was Shlomo's last recording, and the only recording they made together.

Carlebach continued performing for religious and secular audiences.

Her intimate style brings her audiences into her performance, and this was evident at Camp Ramah where she sang her diverse repertoire including Hebrew, religious and folk music in a warm and passionate manner.

Many of the young people were familiar with the melodies from her CD *Dancing with My Soul* and her latest release, *Ani Shelach*.

The spiritually evocative soprano says that her goal is "to present Judaism not as being difficult but as fulfilling."

When asked if she ever feels like she is standing in her father's shadow, she replied, "No, in his light."

Carlebach combines ancient melodies and gives them a modern dressing with touches of pop-jazz, Middle Eastern rhythms, swing and a bit of funk.

The campers were able to speak to her personally throughout the weekend.

For information on Neshama's tour dates (she does 80 to 90 shows a year) and general information, visit her Web site at www.neshamacarlebach.com.

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Deb Filler aims for the stomach again

Love and food – what a delectable combination! Comedian Deb Filler combines the two in her new comedy *Filler Up!* playing Sept. 18 to Oct. 13 at the Artwood Theatre on 75 Portland St., Toronto.

Filler who wrote and starred in *Punch Me In the Stomach*, was originally from New Zealand, but now lives in Toronto. *Filler Up!* – which she also wrote and stars in – tells the story of a woman named Deb. Her father was a talented baker who did not have the heart to throw out the day's unsold baked goods. So he brought them home to his family. While Deb, and her mother, loved the goodies, her father always complained that the women were gaining too much weight.

The story touches upon many issues – the relationship between parents and children, our love/hate affair with food, and our striving to find our unique places in the world where we are loved for who we are.

Performances Wed-Sat 8 p.m.; matinees Sat & Sun 3 p.m.; and Sun 7 p.m. Tickets $20-$30. Call 416-872-1212 or 1-800-461-3333 or visit www.ticketking.com

Business Profile

For the high-energy Roberts, time never stands still

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

For Brian Roberts, diversification is the name of the game.

Diversification, his mantra and guiding principle, has taken his therapeutic body care company, Obus Forme, a nationally known brand, to greater heights in the last four years.

"Diversification has been very successful," said Roberts, the 42-year-old president. "It's opened up new markets for us."

A fitness enthusiast who holds a black belt in karate and boxes to let off steam, he inherited Obus Forme from his father Frank in 1998.

An American who settled in Canada in 1959, Frank Roberts was an industrial designer and importer who founded Obus Forme in his garage in 1980.

His claim to fame was a sleek lowback backrest. It helped millions of Canadians find relief from back pain and established Obus Forme on a firm footing.

As his son recalls, he developed it after hurting his back and cutting himself out of a plaster cast that had rendered him immobile.

When he took over the company, Roberts seized on diversification as a means by which to bolster sales and appeal to a new generation of consumers fixated by health and lifestyle products.

His first move was to change the company's tag line from "the back-care experts" to "the body-care experts."

Having reoriented itself, Obus Forme gradually unveiled a new line of products, ranging from three-position padded lift chairs and ultra foam ventilated mattress pads to massaging foot spas and sound therapy relaxation systems.

All in all, Obus Forme manufactures upwards of 200 products.

"The more we can offer the public, the better off we are," explained Roberts in an interview in his 30,000-square-foot factory in western Toronto.

And while his latest products have done wonders for Obus Forme's bottom line, backrests are still its mainstay.

A glance at Obus Forme's glossy catalogue confirms this.

There are specially-designed lowback and highback supports, side-to-side lateral supports, supporting rolls and a panoply of driver's seats.

Such is its dominance in the field that Obus Forme enjoys a near monopoly in backrests.

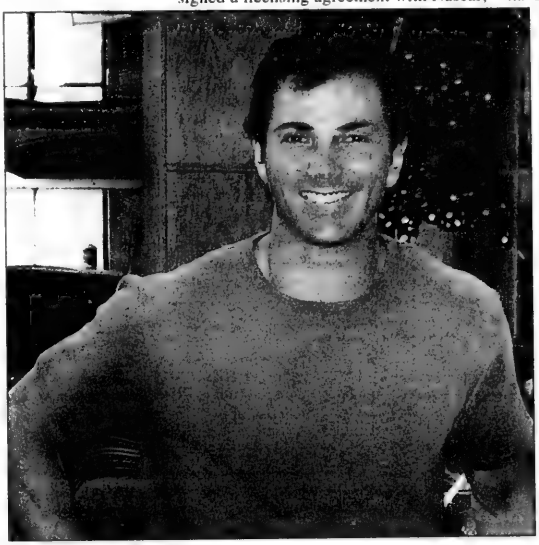
"In Canada, we own about 90 per cent of the backrest market," said Roberts.

Thanks to its new products, the majority of which are made in Asia, Obus Forme's sales have skyrocketed to a little under $100 million annually.

"Sales were significantly less when my father ran the business," he noted.

Seventy per cent of sales are in Canada, 25 per cent in the United States and the rest scattered around the world, including Israel.

"We have about 13,000 direct accounts," said Roberts, referring to the retail outlets, chiropractors and physiotherapists currently carrying the Obus Forme line.



Brian Roberts, president of Obus Forme. [Michelle Abe photo]

He decided to source most new products in Asia – China, Vietnam, Thailand and South Korea – because labour costs are lower and turn-around times are much faster.

Three to four Asian factories, employing 1,200 workers, work exclusively for Obus Forme today. "They really want the business. They try hard to please, and they get the product out the door."

Roberts left no stone unturned to find suitable manufacturing plants in Asia. He attended trade shows, contacted embassies and read specialty magazines.

To keep competitors at bay, he declines to disclose his sources.

On average, Roberts travels to Asia four to six times a year, on trips that last about three weeks each. "I'm constantly there."

In a bid to lift Obus Forme's profile, he signed a licensing agreement with Nascar, the stockcar racing circuit in the United States.

Obus Forme makes motorized and non-motorized seat cushions that give drivers the advantage of a more comfortable ride.

"That helps sales because Nascar has a huge following," said Roberts.

As a result of this exposure, Wal-Mart has signed up Obus Forme as a licenced vendor.

Since succeeding his father, he has also modified the firm's dress code.

Obus Forme employees may now turn up in casual clothing. Roberts himself favours blue jeans and jerseys, except when he is making sales presentations.

"For years, I came into the office in a suit and tie. That's what I was brought up with."

The new dress code has been beneficial. As he put it, "It has opened up lines of communication for everyone here."

And in another new wrinkle, workers have been given more freedom to make decisions.

"I pride myself on delegating. As a business grows, you have to delegate. I can't oversee every step. Generally, I step back and let employees do their work. That's why they were hired."

He added: "I'm running the business by consensus. It's been working well. It gives me more time to spend on my family – [he and his wife Monica have four children aged eight to 14] – and on new product development, which I'm passionate about."

Roberts joined Obus Forme soon after his father invented his famous backrest.

"He needed help in selling it. I took the backrest around to chiropractors and physiotherapists, and it took off."

By agreeing to work with and for his father, Roberts gave up his ambition to become a veterinarian. Recently, however, he earned an MBA correspondence degree from Wexford University in Scotland.

"That," he observed, "was for my own gratification."

In the early years, Roberts' father was in charge of product development, while his son was responsible for sales and production.

"We had a nice little business that went smoothly. His death was a wake-up call for me. I had to put my own imprint on the business."

Roberts heads up a team of 110 employees in Toronto, compared to 40 prior to 1998.

When he is not travelling abroad, he spends much of his time dreaming up new products. His designers convert his ideas into practical, everyday products.

In keeping with his belief that Obus Forme cannot afford to succumb to complacency, he is getting ready to launch several new products in the next few months.

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
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Here's the ad you've been waiting for. Sorry I took so long to place it, but if you're the happy, healthy mensch I've been looking for, JM, 55-65, active, enjoys sports (not just watching it), city & country life, family & Israel, is optimistic, has a great sense of humour & greets each day with a smile; me too! My interests are too numerous to mention, but should we meet, I'll share it with you then. CJN Box #4533.

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SJM 37, 6 ft. tall, slim, handsome, likes outdoors, festivals, movies, kind & good conversationalist, looking for SJF, 32-39, tall, attractive with similar qualities. CJN Box #4535.

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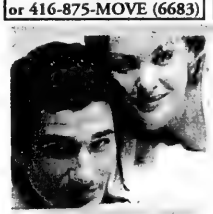

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European, retired widow, is looking for a loving relationship w/ widower or divorced man, loves music, art , swimming, walking & tennis **AD#1182**

CALL ME
Cindy is a petit, brown eyed brunette, 5' 2", very friendly, intelligent, loving, compassionate looking for a professional gentleman, between 50-60 yrs, who shares similiar qualities with whom I can enjoy companionship & happy times. Some interests include movies, theatre & music. **AD#1165**

LIFE PARTNER
Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, petite, cute, attractive, pretty and slim. She enjoys music, dancing, nature, hiking, quiet beach walks, non smoker, non drinker, looking for a life partner, preferably an easy going, single jewish male between 35-55 yrs with similar interests. **AD#1200**

HIGH CLASS
Larissa is attractive, Jewish, 55 yrs, 5' 3" tall and seek an interesting accomplished, classy gentleman between 55-65 yrs for companionship & more. **AD#1443**

FUN LOVING
Fun loving, professional lady who likes the finer things in life, but down to earth in personality. I'm attractive, blonde, likes to travel, enjoys theatre & learning new things. She's hard working, with no children and seeks intelligent, good, easy going gentleman 45-55 yrs with a balanced life. **AD#1357**

FRIENDSHIP & LOVE
Single Jewish male of Indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest. Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family. **AD#1459**

PICTURE THIS
I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more. If you find this brief introduction interesting, leave a message. **AD#1442**

LET'S TALK
I want to enjoy all the things in life like any normal person. I'm not interested in marriage, but would like a steady relationship. If you're slim, good looking, with a nice personality & would like to meet a nice, funny, good looking, 70 yr old, 5' 6", slim guy, let's talk. **AD#1055**

I AM FOR YOU
Unique, Jewish female, attractive, 5' 5", intelligent, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established, male 45 yrs young, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable and over 6 feet tall. **AD#1240**

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Attractive, 40 yrs, single Jewish female, seeks male 40-52 yrs who's attractive, hard working like myself. I like to go out to eat, dance, movies & a bit of sports, If you have similar interests, leave me your name & number. I'm looking for a serious relationship. **AD#1037**

LET'S MEET
Great personality, easy to please, lovely lady, who's considerate intelligent, good natured and attractive 53 yrs old, hoping to meet a nice polite gentleman for genuine relationship between 55-73 yrs old **AD#1138**

KILLER SMILE!
Hi, my name is Debbie. I'm 47 yrs almost, a Virgo—Sept 6th is my birthday, divorced for 8 yrs and very comfortable with that. I'm 5' 3" with short brown hair & brown eyes, and a smile that will knock you dead. Little bit overweight but working on it diligently. I love the outdoors. **AD#1038**

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LET'S GET TOGETHER
Chaim, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs, 5' 8", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family in a wonderful atmosphere. **AD#1239**

LOVE CONNECTION?
Jewish female, pretty, creative professional, young lady, 5'5/6, slender, enjoys travel,theatre & fine dining. Seeks an established & fit male, between 43-53 yrs, complimented by sincerity & spontaneity to share in the zest of life. **AD#1151**

THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE
I'm a fun loving, down to earth personality, attractive, blonde, enjoy travel, theatre, learning new things, very hard working. I have no kids and seek an intelligent, active, easy going male, between 45-55 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1211**

SHARE WITH YOU
Marianna is 5' 4", with hazel eyes and dark hair. She enjoys sports, concerts, walks and dancing, and is seeking a male to share those interests. She describes herself as outgoing, friendly, straight forward & easy to talk to. **AD#1382**

RESPECT & SINCERITY
40 yr old honest caring, sensitive female writer, looking for compatible male in his 40's to share meaningful moments, I enjoy long walks, talks, smiles, movies, art, poetry, nature, animals, I'm open minded. I value respect & sincerity, friendships & genuine relationships. **AD#1401**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'
Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook. He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate. **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET
Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female (Jewish preferably), around the same age, who's honest sincere female and shares the same interests. If interested please leave a voice mail. **AD#1070**

MUSIC & WINE
Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-65yrs. He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports. **AD#1280**

VIVACIOUS FEMALE
Montrealer who now lives in Hamilton. She's vivacious, fit, slim 5' 5", 120 lbs, seeks male for tennis partner. Also for dining, movies, walks & willing to explore a little bit. Looking for a compassionate man for a wonderful relationship. **AD#1166**

WALKS BY THE LAKE
Barb is very young, 50'ish, a single mom w/ 2 grown children. She lives in central Toronto and seeks a Jewish gentleman to develop a friendship with to laugh, cry & grow with. She enjoys walks by the lake out in the country, movies, sharing and cuddling. **AD#1204**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sensual smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, w/ wide variety of interests. Seeking Jewish male between 65-75 yrs, who's honest & romantic for a long term relationship. **AD#1457**

PEOPLE PERSON
Financially secure, professional female who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a companion to enjoy theatre, sports and fine dining with. If you are between 60-70 yrs please give me a call. **AD#1260**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1178**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'
Phillip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook. He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate. **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET
Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female (Jewish preferably), around the same age, who's honest sincere female and shares the same interests. If interested please leave a voice mail. **AD#1070**

men seeking women

DO YOU JUBU?
Physically & spiritually active male, 33 yrs old. Seeks non materialistic female with insight, aged between 25-35 yr old for mindful & compassionate relationship. **AD#1316**

FUN GUY
Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things. Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading. Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition. a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands. **AD#1368**

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Young golfer represents Canada in Kids Championship

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

Russell Budd has done something most golfers only dream of – compete for Canada at an international tournament.

True, he may be short, but so were you when you were 11 years old.

Russell recently joined 24 other Canadian youths at the U.S. Kids World Championship in Williamsburg, Va., a tournament that brought together 700 young golfers from around the world.

Representing 11-year-old boys from Eastern Canada, Russell shot 81 and 80 over two rounds, good enough to finish tied for 17th out of 63 in his age class.

His father, Michael Budd, said the "field was unbelievable," but Russell "had a really good showing."

Prior to heading south, Russell talked to *The CJN* about the pending international tournament.

"I'm excited to represent Canada and go on a trip," he said, clearly tired after just returning from a week at overnight camp. "[I know] I can't be nervous and [I have] to concentrate."

Russell scored an 84 in the qualifying tournament and parred a playoff hole with a 10-foot putt at the Oakridge Golf Club to clinch the title and a birth on the Canadian team.

Remarkably, he shot a 73 on the same course only a week before, marking a personal best in a game he has played since before he could walk.

When Russell was nine months old, his father brought home a golf instruction tape, which Russell said he "watched a lot."

"He loved that tape and kept wanting to watch it," his father added.

Soon baby Russell was using a spatula to chase a ball around the kitchen and by 2½, he joined his father on the links.

"I really enjoyed it," Russell said. "It looked fun and it got more fun when I got to play with my dad."

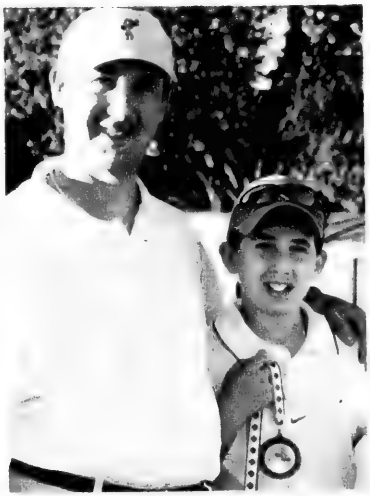
Russell has been competing provincially on the Canadian Junior Golf Association Tour since he was nine.

"We've always encouraged him," said Michael Budd. "I wouldn't have taken him [golfing] if he wasn't interested."

"It's the best to have my son play with me," added Budd, who used to import specially made golf club components to make a club small enough for Russell to use.

Russell's drives average 200 yards, which he claims is "not that far," but his short game and putting adequately makes up for it.

"[He] has a very good strategic mind. He can think his way through the game and knows where to put the ball," Budd added, about his son's talents. "All around he's a great athlete."



Michael and Russell Budd

Budd said Russell has only taken a few professional lessons.

"I spent years teaching him shots, club selection [and most importantly] proper golf etiquette," he said, adding that before every tournament they go over the course, make notes, and then go over the course again from the 18th hole backwards.

This seems like a lot of preparation for an 11-year-old, but, Russell said, "It's difficult and challenging, but I really enjoy it. My dad has taught me most of my [skills]."

Budd said the most difficult thing for the youngsters is the incredible amount of pressure they face at the tournaments. Caddies aren't permitted, so the young golfers are left to face the nerve-wracking course solo.

However, he said "he's proud of how he [Russell] handles himself on the golf course. He's an even-keeled kid; he always shakes the other kids' hands."

The most challenging aspect for the parents is the financial burden of financing a child to compete at a high level. According to Budd, there are very strict limits on sponsorship in amateur golf, so between proper equipment, practice rounds, tournament fees and travel costs, he spends around $6,000 a season.

"It's a very expensive sport," he said.

At 11, Russell still has years to develop his skills and improve his game. His ultimate goal is to play on the PGA Tour after attending Stanford University on a full scholarship.

In the short term, he said, he "wants to play in a few more qualifiers and to play in the Maccabiah Games."

Budd adds that being Jewish "is also a feather in [Russell's] cap, since there are not a lot of Jewish kids at this level. He's one of only a few Jews who has a chance to do well at golf."

Russell, who attends United Synagogue Day Schools, has also made made many "diverse" friends on the tour.

With one international tournament already under his belt, perhaps one day he'll take the torch from his idols Phil Mickelson, Sergio Garcia and Tom Kite and become a champion like them.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 71.

J	U	D	A	H		M	O	A	B		S	A	L	T
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B	O	A	N	A		K	I	N	G	D	A	V	I	D
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G	O	L	I	A	T	H		A	N	I				
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B	E	A	R	D		H	E	X		D	A	N	A	E
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G	A	R	U		E	T	A	T		L	O	N	E	R
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R	I	M	S		T	R	E	E		S	T	O	P	S

Chess player makes team

Continued from page 42

According to the CCF, a rating is a number that may range from about 300 to about 2800 (Grand Master). A player rated 100 points higher than another should expect to win five games out of eight. If the difference is 200, the higher rated player should win three of four; for 300 it's seven of eight. A player may become rated by competing in a CCF-rated event of three or more rounds. Ratings may go up or down based on results in CFC-sanctioned events.

By the way, there's another Kaufman making his presence known on the Canadian chess scene. Harris' younger brother, Elliot, 5, is the top kindergarten-aged player in Canada.

Harris sees chess as a something he'll continue with for years to come, but as nothing more than an intensive hobby. What he really wants to do is "work in the CIA," as a secret agent, or something.

"I like computers a lot. Maybe I can be a computer guy. It's an interesting job and I kind of want to work under cover," he said.

"I like excitement, action."

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ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

מלחמה זה דבר בוכה, מאת: תרצה אתר

החוצאה המחודשת של ספרה האנטי-מלחמתי של תרצה אתר משנת 1975, "מלחמה זה דבר בוכה", ממחישה לאסונו שנושא המלחמה שב לתודעתנו.

ספרה של תרצה אתר פורסם לראשונה שנתיים לאחר מלחמת יום כיפור. בחקר ספרות עברית לילדים מקובל להניח שמלחמה זו היתה המלחמה האחרונה שמתוארת בספרות "כמלחמה צודקת". משמע, כצירוף טראני של ארועים שאירעו כפו עלינו.

אני יודעת שאבא ישוב בקרוב.
אני יודעת שהוא היה מכין ללכת.
אבל מלחמה זה דבר בוכה,
ואני בוכה בשקט.

כך, מקובל בחקר נושא המלחמה בספרות העברית להבחין בין כל מה שקדם ל- 1973 ולבין מה שבא לאחר מכן. מונחי הגבורה וההקרבה על מזבח קיומנו הלאומי נולדו כידוע במחלך מאבקנו לעצמאות. אין ספור שירים וסיפורים נכתבו בעשורים הראשונים למדינה המספרים לילדינו על מלחמתנו הצודקת, על גיבורים שנפלו ועל פעוטות וילדים שיום אחד ימצאו את מקומם במאבקנו ההירואי.

מיום עבר, בלילה ישמר,
שם בגוין ישמר האב.
הנה תגדל, תהיה גבור -
תצאו לשמידה אז יחדו. **(ע. הרופי)**

אין בכך דבר יוצא דופן; בכל דור ודור ובכל חברה הורים מעבירים לילדים מסרים חינוכיים ומטען אידיאולוגי, בין השאר באמצעות הספרות שנכתבת עבור הילדים. התקווה היא שילדי הלאום יעוצבו בהתאם לערכים חברתיים מוסכמים. התפנית חלה כאמור לאחר מלחמת יום כיפור. אם בשל המחדל הפוליטי שקדם למלחמה ואם בשל האכזבה הקשה שהנצחון ב- 1967 לא הביא לשלום המיוחל, החלו לחישמע במדור הספרותי קולות בגנות מצב הלוחמה. בפעם הראשונה יש המערערים על עמדתנו הצודקת, וההתלבטויות המוסריות בשאלת הכיבוש המתמשך מדחיקות את נושא המלחמה מהספרות שנכתבת לדור העתיד.

התקופה שלאחר מלחמת יום כיפור ועד עצם היום מאופיינת בחילוקי דעות ערכיים ושסע אידיאולוגי-תרבותי-חברתי עמוק.

תרצה אתר הייתה אחת הראשונים מבין הסופרים לילדים שידעה להמחיש לילדים את המורכבות שבגישה אידיאולוגית שונה לתופעת המלחמה. אתר, ילידת תל אביב חייתה שחקנית בתיאטרון "הבימה", תרגמה מחזות וחיברה פזמונים ושירים למבוגרים ולילדים. היא נפטרה בטרם עת בשנת 1977.

כל שירי הקובץ, מלחמה זה דבר בוכה נמסרים על-ידי הילד הדובר ובכולם הילד מבטא התלבטויות בשאלת צדקת המלחמה. אין כאן חלילה ספקות בזכותנו להגן על חיינו וללחום על קיומנו העצמאי ואולם אין כבר בטחון מלא שזו אכן הדרך האפשרית הבלעדית:

נחלל שלי שלום
וגם דגישת שלום חמה...
תשמע: אני מודה לך מאד
על זה שאתה גבור ושומר עלי מכל רע.
מתי תחזר?
(מה זה "כל רע"? איש, או דבר?
אתה רואה אותו מהמקום שלך?...)

כאמור, לאחרונה, הוצאת הספרים של הקיבוץ המאוחד מצאה לנכון להוציא לאור שנית ספר זה לאחר למעלה מ- 25 "שנות הפוגה", שנים שבהן חיינו בהזייה חמימה של שלום שיבוא; נרחיב את הגבולות, נשריש לעצמנו גדרות בטחון בצורת עשרות התנחלויות בשטחים והפלסטינים מאוד ישמחו לראות בנו מפריחי שממות ובחפץ לב יסללו כבישים ויבנו לנו בתים יפים. החלום כיזוע התנפץ ושוב מוצאים להן חד מילותיה של תרצה אתר:

אם שלנו יפחדו וגם שלהם יפחדו
וכל אחד יאמר שהוא לא רוצה,
אז כל ראשי הממשלות יגידו:
'בסדר, מה נעשה?'...
נמרנו. תלכו הביתה כלכם...
(אולי הם יגידו: 'תתמשו לכם!'
אבל זה כבר לא אכפת לי.)

מי ייתן ותבוא שנה טובה, שנת שלום וברכה על כל ילדי ישראל וכל ילדי העולם.

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SHARON KORNHABER'S MUSHROOM BUSINESS

white bread
salt & pepper
1/2 cup green peppers
grated Colby cheese
1/2 cup Miracle Whip
margarine
1/2 cup celery
1/2 cup onions
mushrooms
2 eggs
1 1/2 cups milk
can of Cream of Mushroom soup

Cover the bottom of a large Pyrex dish with buttered bread cubes (no crusts). Sauté mushrooms in butter just until they smell like mushrooms. Place in strainer.

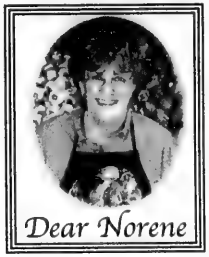
In a bowl, combine and mix all the vegetables, mushrooms and Miracle Whip. Add some salt & pepper. Place this on top of the bread. Butter and cube bread and place on top of the vegetables.

Mix 1 1/2 cups of milk and 2 eggs. Pour this over the bread. Refrigerate for at least 1 hr. Pour the can of Cream of Mushroom soup on the bread. Cook at 350° for at least 1 hr. Cover with foil. Just before serving, add the grated cheese on top and cook until melted. Enjoy.

THE CAPLAN FAMILY EXTENDS BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR

SEE OPPOSITE PAGE FOR THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS.

About Food



Dear Norene

What goes around, comes around! Rina Perry of Israel, an Internet foodie friend, wrote, "This recipe from *Second Helpings Please* has been in my possession for over 20 years. I make it every Rosh Hashanah. It has become 'my' cake. The recipe calls for raisins, but I seldom add them. When I do, I soak the raisins for ½ an hour in liquor and later drink it! I like to freeze this cake for 2 to 3 weeks before serving as I find it much tastier. Shanah Tovah Umetukah- Enjoy!"

'MY' HONEY CHIFFON CAKE

4 eggs
1 cup sugar
1 cup oil
1½ cups liquid honey
3 cups flour
3 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. freshly grated nutmeg
1 cup strong cold coffee (or tea)
½ cup nuts, coarsely crushed (optional)
½ cup raisins (optional)

Preheat oven to 350. In an electric mixer, beat eggs and sugar until you get a nice yellow creamy mixture. Slowly add oil (like when making mayonnaise) and continue beating. Slowly add honey and mix until well blended. Beat on low speed while adding dry ingredients alternately with liquid. Stir in nuts and raisins,

Pour into an ungreased 10-inch tube pan or 3 loaf pans. Bake for 15 minutes at 350. Then reduce heat to 300 and bake 1 hour longer. When done, let cool 15 minutes, then invert and cool completely before removing from pan(s). Makes 18 servings.

Note: Tastes even better if made the day before. Cover and leave at room temperature. Before serving, dust with powdered sugar, if desired. Freezes well.

* * *

This "tried and true" family favourite comes from Faygie Leshman of Boca Raton. Although she is now diabetic and can't indulge like she used to, she still treats herself to a very small piece for the holidays.

HOLIDAY FRUIT AND HONEY CAKE

⅓ cup margarine
3 eggs
2 tsp. baking soda
3 cups flour
1 cup sugar
1 cup orange juice
1 cup honey
½ cup apricot jam
1 medium apple, peeled and grated
½ cup chopped nuts
½ cup chopped dates

Preheat oven to 350. Mix together margarine and eggs in large bowl of electric mixer. Add baking soda, flour and sugar and mix together. Add orange juice and mix on low speed. Add honey. Stir in jam, apple, nuts and dates.

Bake in a lightly greased 10-inch Bundt pan at 350 for 1 hour. Cool 10 minutes; invert pan to remove cake. Makes 12 to 16 servings.

Norene Gilletz is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeani Yumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com.*

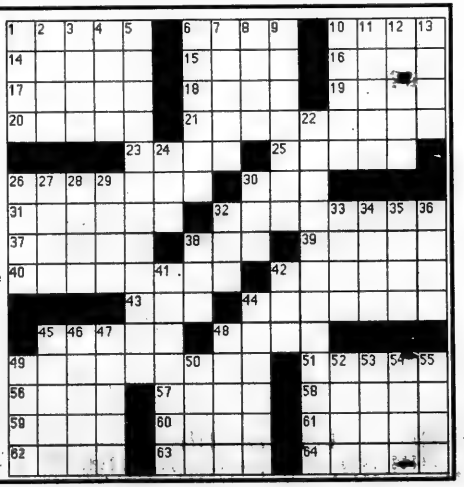
The Canadian Jewish news — Crossword Puzzle

(Answers to the crossword are on page 70.)

David's World
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Son of Jesse ruled here for seven years
6. Land that granted refuge to his family from Saul
10. He took refuge at Ein-Gedi on the ____ Sea
14. My season, in Hebrew
15. What guns need
16. Compaq hand-held device model
17. Rose aromatic
18. Returned from Babylonian Exile, signed covenant with Nehemiah
19. Court or Congressional gofer
20. New Guinea provincial locale
21. The hero of our theme
23. Authored Serpico
25. Kind of verb (abbrev.)
26. The big enchilada
30. Black cuckoo
31. "____ and the same"
32. What his palace must have had for gala socials
37. He undoubtedly grew one
38. Cast a spell
39. Zeus visited her as a golden shower
40. Swiss mountain pond would be this
42. This type of -logist would have studies his choral work
43. He ruled over the reunited kingd. for 33 ___
44. What he does to 26 across with a little stone
45. Picturesque County Limmerick village
48. The high priest gave him this bread when he fled Saul
49. Member of tribe that raided his encampment at Ziklag
51. One of his brothers
56. They dwelt, in Hebrew
57. State, in French
58. Recluse
59. Little itty-bitty thing
60. But, in Spanish
61. Kibbutz in 11-down valley (He once rode here)
62. Edges
63. Son's hair was snagged in one
64. Organs have them

Down
1. He was his general
2. "____ the breach, dear friends", Shakespeare (King Henry V)
3. Star Trek humanoid commander
4. Prefer this to a burn
5. A royal friend, plus his city-state
6. His queen, Absalom's mom
7. All, in Latin
8. "____ For All Seasons"
9. Making sounds on a gong
10. Barber, in Bnei Barak
11. Valley between 1-across and 2-across
12. On the up-and-up, slangily
13. Adjective, names of certain sloths
22. Outcome, severe droughts - then, as now
24. Consumed
26. Eyebrow (Hebrew)
27. Russian city
28. Fools do this before they look
29. This, following Melch, makes a reknowned Danish-Jewish family
30. Support grp.
32. Coop resident
33. Part of a gate fastener
34. Dye
35. Tat work
36. Rosten and Durocher
38. They pass fast if you're occup.
41. ____ under lock and key
42. One of the Three Stooges
44. What you use to come up to the line
45. Violin-making family
46. South, in Israel
47. College grads, colloquially
48. Gape
49. Culture medium
50. Roman road
52. What some execs have done to their companies (current malaise)
53. Preposition
54. Uriah, in Dickens
55. Large coffee servers



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The books that influenced them...

The Canadian Jewish news

5763

Dry Bones

The flag and the flower

Editorial

It is our great pleasure, once again, as has been our custom at this time of the year, to offer our readers an eclectic melange of holiday-time reading.

This year, our Rosh Hashanah Supplement is anchored by the responses of 20 individuals to our request that they write about the book or books that profoundly influenced their lives.

Each of the people whose responses we have published is someone who has tried or is trying still, to make a difference, to advance the state of the world. What were the words, whose were the thoughts, that stirred their hearts and inspired their souls to become who they are today? What can we learn from them? Their responses, we are certain you will agree, are fascinating to read.

But it is important to remember that all of us can make a difference, if we only but try. And that is why we feature the image of the flag and the geraniums: to remind us of that.

The flag, of course, is the symbol of the sovereign, democratic, Jewish state. It is also a tangible manifestation of the will to survive, of the strength and courage to overcome seemingly insurmountable forces.

Flowers are the tangible manifestation of beauty and goodness, aesthetics and symmetry, colour and light in God's world, His gift to humanity. Indeed, they are a reminder of His purpose for humanity.

Making a difference in the world follows the personal decision to try to advance, in measures appropriate to our circumstances, God's purpose for humanity – namely, the advancement of beauty and goodness on this earth.

But there is much more to read and see in the supplement, including an informative, provocative *cri de coeur* by educator and Holocaust survivor Eli Pfefferkorn concerning the administration and workings of the Claims Conference; a thoughtful essay by Haifa University scholar Amnon Reichman about the influence of the human rights jurisprudence of the Canadian legal system upon its Israeli counterpart; an essay by historian and travel writer Myriam Shechter about the history of the Jews of Amsterdam and a first-person narrative by Beverley Stern of the Jews of China. We have also included a photo essay of the Jews of Iran and a sampling of photos of key news events this past year.

It is our hope that our readers will find something in the wide array of material in this supplement to stir our own hearts and inspire our own souls, to help us all arrive at the decision to try to make a difference, too.

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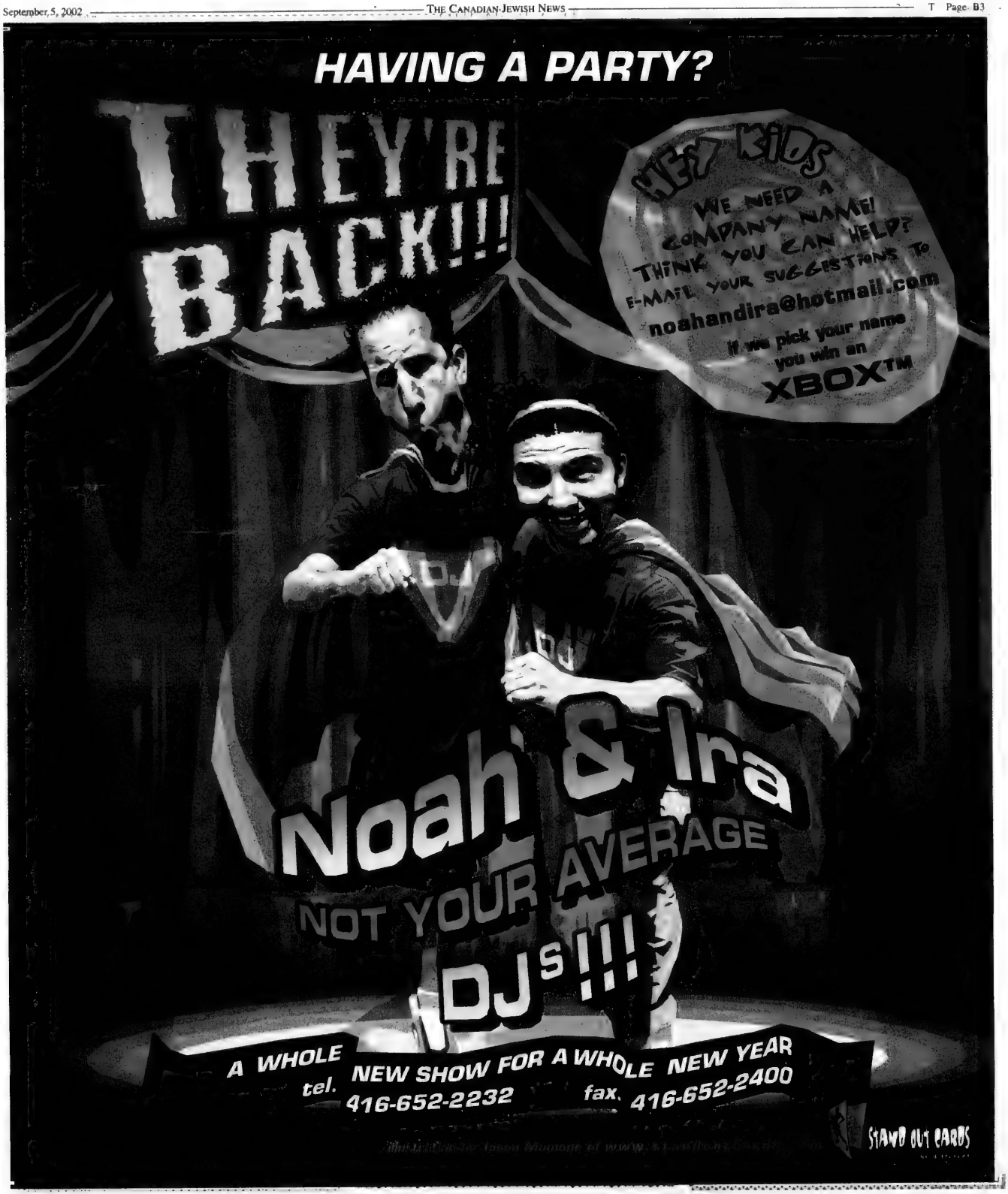
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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5763

A moment of shock in Grade 7

By ROSIE SILBERMAN ABELLA

> '*Les Miserables* taught me that life wasn't wonderfully serendipitous for everyone'

Soon after we arrived in Canada, and very soon after I learned how to read, my mother took me to the neighbourhood public library, took out three books for me and said, "Next week, we'll go and get three more."

This started what became a tradition for the remaining years we lived at Oakwood and St. Clair avenues: every Friday after school, my sister and I would walk to the public library on Dufferin Street, drop off last week's supply and pick up three new books.

To this day, I can remember the excitement of being able to choose any book I wanted in the wonderfully-stocked children's section of the library. The librarians were the first adults outside my family I relied on and trusted for advice. They took my questions, wisely interpreted them as expressions of interest and found the books to match.

I came especially to enjoy historical fiction, discovering that I loved learning about the past, but that I preferred by far to learn it through a good, well-written story. This is how I came to learn about such things as the Underground Railroad, the British monarchs, European musicians and the two men who would become my childhood heroes – Napoleon and Caesar.

My summer reading was pure sorbet – Nancy Drew mysteries and comic books, both of which I devoured in July and August because I was not allowed to read them during the school year.

Because it was the children's section, all the books I read had happy endings. And so, combined with the inevitably happy endings I saw in the movies I was allowed to see, the world, it seemed to me, was an incredibly upbeat place where good things happened to good people and everything worked out the way it was supposed to.

Then one day, when I was in Grade 7, one of the librarians gave me *Les Miserables* by Victor Hugo. It changed me. Here was poverty, despair and gross injustice, revealed through beautiful literature painting a picture of what humanity's lament looks like in a world without compassion. How could any civilized society tolerate the imprisonment of a person for stealing a loaf of bread? I was shocked.

I was also hooked. I wanted more of those long, poignant and mellifluous subjunctive clauses describing lives my other books had clothed in gossamer optimism, denying me access to the intense pain of other people's reality. So I moved seamlessly from the insensitivity of the French in Hugo to the brutality of the Russians in Tolstoy and Dostoevsky before I finished public school.

I have no doubt that I missed much in those books because much of what I was reading was far beyond the interpretive range of a halcyon childhood. But I do know that what I did understand transformed me from an unabashed youthful optimist to a pessimistic and cautious one.

On the other hand, I think those books gave me the tools to begin to understand what had happened to my parents, who had always presented life to us as wonderfully serendipitous rather than fatefully calamitous. In the joyful refuge that was our home, my parents taught me to think of the world as safe, accessible and worthy of my confidence. *Les Miserables* taught me that that wasn't the way the world was for everyone.

And then I realized that, for the four years they had been in concentration camps, that wasn't the way the world had been for my parents, either. Their resilience and hope had masked their reality for me, just as my childhood books had masked the world's reality.

But reading *Les Miserables*, my brain woke up. Open your eyes, it said. There has been, there is, there will be, human suffering all around you. What are you going to do about it...?

Rosie Abella is a judge of the Court of Appeal for Ontario.

Dry Bones BEST WISHES FROM ISRAEL

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An 'aha' experience

By RABBI REUVEN P. BULKA

It is clear to me as if it happened yesterday, even though it happened about 30 years ago.

I was in my sister's house in Hartford, Conn., for a visit, and happened upon a book titled *The Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain* (I'm pretty sure it was Twain). It was a very small book of quotes, published by Peter Pauper Press.

I read the book, cover-to-cover, in one sitting in the meditation room. I have no idea what possessed me to do so, but as soon as I got out of the bathroom, I asked my sister for permission to make a long distance call. I found out the phone number of Peter Pauper Press, called and asked for the editor, whose name was Edna Beilinson.

Luckily, she was in and took my call. Would you be interested in a book titled *Wit and Wisdom of the Talmud*? I asked. Absolutely, she responded. Well, I said, I am ready to do it. Send me in a few samples, she said, and I will get back to you. She had her samples in a few days, and the complete manuscript within a month.

This was an easy, almost too easy, book to write, the easiest I have ever done, by far. All it was was a selection of pertinent quotes from the Talmud. But more importantly, it eased me into writing more books, and as such, *The Wit and Wisdom of Mark Twain* ranks as one the books that has made a difference in my life, even though it cannot possibly rank as an important book.

Another book which affected me greatly was Raymond Moody's *Life after Life*. This was one of the first books to admit the concept of afterlife into the realm of "reasonable possibility."

In my first years of serving as a rabbi, the idea of afterlife was considered totally beyond reason. The general population did not believe afterlife was even a possibility. This was unfortunate for many rabbis who would have loved to include the notion of afterlife in conversation with bereaved families.

Believers readily accepted the reality of afterlife. It was for those whose belief was not that strong that afterlife could have been helpful. But since it was so cavalierly dismissed, it was difficult to propose its existence to the bereaved.

Then along came Moody, and others. Putting aside whether their proofs for the existence of afterlife are scientifically valid, it is beyond debate that they succeeded in placing the idea of afterlife back on the list of acceptable postulates for reasonable people.

This was of immense help to rabbis as they sought to comfort distraught families and people on the verge of dying. I remember actually giving out copies of Moody's book and strongly recommending that bereaved families read it.

It is now standard fare for me to bring up the topic of afterlife when visiting with families in bereavement. People are more receptive to the reality of afterlife, are comforted by the thought and are somewhat uplifted during very trying times.

Finally, I reflect on the book that had the strongest impact on my thinking in the area of psychology and Judaism. I was interested in the connection between these two domains for many years, and had developed some conceptual linkages between them.

It was when I read Viktor Frankl's *The Doctor and the Soul* (not *Man's Search for Meaning*, which is a terrific book but for other reasons), that I had an "aha" experience.

Herein was articulated an approach to psychology which was remarkably (though not totally) consistent with Jewish values and ideas.

This book, *The Doctor and the Soul*, was the basis for my master's and doctoral research at the University of Ottawa. As well, it was the foundation for my book, *The Quest for Ultimate Meaning*, and other articles and subsequent books.

But more importantly, it coloured my approach to life, and to the rabbinate. My speeches focused on the importance of meaning as the dominant motif in life. And my counselling became strongly meaning-centred.

I have often been asked how a book like *The Doctor and the Soul*, or any book for that matter, could colour my approach to Judaism. After all, if Judaism is complete with the Torah, why do I need anything else?

In truth, there is little in this book, or in all of logotherapy, that is not already articulated or hinted at in Jewish sources. (Logotherapy, a method developed by Frankl, helps people's re-orientation and recovery by strenghtening their trust in the unconditional meaningfulness of life and in their dignity). But you can look at these sources long and hard and still not glean messages unless your mind is channeled in that direction.

Logotherapy of the Frankl vintage prided itself not in formulating new truths, but in rediscovering old ones. That logotherapy was conceived with such a profound appreciation of age-old tradition was in itself astounding, since this was coming at a time when psychological wisdom was challenging previously accepted norms and traditions.

Logotherapy is very talmudic in more than the fact that its views are consistent with the Talmud. It is also talmudic in approach, answering questions with questions, turning assumptions upside down to eventually land right side up.

As examples, logotherapy, like the Talmud, sees death as a positive force in life, for if we lived forever, we would forever procrastinate. Logotherapy likewise sees the value of

Continued on page B10

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Balancing work and family: Golda Meir

By ELINOR CAPLAN

As a mother of four and a grandmother of six, I have tried to instil in my family a love of reading and education. Books have the power to teach, to inspire and to provide an escape from an otherwise hectic world into one with boundaries limited only by one's imagination. And no matter where your interests lie, there is a book for you.

As the member of Parliament for Thornhill and the minister of national revenue in the government of Canada, I dedicate a great deal of time and energy to serving my constituents and all Canadians. In my personal life, I try to put that same energy towards creating a loving environment for my family where we can all grow, learn from and appreciate each other.

While politics is a very demanding field, there are some who have been able to find the balance between work and family. In that regard, the autobiography of the late Golda Meir, *My Life*, made an indelible impact on me. Her memoirs speak to her desire to be involved in public life and to her constant concern about whether she could provide for her children.

As a Jewish woman serving in the cabinet of the government of Canada, Golda has been a role model for me. I would not presume to compare myself to her, but I take many lessons from her. She embodied many of the same ideals and values I hold dear.

She came from humble beginnings, not unlike many members of our community. Growing up in a Jewish neighbourhood in the Ukraine, she and her family managed to survive in an environment rampant with anti-Semitism. In fact, one of Golda's memories of her childhood is of her father barricading their home against a pogrom by Cossacks.

Golda and her family eventually were lucky enough to escape. They immigrated in 1906 to what many Jews called the *Goldene Medineh* (Golden Land), the United States. My family, originating in Poland, was also able to take the transatlantic voyage from eastern Europe to Canada, which would prove to be a land of opportunity for many Jews. While Golda lived in Milwaukee, Wis., she could not sit idle as the world passed by, but was determined to find important causes to support. Although her memories of her early childhood are few, the period when she began to get involved in the community is filled with stories that helped define her character.

In the United States, she soon became involved in the Zionist movement, and in 1921, immigrated to what is now the State of Israel. Her dedication to Zionism, in words and action, earned her the respect of the Jewish leaders in the community and she quickly became an important member in their ranks. After the creation of the State of Israel, she served in many positions within the government, culminating in her election as prime minister in 1969.

In retrospect, Golda's story is indeed one of triumph and success. But to examine her life in full is to understand what real struggles she faced. As a labour Zionist leader, and in the government of Israel as minister of labour, foreign affairs and, lastly as prime minister, she worked in a region and profession that was, and still is, dominated by men. As a Jewish woman in politics, I read her story with disbelief and in awe of all her accomplishments, both personal and public.

Although this book was written some time ago, it now has taken on a different meaning for me. It is not just the memoirs of an extraordinary woman I admire, but also a personal account of the struggle that all Israelis faced in the early years and still face today. Moreover, the reaction of Jews in the Diaspora during her life is the same for those of us living in the Diaspora today. We all anxiously read the newspapers and watch the news. We all debate the issues with our friends and family and with our loved ones living in Israel.

There is no doubt that all of us wish for a peaceful resolution to the ongoing conflict. We despair that the violence occurring now does nothing to help, but instead causes the unnecessary loss of lives.

It is my hope that because of the relevance today of Golda Meir's autobiography, many of you will read it. Everyone interested in the Middle East will find this book an essential piece of a complex puzzle that provides a personal face to the continuing story. There are still lessons that can be learned and many stories that are little known.

In 1938, Golda stated to the world, "There is only one thing I hope to see before I die and that is that my people should not need expressions of sympathy anymore." I believe this still holds true for today and I hope that her spirit and dream lives on.

Elinor Caplan is a member of Parliament for Thornhill and the minister of national revenue in the government of Canada.

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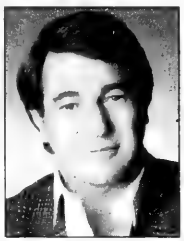
Seven influences chosen from many

By JACK DIAMOND

By choosing seven books that have influenced my thoughts, it might appear that these are in some way greatly distinguished from the many other books whose contributions to my intellectual development have also been important to me.

This, of course, is not the case; there is such a vast legacy of writing on which to draw, one that covers so many fields. Some authors, such as Jane Jacobs, challenge old orthodoxies, always an exciting prospect; some, such as Henry James and Amos Oz, convey much through nuances of meaning; others, such as Lewis Mumford, reveal about the human condition through their compassion. There are those who charm and seduce, such as Pablo Neruda. Yet others scintillate with their brilliance and insight, such as Henry Roth. Some mesmerize with their love and use of language and oratory, such as Winston Churchill, of whom John Kennedy said, "He marshalled the English language and sent it in to war." There are those whose economy of words enhances the power of language, such as Abraham Lincoln. So in these chosen seven, there is a certain degree of arbitrariness. Nevertheless, they did and do have an effect on the shape and direction of my thinking. I hope they have also affected my actions.



1. *Swallows and Amazons* by Arthur Ransome.

Ransome created a world in which children were trusted and treated as responsible beings. It was also a self-contained world of ineffable satisfaction. Although far removed from the world in which I lived, I could imagine the sublime experience of being in a barge, sleeping on a bunk and hearing the waters of the canal lapping against the hull, and of travelling through peaceful countrysides.

Children generally feel powerless and puny, and hence are attracted to Superman in his many manifestations. The lives that the children led in *Swallows and Amazons* and other Ransome books, while empowered, were more credible than Superman, and therefore, utterly desirable. I envied them, dreamt of being with them on their adventures. Even when they took their parents along, the parents were like friends and treated the children as equals.

From these books, I realized that through reading, I could live in many worlds. It became a ritual to take a book out of the library every Saturday morning after shul. I can still feel the atmosphere of the children's library in the old Durban city hall – a heavy, masonry Edwardian building of mannered, classical detailing and interiors of dark mahogany.

Mostly I remember the wholesome odour of the books and the anticipation of stepping through the covers of a book such as *Through The Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll, into gratifying worlds of the author's and my imagination. It would be hard to measure the accumulated pleasure I've derived from reading since those childhood days. I cannot imagine life without a book and the anticipated pleasure of books yet to be read.

2. *Le Rouge et le Noir* by Stendhal (Henri Beyle).

I read Stendhal as a teenager. I was stunned by his insight into human behaviour, and I marvelled at his ability to articulate the subtleties of feeling with such startling clarity. He also did what any great artist does: create a complete world of his sensibility. And the charm and intrigue of that world was revealed through the filters of what people said to reach an understanding of what they meant.

3. *The Culture of Cities* by Lewis Mumford.

The common perception of the medieval world is that it was one of filth and ignorance – the so-called "Dark Ages." But in fact, it was the breakdown of the balanced, ordered and healthy early Middle Ages that led to the decline in the late Middle Ages that is now taken as representing the entire period. In his description of the medieval economy, agriculture, city structure and its drainage systems, indeed its attention to what we now call sustainability, Mumford at once dispels myths and lays out the principles on which any society must be based to keep itself in ecological balance. Of course, by successfully challenging a common misconception, he also encourages independence of thought, a necessary attribute in a healthy society.

4. *Space, Time and Architecture* by Siegfried Gideon.

I suspect most people consciously or unconsciously seek some intellectual structure that provides the framework for understanding life, or the world they inhabit. There are many metaphysical constructs – religion being one. For the skeptical this is often not enough in general and, of course, for any particular field, clearly inadequate.

Space, Time and Architecture (the title itself is indicative of Gideon's aim at comprehensiveness) was the first to offer me such an encompassing view. I was entirely persuaded by his erudition, breadth and, as I thought, novel view. It is perhaps a predilection of German culture (a culture that permeated Jewish intellectual thought from the 18th to the 20th centuries) to provide systemic formulae. After all, Einstein's epochal $e=mc^2$ might perhaps be the epitome of such intellectual enterprise, and perhaps today the whole notion of convergence is the outcome of such constructs.

Continued on page B27

HAPPY NEW YEAR

THE WAY TO SAY FINE TAILORING

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'The future of Judaism cannot be taken for granted'

By YEHEZKEL DROR

The thread of a person's life has many strands, with different books influencing multiple dimensions of consciousness, sense of destiny and choice. I would like to present three books that significantly influenced what constitutes a core part of my life, namely, trying to make – however minor – a contribution to assuring the long-term thriving of Judaism and the Jewish people with Jewish Israel as their central state.

The first book is Emil Fackenheim's *To Mend the World: Foundations of Post-Holocaust Jewish Thought* (New York: Schocken, 1982, republished in 1994 by Indiana University Press).

Fackenheim, one of the greatest philosophers of Judaism of our time, wrote many books dealing with various aspects of Jewish thought and existence. But this, I think – and so does he, as I found out in a conversation I had with him – is his most important one. Its main gist, as I understood it, and which influenced me profoundly, can be summed up as follows: Jewish history has gone through quite a number of "ruptures," but the Shoah (a term I prefer to Holocaust and its meaning of "fire sacrifice") is the most radical one, constituting an unthinkable "novum" that requires radical re-evaluation of all we believe in – however hopeless efforts to "understand" it may be. But lack of comprehension must not paralyze our will. Rather, the main imperative to be derived from the abyss of the Shoah is what Fackenheim, also in earlier writings, calls the "614th commandment" or "commanding Voice of Auschwitz."

This commandment requires us to make sure that Judaism and the Jewish people survive and thrive, come what may. This somewhat reformulated idea became the leitmotif of my book *Refounding of Zionism* (published in Hebrew in 1997, English version in progress), which I postulated as the "categorical imperative" for Zionism and "Jewish people policy" as a whole. The 614th commandment of Fackenheim eventually became a main rationale and grounding of all my thoughts and actions.

The second book – and this may come as quite a surprise – is Jacques Gernet's *A History of Chinese Civilization* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1982, first published in French in 1972. A revised English edition was published in 1995). This book provides a long-term history of the Chinese people and culture, seen as a "civilization." It integrates cultural, intellectual, political, social and economic developments into a holistic "long- term history" from the Shang period (17th century BCE) to the death of Mao Tse-tung (1976).

What is striking about this book, in many respects influenced by the Annals School of history developed mainly by Fernand Braudel, is the illumination of continuity and evolution through periods of rise and decline, stability and crises, subjugation and victory, occupation and dominance and creativity and stagnation – all explaining the realities of China today and providing the basis for its future development.

This book helped me crystallize the concept of Judaism and the Jewish people as a civilization (as posed, inter alia, though differently, by Mordecai Kaplan in his 1934 book *Judaism as a Civilization*), rather than a "nation" in the western sense of that term. It also made me acutely aware of the lack of comparable modern, long-term, multi-dimensional and comprehensive high-quality histories of the Jewish people and Jewish civilization, in the tradition of Heinrich Graetz, Simon Dubnow and Salo Baron.

But the most striking sense I got from Gernet's book is one of a fateful dilemma facing the Jewish people: on one hand, our epoch is but a short slice of time in the long history of the Jewish people and Judaism, in between a long past and an unknowable but hopefully limitless (in human terms as well as globally) future. On the other hand, we have a strong feeling that our epoch is one of determinative influence on the future of Judaism and the Jewish people, for better or worse – and that, therefore, our unavoidable task is to make choices of historic significance, however shrouded in uncertainty and inconceivability.

Here, my long-standing professional interests in policy planning and my theoretic and applied work on choices that shape the future converge with the tragic view of civilization I got from Gernet's book (as augmented by Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik's book discussed below). True, China evolved through fluctuating cycles of rise and decline. And the Jewish people, though very differently so, also survived and often engaged in peak creativity despite exile, prosecution and the Shoah, with the peak achievement being the re-establishment of a Jewish state in the Promised Land. However, while the long-term survival and significance of China is not in doubt, unless humanity destroys itself, the long-term future of Judaism and the Jewish people, including the Jewish nature of the State of Israel, cannot be taken for granted.

Accordingly, though the quality of future-shaping choices made by China is very important, its existence is not at stake. In contrast, the quality of future-shaping choices of the Jewish people and of Israel may well make the difference between thriving and endangering survival. Therefore, the quality of collective choice is for us of fateful importance.

Continued on page B18

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Three thinkers who inspired

By EMIL FACKENHEIM

When I was in my late teens in Germany, I was impressed by Martin Buber's work on the Chassidim, such as *Hasidism and Modern Man* and *The Origin and Meaning of Hasidism*. In particular, I was impressed with his assertion that Chassidism was a reform movement still valid, not because they eliminated or reduced the rituals of Judaism, but because they re-emphasized them. This was the time when Nazis took over Germany. I still think Buber is great.

But later, when Buber could not cope with the evil of Nazism, the early books of Elie Wiesel were inspiring to me: he was the first one whose work I read and whom I subsequently met in person who asserted both the catastrophic nature of the Holocaust and the re-affirmation of Judaism – not despite Nazism, but because of it. Once, when we were walking together in New York, I asked him about his most celebrated story: the Nazis were hanging three Jews, one of them a boy, and a man behind Wiesel asked, "Where is God now?" In his own mind, Wiesel replied, "He is there hanging with this boy."

I asked Wiesel now whether he meant that reply as Christians did, but Wiesel replied, "I cannot accept a God without power." Hence, Wiesel had to struggle with God as Jacob once did and it is inspiring that he does not give up the struggle.

But there is also a philosopher who impressed me, and a German yet. I have spent no fewer than 10 years studying Georg Hegel, in my view the greatest modern philosopher. I discovered one thing about him no one else seems to have bothered with: his astounding fairness about Jews, rare among philosophers. Hegel thought Islam's monotheistic stubbornness was just fanatical, but that Jewish stubbornness was "admirable." He thought not only of Job but of Moses, even of Abraham as a Job of sorts, and of the Jewish people as a "collective Job": they never gave up their belief that God is just as he was to Job in the end. Hegel would have been most impressed that Jews recite Job at funerals and that the *Kaddish* only glorifies God.

Hegel, of course, was a Christian, hence he thought Christianity was the true religion. But he thought that the Christian religion would become true only if Jewish resistance to it was no longer necessary, if emancipation for Jews was complete.

Like Adolf Hitler, Hegel, therefore, had a "Jewish problem." But their solution could not have been more opposed. It is a tragedy for Jews, but also for Germans that Hegel's philosophy did not win out.

Emil Fackenheim is a former University of Toronto and Hebrew University philosophy professor. He lives in Jerusalem.

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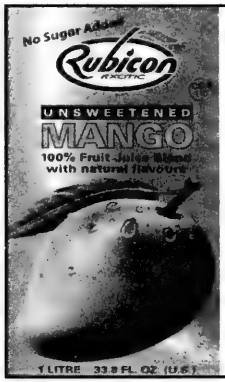

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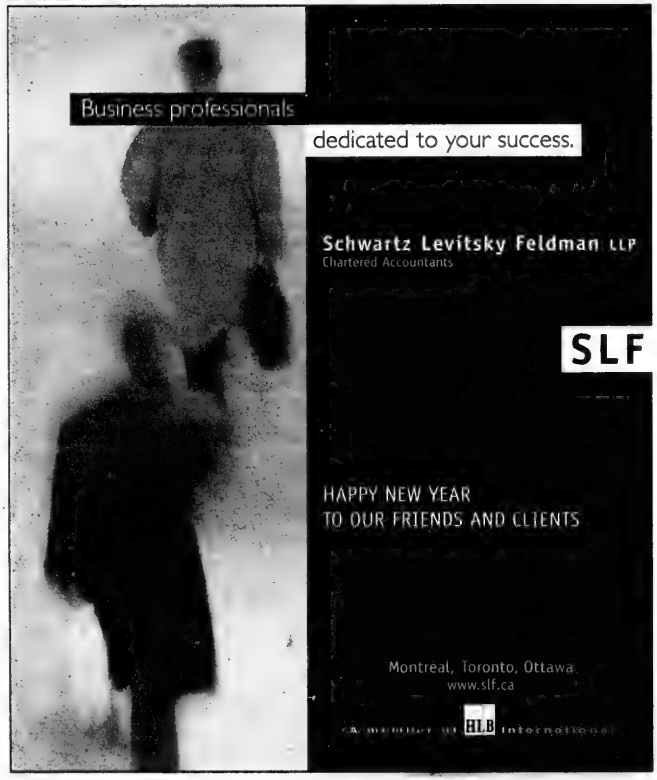

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An 'aha' experience

Continued from page B5

boredom, since if we were not bored, we would not be motivated to overcome it.

Logotherapy was also the first psychological system to entertain the distinct possibility of afterlife, as the place wherein ultimate meaning resides. After reading through *The Doctor and the Soul*, one cannot help but feel even more confident when espousing Jewish values.

I even use a Frankl-type technique with bar and bat mitzvah kids. I ask them if they are nervous, just in case they have not already articulated their nervousness, which they do most of the time.

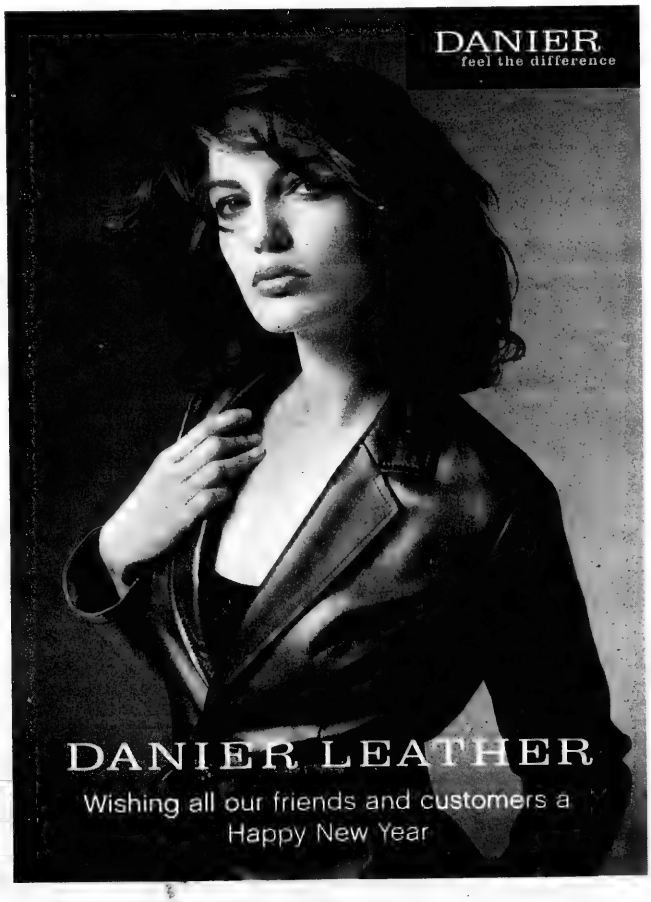
Instead of following the normal reflex of saying, "Relax, do not be nervous, everything will be okay," I use what is called paradoxical intention. I express delight that they are nervous, tell them how important it is to be nervous and encourage them to try to be even more nervous than they are. Most of the time this method works. All of the time, it works better than telling these children not to be nervous.

It is an odd trio of books that affected on me in different ways. The first was an almost nothing book that got me writing, the second addressed the prevailing view that life ended in nothingness, and the third affirmed the unconditional meaningfulness of life, no matter what the circumstances.

So, if the opportunity comes your way, read them.

Rabbi Bulka is the spiritual leader of Congregation Machzikei Hadas in Ottawa.

REMEMBERING THE DOLPHINARIUM: On the yahrzeit of the suicide bombing at the Dolphinarium discotheque in Tel Aviv, family members and friends recall the victims. [Israel Sun photo]



A primer on women and Judaism

By RABBI ELYSE GOLDSTEIN

Sometimes you find yourself reading a novel where you totally relate to one of the characters. The novel grabs you because it feels familiar and you see your own life reflected. You might even feel that one of the characters is you. But it is rare to read a non-fiction book and feel the same way; a book that so resonates, so completely reflects your vision and your beliefs, that you find yourself in it on every page.

That is the way I felt in 1990 when I first read Judith Plaskow's *Standing Again at Sinai* (Harper Collins). Now considered a classic on the subject of women and Judaism, back then it broke such new ground that almost every Jewish woman I knew had either read it, recommended it or was waiting to read it. It simply said all the things that I had always felt about the role of women in Judaism but had never heard anyone articulate so well before.

Back then, it was considered radical. Now, it is considered the "primer" on the issues of feminist theology. Now it is on the syllabus of every women in Judaism or feminist theology class. If it isn't, it should be.

In this book, Plaskow sets the groundwork for a re-imagining of Jewish history, theology and ritual to include the voices, experiences and vision of women. She tackles time-honoured ideas: what we mean by community; how we imagine God; who defines ritual; what power has to do with religion; the intersections of gender, sexuality and spirituality; and the whole notion of "normative" Jewish tradition. Women's marginality in Torah and Halachah, along with the whole notion of what marginality means, is carefully analyzed through a socio-historic lens. She treats each subject with equal doses of reverence, scholarship, passion, humour and empathy. This is not an angry book, but rather, a hopeful one, as she situates women back into the experience at Sinai. Plaskow is a deeply committed Jew and her commitment shines through her critique. *Standing Again at Sinai* taught me how to respectfully disagree, challenge lovingly and reaffirm critically. That is no small feat.

> It answered my questions, and questioned my answers

In the introduction, Plaskow writes, "For me, then, feminism is not about attaining equal rights for women in religious or social structures that remain unchanged, but about the thorough ongoing transformation of religion and society... The project of creating a feminist Judaism fits into a larger project of creating a world in which all women, and all people, have both the basic resources they need to survive, and the opportunity to name and shape the structures of meaning that gave substance to their lives."

Plaskow was the first to see Jewish feminism as a mode of *tikkun olam* – of making the whole world a better place. Jewish feminism is not a "women's issue" she suggested, but a Jewish issue, and her book put it on the religious and Jewish cultural agenda. *Standing Again at Sinai* became a reference point for any meaningful dialogue on the subject. Every lecture I have given since 1990 has quoted Plaskow at least once. *Standing Again at Sinai* is still the benchmark against which authors of Jewish feminist books measure themselves.

Standing Again at Sinai guided me through the early years of Jewish feminism, and helped me find my own voice more clearly. It challenged my assumptions and re-taught me Torah in a way that continually enriches me. It has animated me in my work, in my religious life and in the two books of feminist Torah commentary I have written myself to help women "name and shape the structure of meaning that gives substance to their lives." It has answered my questions, and questioned my answers, and my time-worn copy with personal notes in the margins occupies an honoured place on my bookshelf.

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein is the rabbinic director of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning in Toronto. She is the author of ReVisions: Seeing Torah through a Feminist Lens, *and the editor of* The Women's Torah Commentary *(Jewish Lights).*

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Each book is 'a gem unlike any other'

By YOINE GOLDSTEIN

I inherited my passion for books from my late mother. She used to say: "*A buch is nisht nor a buch; yeder buch eez an oitzer*." – "a book is not only a book; each book is a treasure." So to try to pick a favourite book, I literally have to go on a treasure hunt.

The books I read as a child were wondrous, filled with images of distant lands, heroics that were not only imaginable, they were feasible, and I could do them! The adventures sprang to life from the page, carrying me with them, making me the hero and sending me off on daydreams as real to me as the weight of the book on my lap.

Each book had its own life. In the modest home of my youth, books were precious. And thanks to the proximity of the public library, possession was easily attainable, but very temporary. Each time I had to return a book, I returned a piece of my heart with it.

That probably explains why, to this day, I am unable to throw books out, no matter how frequently read, no matter how old. Our basement is loaded with books accumulated over a lifetime of reading. Closets, mercifully hidden by doors and packed with books tightly inserted vertically, horizontally and, occasionally, even diagonally, adorn my law office and its various storage areas.

It matters little whether the books have been read recently or long ago, finished in a paroxysm of post-midnight reading or abandoned midstream for lack of interest, time or both. They may be written in English, French, Yiddish or Hebrew – each of these languages has a place in my heart and had a special time in my life.

I remember the first book that was all mine. It was called *Yingala Ringala – Little Boy with a Ring*. It was a simple child's story with about as much plot as a "Dick and Jane" reader. But it was mine. Not a hand-me-down, previously thumbed, endlessly discussed and dissected or shared tome. This was my very own *oitzer* – my treasure. I read it over and over, savouring each image and each word. I read it with different emphases. I read it out loud and in silence. I read it in the light of the day and by the light of a flashlight, surreptitiously stored under my pillow. I loved it. For what seems like years.

Then I discovered the stories by Shalom Aleichem, Isaac Leib Peretz and Mendele Moicher Seforim. I read them in Yiddish. I learned from these gifted storytellers that books not only entertain, they also tell about love, about pride, about selfishness, about every human characteristic, positive and negative, because, after all, books are a reflection of humanity and reality.

I remember vicariously sharing the pride of the owner of *Mein Nayem Zaiger*, a story of a young man who had been given a new watch as a gift and spends the length of the tale contriving in the most imaginative ways to force people to ask him what time it was, so that he could respond that "*oif mein nayem zaiger*" – "on my new watch, the correct time is… "

I remember books that inspired me to want to become a scientist and find cures for the world's ailments. And books that moved me

Continued on page B25

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ALAN GELMAN

The case for the defence: proven beyond a reasonable doubt

By EDDIE GREENSPAN

Exactly one month after my 13th birthday, my father died. Approximately one month after that, I was sitting in our family den, taking a careful look at his library for the first time. I vividly recall removing Irving Stone's biography, *Clarence Darrow for the Defence*, sitting in my father's favourite chair, leafing through the book and noticing that some passages were underlined by my dad. I can see myself turning to page one and starting to read.

I was up most of the night, and by the next evening, I had read the last page. When I closed the book, and I suspect soon after starting it, I knew what I wanted to do when I grew up.

The book was about an enormous figure in American history, as well as a giant in the courtroom. Clarence Darrow was a legendary criminal lawyer who fought relentlessly against capital punishment. He was a man filled with courage, kindness, charity and infinite pity for the outcast and the weak. He had a warm, sympathetic, merciful and understanding heart. He took the minds and hearts of jurors and judges into the realm of great ideas and high values. Darrow was not afraid to demonstrate the absurdity of laws, to uncover the fallacy of their foundations and to attack their unthinking supporters. He often put the law itself on trial as he did in the famous Scopes "monkey trial," in which a high school teacher in Dayton, Tenn., was charged with teaching Darwin's legally forbidden theory of evolution rather than the creationist theory of the Bible. He often became frustrated with the rigidity of the law and its resistance to change. The "attorney for the damned" had the ability to communicate profound ideas in simple, compelling language and to turn abstractions into imminent realities.

Darrow was a man of action who defended the indefensible, protected the underdog, questioned received "truths," instinctively opposed any exercise of government power and was never willing to sacrifice his own independence of thought. I admired his fierce individualism. He was a debunker and a demystifier who was always skeptical of every element of the case against his clients, who always put the government to the strict proof of its entire case and who never accepted anything at face value. His life was dedicated to his clients, human rights, freedom of expression and liberty. The stakes were always high: his clients were at risk of losing their liberty or their lives.

Darrow understood the need to advance freedom and he had a burning zeal for justice. He had a sense of dedication to the administration of justice. I will never forget reading that as a boy hired to clean up Farmer Brown's potato fields, Darrow said that he "killed bug after bug all that long morning, and then I threw the kerosene can in the general direction of that army of bugs and ran home, declaring through tears that I would never do a lick of work again in my life. And I never have." Work to him was defined as something one did not like to do. He said, "The law is work for some law clerks who ought not to be in it. It isn't work for me; just one fascinating moment after another."

As I put the book in its place on the library shelf, I knew I wanted to be a criminal lawyer. The case for the defence was proven beyond a reasonable doubt. Since that time, I believe I have read everything Darrow has written and everything that has been written about him. I am now 45 years older, but nothing that has happened in my life since that time in my father's library has caused me to doubt for a single moment the path I chose to follow.

Edward Greenspan is a criminal lawyer in Toronto.

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A fateful switch from formulas to words

By DAVID HOROVITZ

In my mid-teens, I didn't imagine for a moment that I'd wind up earning my living putting fingers to the keyboard (mind you, even now I only use three or four of them). Under the absurd school system in England, where I was barely educated, you have to choose three subjects at age 16, for what are called "A Level" exams, and drop everything else. I went for mathematics, physics and economics, labouring under the delusion that those were my strengths. My father was an accountant; I think I figured there had to be something in the genes. Only later would I discover that he'd always wanted to be a geography teacher.

Fortunately, while I was garnering pitifully poor grades in my ill-chosen trio of specialist subjects, I got to reading John Le Carre's *A Small Town in Germany* and *The Spy Who Came in from the Cold* and Graham Greene's *Our Man in Havana*. Despite the content, these books did not ignite in me a burning desire to enter the Secret Service. What they did was provoke my admiration. How could anybody write so well, create such compelling characters and such drama, draw me with such authority and dexterity into thoroughly unfamiliar worlds?

I switched from physics to English literature, scraped through my A Levels, went to journalism school and then, after immigrating to Israel, studied English literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. I have yet to publish so much as a sentence of fiction (although it's doubtless critics of some of my journalism would disagree).

But my kids recently went through my old elementary school essay books, delighting in the proliferation of "could do better if he tried harder" comments from my teachers, and came across a story I'd written when I was 10 about a wise African slave and his two pea-brained English explorer-masters. Deep in the jungle, they stumble upon the dismembered corpse of a lion, and the two Brits decide they're going to stitch the pieces together and try to revive the beast. The slave warns them it will eat them if they succeed, but he is ignored and takes prudent refuge up a tree. He's right, of course: the reconstituted lion rewards his restorers by devouring them, and the sorry tale ends with the slave gazing balefully down at the remains of his two former employers and musing about how it is that supposedly well-educated people can be so profoundly stupid.

I make no claims to originality. In fact, I'm fairly certain that I couldn't have come up with so elegant a plot. But reading it with my children for the first time in the 30 years since I scrawled it in my big, crude, slanted pencil-work, I was astounded that I had been capable of writing it at all, and with a simple economy of phrase at that. My physics-misobsessed 16-year-old self would certainly not have thought such a story within its grasp.

But I guess the writing was in there somewhere, and just got buried under the calculus and geometry, the rules of gravity and laws of momentum, the theories of opportunity costs and supply and demand. And I have those most elegant of spy novels to thank for inspiring me to drag it out, for helping me making my blessed escape from the icy finality of numbers to the rich, warm embrace of words.

David Horovitz is the editor of The Jerusalem Report. *He co-authored* The Report*'s biography of Yitzhak Rabin called* Shalom, Friend *and is the author of* A Little Too Close to God: The Thrills and Panic of a Life in Israel, *published in 2000 by Knopf.*

Dry Bones

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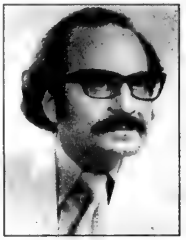
Les livres qui m'ont marqué

NAÏM KATTAN

Dire que la Bible est le livre qui m'a le plus marqué peut paraître, en tant que Juif, comme une banalité. Or, dès mon enfance, avant même que j'apprenne à lire, le Livre m'a accompagné. Car, en effet, il appartient à mon histoire familiale. Ainsi, mon grand-père maternel portait le nom de Joseph et il a appelé deux de ses fils, mes oncles, Ménaché et Ephraïm. Ma mère me racontait, avant de dormir, l'histoire de Joseph, de son père, de ses frères. Aussi, quand j'ai commencé à lire, j'ai retrouvé, dans la Bible, les péripéties de la vie de mon grand-père et de mes oncles.

Plus tard, ce fut le récit de l'exil de mes ancêtres, les prisonniers de Nubuchodnetsar à Babylone, que je déchiffrais. J'étais le descendant des Juifs de la première diaspora, de ceux qui, pour donner une constante vie à la Bible, ont rédigé le Talmud. Je me suis rendu compte que tout écrivain, en prenant conscience de la Bible, apprend, dans l'humilité, que tout ce qu'il inscrira sur le papier ne peut être que commentaire ou éloge du Livre.



Ma langue maternelle étant l'arabe, j'ai lu plus tard, dans le cadre de mes études scolaires, la poésie arabe classique et le Coran, qui reprend, dans une bonne part, l'histoire biblique, d'Abraham à Salomon. J'ai découvert, en même temps, les *Mille et une nuits*, histoires qui, en plus de nourrir mon imagination ont marqué mon rapport avec le réel. Très tôt, le monde m'est apparu comme un ensemble d'histoires, chaque personne ayant la sienne que l'écrivain transcrit et transmet.

Ma vie d'écrivain ayant débuté à Bagdad, ma langue d'expression était l'arabe et les premiers auteurs qui furent des modèles se nommaient Gibran Khalil Gibran, Tewfik el Hakim, Taha Hussein qui chacun, à sa manière, ouvrait pour moi les portes de l'Occident. Je fréquentais l'école de l'Alliance Israélite Universelle où l'enseignement était dispensé en quatre langues : l'arabe, le français, l'anglais et l'hébreu. La bibliothèque de l'école fut, pour moi, une source vitale. Dès que j'ai commencé à lire en français, les livres qui m'impressionnaient étaient ceux d'André Malraux, André Gide, Romain Rolland. En même temps, je m'initiais en anglais aux pièces de Shakespeare, œuvres que je ne me lasse pas de relire. Dans toutes ces pages, l'Occident vivait. Je n'avais qu'une hâte: atteindre ses rivages.

En 1941, alors que je venais d'avoir treize ans, un gouvernement pro-nazi prit le pouvoir en Irak et déclara la guerre à la Grande-Bretagne. À la suite de sa défaite, Bagdad demeura, pendant trois jours, sans autorités et des hordes attaquèrent le quartier juif. Le Farhoud est le nom donné à ce pogrom qui traumatisa la communauté juive, vieille de vingt-cinq siècles.

En 1947, j'ai eu la chance d'obtenir une bourse du gouvernement français pour poursuivre mes études à la Sorbonne. À Paris, les livres se mêlaient à la vie. J'ai fait partie du groupe surréaliste et j'ai commencé à écrire en français. En 1954, j'ai décidé d'émigrer au Canada et de m'installer à Montréal, la ville française de l'Amérique. C'est alors que j'ai pris la décision de changer de langue, de passer de l'arabe au français. Tout en parcourant le Canada et les Etats-Unis, je me suis employé à lire l'Amérique dans les pages de ses poètes et de ses romanciers. J'ai pris connaissance du Québec dans les textes de Gabrielle Roy, Roger Lemelin, Saint-Denis Garneau, Anne Hébert.

Deux écrivains ont particulièrement marqué mon itinéraire, une quête qui, sans m'éloigner de mon judaïsme, me liait à une Amérique que je vivais au jour le jour : un Canadien, A. M. Klein et un Américain né à Montréal, Saul Bellow. Dans une collection destinée à la jeunesse, j'ai consacré un ouvrage à Klein. J'ai suivi son cheminement, son engagement dans la vie de son pays qui, loin de l'enfermer, l'incitait à partir à la découverte du monde. J'ai accompagné, dans *Le Second Rouleau* (*The Second Scroll*), un Juif de Montréal, un Juif de tous les continents.

L'Amérique est le continent de Saul Bellow. J'ai suivi son œuvre, fus imprégné par sa soif de vivre et de comprendre.

Lors de mes années d'études à Paris, j'ai eu l'occasion de lire Marcel Proust. Je le trouvais alors trop précis dans ses descriptions et ses analyses d'une société décadente, en voie de disparition, alors que j'étais assoiffé d'action et débordant d'énergie. Bien plus tard, il y a quelques années, je l'ai relu. C'est alors dans la joie que j'ai savouré les délices de ses longues phrases, ses pénétrantes évocations des mouvements de la passion, de l'amour, de l'ambition et de l'art. Une lecture de la maturité.

Naïm Kattan est un écrivain illustre qui a été le récipiendaire de plusieurs prix littéraires. Il demeure à Montréal.

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Critical thinking in a complex world

By MOSHE KAVEH

When my sister and I were young, our father, Rabbi David Kaveh, used to regale us with stories of the pitched battles in Europe between chassidic and Lithuanian Jews.

Jews of every type were engaged in ideological-religious battles. One group swore by a certain master and his holy writings. The next group advocated with equal passion another holy master and his texts, while negating all others. My sister and I loved the battles and characters in these stories and all the fables associated with them.

That world has passed us by. Few live their lives by the dictates of a single individual or by the proscriptions of any one book – not even the Bible. Today, we live in a world where nothing is absolute. Everything is relative, and everything is subject to critical inquiry and scientific standards of proof.

Judaism, too, has evolved into a vast supermarket of ideas – with streams, sub-streams and sub-sub-streams of thought and theology to choose from.

Thus, when coming to write about "the book" that most influenced my life, I discover, lo and behold, that there is no such thing! Life and religion are too complicated to be pigeonholed into one book, no matter how wise its contents.

My training as a scientist, perhaps, has ruined me: I am very critical. Every hypothesis, every argument, every approach or proscribed path, has weaknesses. I am constantly searching for absolutes. No one outlook satisfies me; I need to taste a little morsel of one worldview, while at the same time – or at other times – adopting bits of another.

Modern physics emphasizes the "uncertainty principle" – a metaphor, perhaps, for our intellectual world. My personal specialty in physics is "disordered systems." No wonder, then, that I relish complexity, variety and the unknown! Indeed, as a scientist, I know that the question is often more important and significant than any answer or group of answers.

In any case, the result of all this is that I have been drawn to differing, even contradictory, rivulets of thought – and the canonic texts of these rivers – at different times in my life.

Many years ago in my college days, Yeshayahu Leibowitz's *Torah and Mitzvot in These Times* (Tel Aviv, 1954) captivated me. I even tried to conduct myself along the lines of religious thinking and practice outlined in this outstanding, maverick and controversial work of theology.

Leibowitz viewed the world, and God, in the coldest of eyes. Judaism meant absolute obedience to God's wishes and dictates, without any necessary reward. God's transcendence meant that He was unreachable and could not be "corrupted" by our petty pleadings. For Leibowitz, the dividing line between Divine "values" and human "needs" was absolute; its breach was heretical. "Don't ask what God can do for you," Leibowitz seemed to be saying. "Ask what you can do in obedient submissiveness to God."

For a while, Leibowitz's totalitarian approach to Judaism was attractive, because the absolutism of it all washed away any heavy questions of faith. Dilemmas of faith simply had no place or relevance.

However, as time passed, I found this approach untenable. Leibowitz's *weltanschauung* left no room for Providence or emotional attachment, allowed no meaning to history, and flew in the face of generations of Jewish worship and custom.

Here entered my life the writings of the giant of philosophy and Halachah, the late Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik. In *Halachic Man* (Philadelphia: JPS, 1983, translation by Lawrence Kaplan, originally published as *Ish ha-Halacha* in Talpioth 1, 1944), Rabbi Soloveitchik opened great vistas for human creativity and partnership with God in the ongoing creation of the world. In so doing, he ascribed significant religious meaning to my scientific pursuits.

Rabbi Soloveitchik stressed the power of man to experience the world on multiple planes and in existential moods, even with religious passion and a degree of mysticism. He lent religious and historical meaning to the covenantal community and to the rise of the State of Israel; and provided a

Continued on page B25

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The Bible and Rashbam's biblical commentary: no other books come close

By MARTIN LOCKSHIN

Of course it's the Bible! No other book has had more of an influence on my life. No other book even comes close.

I am forever grateful to the old-fashioned teachers I had when I was young who actually made me memorize large chunks of biblical texts. (Back then, I was not so grateful, but that's another story.) There is no book I can quote – usually accurately – as well as I can quote the Bible. There is no book that has enriched my knowledge of Hebrew more than the Bible. There is no book that has influenced my lifestyle more than the Bible. There is no book that has inspired me, chastised me, uplifted me or challenged me more than the Bible. And to be perfectly honest, there is no book that has troubled me more than the Bible. Every book that I have ever read has passages in it that have irritated me or disappointed me. Generally, I can just laugh them off or at least shrug them off. But I can't do that with the Bible.

At a relatively young age, I learned that the Bible may be read in a number of extremely different, mutually exclusive ways. The way the traditional Jew reads the Bible has almost nothing in common with the way that a secular scholar might teach the book in a university. I was a Bible major at Hebrew University in Jerusalem 32 years ago, and then I decided to transfer to a yeshiva. One of my friends at the (relatively modern) yeshiva to which I transferred told me when I came: "We study a book called the Bible here at this yeshiva, too. You might think that it is the same book that you studied at the university. It isn't." The book might have had the same words, the same verses and the same chapters, but he was right: it wasn't the same book.

Continued on page B19

Future of Judaism

Continued from page B9

This brings me to the third book, namely Rabbi Soloveitchik's *Fate and Destiny: From the Holocaust to the State of Israel* (Hoboken, N.J.: Ktav), 2000. I read it a couple of years ago in its original Hebrew version, which has a much more expressive name – "*Kol Dodi Dofek*" ("the voice of my lover is knocking on the door"). *Kol Dodi Dofek* is a quote from the Song of Songs depicting the lost opportunity of the beloved who did not open the door in time to let her waiting lover enter.

This is a beautiful metaphor for the situation of the Jewish people, which is characterized by both far-reaching opportunities and dangers provided by fate with "permission given" to make choices that will weave the future to realize opportunity or succumb to dangers. To move to the terminology of Niccolo Machiavelli, "fortune" provides us with "occasions," the correct or incorrect use or neglect of which depends on our "virtue."

On May 14, the Jewish Agency announced the establishment of the Institute for Jewish People Policy Planning, with former U.S. envoy to the Middle East Dennis Ross as chair of the board of directors, Avinoam Bar-Yosef as director-general and myself as founding president. As far as self-analysis can be relied upon, my part in bringing about the establishment of this Jewish people think tank is in large part due to the impact of these three books on me.

Yehezkel Dror is a scholar and philosopher in Jerusalem.

The Bible and Rashbam's biblical commentary: no other books come close

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Thirty years ago, I was searching for a reading method for the book that I knew was central to my life. To be honest, I found most of the methodologies I encountered for reading the Bible unsatisfying. The university method seemed too cold and distant to me. I felt that many of the proponents of the modern critical method of reading the Bible felt themselves superior to the allegedly primitive biblical authors. I wasn't sure they were right.

Then again, the traditionalist reading of the Bible also left me unsatisfied. It seemed to me that the authority of tradition was forcing me to read verses in specific ways, even when I felt that that was not what the words were saying. I had been taught the proper tools for close reading of any text by good teachers. Why should I give up my right to my reading, I asked myself, just because previous generations of Jews had read the Bible in a different way? In summary, I found that reading methods of the Bible were either insufficiently deferential or overly deferential to tradition.

Then I discovered the one book that really changed my intellectual, religious and scholarly life: the Torah commentary of Rabbi Samuel ben Meir (Rashbam [Rashi's grandson], 12th-century northern France). It's almost too generous to call his work a book, since it is just a list of disjointed comments. It is very dry, rarely exciting and has very few spiritually uplifting passages. It was written by an exceptional but cantankerous rabbi, who was convinced of his own brilliance and who often told his readers that if they wanted to understand some verses, they should be sure to read his commentary, "since those [Bible commentators] who preceded me did not understand these verses at all" (commentary to Exodus 3:11).

> 'Rashbam teaches traditional Jews like me that it is acceptable – and perhaps even desirable – to read the text closely and respect our own readings'

Why did this not very popular biblical commentary change my life? Because it was written by a very devout old-fashioned rabbi who promulgated biblical readings that appeared right to him even when they conflicted with thousands of years of reading traditions.

For example, in the first chapter of the Bible we find a series of phrases: "There was evening and there was morning, one day... there was evening and there was morning, the second day." Like anyone with a solid Jewish education, I had been taught that these verses were the source for the Jewish law that "day follows night" – that is, that the Jewish day begins in the evening and then finishes the following evening. An essential principle of Jewish law, hallowed by tradition, this phrase is cited as the source for the way we celebrate the Sabbath and other holidays.

As far as I can tell, every loyal Jew until the 12th century read the verses that way. Every Jew, that is, until Rashbam, who came along and said that that is not what the words mean. The context of the biblical verse is: God created X; after creating X, there was evening (that is, it got dark) and then there was morning (that is, dawn broke), "one day" – that is, that was the end of one day, at dawn. The days of creation finished in the morning, not in the evening.

Rashbam's commentary abounds with such daring, innovative comments as this that show an independent, creative mind. He had been taught the traditional readings of biblical verses from his earliest youth. But he overcame his training and took a fresh look at the words and came up with what look like revolutionary readings.

Rashbam, though, was far from a revolutionary. He was a legal arch-conservative, full of respect for the biblical text and for traditional Jewish law. The Sabbath he observed certainly began at sunset.

Rashbam taught me, and still teaches me as I continue to plumb his writings, that it is possible to defer to Jewish tradition in many matters and yet be autonomous in reading. Rashbam teaches traditional Jews like me that it is acceptable – and perhaps even desirable – to read the text closely and respect our own readings. He teaches us that interpretive autonomy is compatible with religious heteronomy – with deferring to tradition in matters of practice. More than any other book, Rashbam's Torah commentary teaches me to be a modern traditional Jew.

Martin Lockshin is the director of the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University. He is the author of three volumes of annotated translations of Rashbam's Torah commentary, and is currently writing the fourth and final volume.

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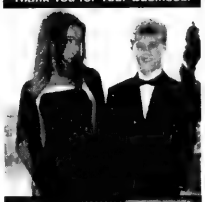

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The books that brought us together

By B. GLEN ROTCHIN

Which books have influenced you? I can hardly think of a more intrusive question. There's an intimacy one develops with a book. It touches and remains with you like nothing else. We never speak of influential books in the past tense; they are strangely resistant to nostalgia. They don't mark an occasion or an era like a favourite song. Influential books are a different species altogether. They live along with you, change as you change, endure. They are as unique, cherished and indispensable as members of your own family.

Three books immediately come to mind, one volume of poetry and two novels. All entered my life at about the same time as my wife of 10 years, Annetta Black. The books that have influenced me most are connected to the person that continues to influence me most.

The first is *Love Poems* by the Israeli poet Yehuda Amichai. I discovered Amichai while working at the Jewish Public Library in the late 1980s. I was a reader of poetry and dabbled in the craft myself, but was becoming increasingly disillusioned with the poetry I'd seen in recent volumes and little magazines. Those poems tended to be dispassionate, highly intellectualized experiments in form and language.

But Amichai's work stunned me. His style was unadorned and jarring in an unromantic, accessible way. And he had the chutzpah to write about love and God and war, subjects no contemporary poet dared touch for fear of sounding clichéd.

Amichai's work restored my faith in the power of poetry, and revived my thirst for verse. The astonishing thing about his voice is that it is as forceful and relevant today as ever, even though the poet himself is no longer with us. In the current climate of anguish and terror that plagues the Middle East and the world, there is not a poet alive who can express our sense of fear and vulnerability the way Amichai did in his poem *God Has Mercy on Kindergarten Children*: "God has mercy on kindergarten children./ He has less pity on school children./ And on grownups he has no pity at all,/ he leaves them alone./ and sometimes they must crawl on all fours/ in the burning sand/ to reach the first-aid station/ covered in blood."

Later, as we joined our lives in a single home, Annetta and I mixed our personal libraries. My copy of *Love Poems* and her bilingual hardcover edition of *Shirei Ahavah*, purchased in Jerusalem when she lived there years earlier, met on the shelf where they still stand today, side by side.

The second book is A.M. Klein's classic *The Second Scroll*. It was given to me by Annetta shortly after we began dating, with her assurance that it was the most important novel she'd ever read. Arguably, the greatest Jewish novel of the 20th century, as grand in theme as it is profound in execution and impact, it was a revelation to me as well.

The story of a young Montreal journalist's search for his uncle Melech Davidson re-enacts the biblical journey of the Israelites through the wilderness to the Promised Land. But this time, the wilderness is the carnage and trauma of the past 100 years, and the Promised Land is the founding of the State of Israel. Here we have an individual spiritual sojourn wrapped around a collective historical quest. It is an ambitiously structured literary labyrinth, comprising a poem, a letter and a play folded inside a fast-paced mystery novel. It was a masterpiece of post-modern experimentation long before anyone had ever heard of the term post-modernism.

Beyond its linguistic virtuosity, *The Second Scroll* is, at its heart, a Canadian Jew's personal search for meaning in the post-Holocaust era. It's absolutely required reading for any thinking, caring Jew, and helped me grasp the rich spiritual sources of my own Jewish identity.

The third book is a Hebrew novel by the pre-war Austrian writer David Vogel, or is it Fogel? It influenced my life immeasurably even though I've never read it. A little over a decade ago, Annetta was researching a thesis on Fogel for her masters degree in Jewish studies at McGill University. She was having difficulty locating the English translation of his book at the university and decided to try the Jewish Public Library where I was working. She had consulted the card catalogue without luck and came to see me.

Claire Stern, the JPL's head of public services, suggested that perhaps it was not "Fogel" but "Vogel" spelled in the German way but pronounced differently. Claire was right. The book was found in the library's collection and Annetta and I discovered each other in turn..The title of the Vogel novel that brought us together? *Married Life*.

Glen Rotchin is a Montreal poet and co-editor with Seymour Mayne of two anthologies, Jerusalem: An Anthology of Jewish Canadian Poetry, *and* A Rich Garland: Poems For A.M. Klein, *both published by Véhicule Press.*

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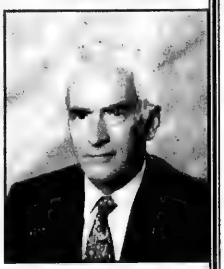

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A vote for Rambam's Guide of the Perplexed

By RABBI PHILIP SCHEIM

When surrounded by books, it is difficult to single out one as the most influential in my life – difficult, but not impossible. We turn to books for knowledge, for understanding, for comfort, for encouragement, for laughter, for tears. As much as I value and enjoy the age of the computer and electronic publications, the printed, hard-copy text, which can be read at leisure on a Shabbat or Yom Tov afternoon, remains one of the timeless pleasures of life.

My first reaction was to turn to the works of Elie Wiesel that inspired me greatly in my teenage and early adult years. From *Night* to *The Jews of Silence*, from *A Generation After* to *Dawn*, Wiesel's works led so many of my generation to understand that taking our heritage and traditions seriously gives a purpose and direction to survival in a turbulent world. Having had the privilege of meeting Wiesel several times over the years, I have been most struck by his humility. Thus, I know that he would not be offended by my choice of a different author as the writer who has most influenced me in my lifetime.

The writer whose works have had most impact on my life did his best work some 900 years ago. Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon, Moses Maimonides, whose writings I had the privilege of studying intensely some 30 years ago, is still in print today. His works still sell, even his medical texts – not at the best-seller level perhaps, but at a level sufficient to keep them in print.

My studies at McGill University with Prof. Ze'ev Harvey (now of Hebrew University) focused on Rambam's *Moreh Nevuchim* (*Guide of the Perplexed*), a difficult, uninviting text on the best of days. In part, we read the text in the original Arabic, other times, mercifully, we plowed through Shlomo Pines' English translation. As we studied, it was clear to me that no major studio would be bidding for the movie rights – that this was not a work that would inspire the masses.

Why, then, would I consider Rambam's *Guide* as the work that most influenced me? Perhaps, because I realized, at a time of personal spiritual uncertainty, that Maimonides offered his reader a vision of the world and Torah that made a great deal of sense.

The *Guide of the Perplexed*, in essence, is a letter – a very long letter – written to a student named Joseph ben Yehudah. His student has written the master, seeking a curriculum of study to become more knowledgeable in the ways of Torah. Joseph seems to be caught in the struggle between traditional and secular studies. He has a yen for science and mathematics and wants to pursue that learning, but not at the expense of Torah.

Maimonides encourages his student to pursue his "secular" studies. The implication is clear – only through knowledge of the universe (science), through an appreciation of the complexities of creation, can one come to appreciate the magnificence and awesome power of the Creator. Study science, then come back and study Torah, was the message. In the several hundreds of difficult pages that follow, Rambam offers interpretation of biblical verses, and difficult passages, that, in short, uphold the rational nature of Torah.

The modern world so often wants to suggest to us that religion is a product of a bygone age, that we have surpassed the knowledge of the ancients, that Mishnah and midrash in the age of the microprocessor are anachronistic and irrelevant. Maimonides, however, sets us straight. Here, this outstanding physician, this great scientist, this master of so many fields, this giant of Halachah and philosophy, puts us in our place.

Science, technology, the basis of our modern world, he teaches, are not in conflict with Torah and tradition. On the contrary, properly appreciated, they necessitate belief in the Creator, because, without God, how could there be something as miraculously complex as the human body, something as magnificent as the natural wonders of the universe? So, we are told, first learn science and mathematics to appreciate the world and realize that the world must have emanated from a Creator – then, spend your time learning what God wants of us by studying Torah and mastering traditional text.

That Jewish philosophy seminar at McGill almost 30 years ago led me to rethink several personal assumptions. It also influenced my personal practices and, ultimately, my career direction. I have never looked back.

In this age of confusion and uncertainty, a *Guide of the Perplexed* is essential, and none will be found that will equal in timeless importance the works of Moses Maimonides. Understand that this book is no "Jewish Philosophy for Dummies." It is lengthy, difficult, and, to be honest, rather boring. But struggling through its pages, without question, is worth every minute, because through its pages, the Rambam in his brilliance leads us to better appreciate the world in which we live and the Torah that distinguishes us.

Rabbi Scheim is spiritual leader of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am in Toronto.

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5763

An 'intoxicating revelation'

By BERNARD SHAPIRO

No book is ever experienced in a vacuum, since it is always reflected through the prism of the language, the culture and the education of the reader – to say nothing of his or her more general life experience and his or her previous reading.

I first read Mordecai Kaplan's *Judaism as a Civilization* in 1950, some 16 years after its publication and some 30 years after Kaplan's 1920 seminal article *A Program for the Reconstruction of Judaism*, which appeared in the *Menorah Journal*.

I came across the book almost accidentally while browsing in the library of the Shaar Hashomayim synagogue in Montreal. I cannot, even now, say what it was that attracted me to it. I only know that I started to leaf through it, found myself more than a little startled – someone from the Jewish Theological Seminary had this radical disbelief in a transcendental God! – and I immediately decided to borrow it so as to read it more carefully.

I was 15 years old at the time, and what I considered careful reading would not, in fact, have met serious adult standards. Moreover, outside of the standard texts of a limited and very traditional Jewish education, I had never read an adult book on religion. Somehow, however, this did not deter me. I was self-centred enough to be satisfied with my own standards, and admittedly on this somewhat fragile foundation, I found *Judaism as a Civilization* an intoxicating revelation.

Now, a half-century later, it is hard to recall just why the book had this profound – and as it turned out a lasting – effect. It is the joy and the intoxication that I really recall. In retrospect, however, I believe my response arose from a sudden realization that Kaplan was the first to make clear to me that there were many things which I assumed to be "givens" – that is, necessary and immutable aspects of my religion, my life and my society – but which could, in fact, be better understood as a matter of "choice" – in the case of religion, a choice either for an individual Jew and/or for Jews as a group.

I had always known that there were differences among Jews, that there were differences in belief and in practice among chassidic, Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jews and their congregations, "shuls" or "shtieblach." Unthinkingly, however, I simply believed that as a Jew, one was "born into" one or other of these groups and aside from outright apostasy and rejection of Judaism altogether, one was somehow "bound" to that group for life. Certainly, I had not observed within any one of the many Jewish communities in Montreal any particular interest in the religious ideas and/or commitments of the others.

For me, Kaplan permanently changed this framework of religious misunderstanding. I began to understand that religious understanding and religious practice had changed over time, in response not only to internal inspiration but also to the external environment. I began to imagine that in all probability, changes would continue to occur if only to enable individuals to express and commit themselves religiously in terms meaningful to them. Most importantly, although there might now be greater focus on deliberate and individual choice, there was also, in Kaplan's vision, an understanding of the social nature of men and women and, therefore, a continuous quest to find a difficult but vital middle ground between a radical and essentially anti-social individualism and an equally radical and necessarily authoritarian submission to the general will.

Continued on page B25

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Politics in the streets of Israel

Demonstrations of both the left (above) and the right were held in Israel last year, protesting government policies.

[Israel Sun photos]

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Judaism as a Civilization an 'intoxicating revelation'

Continued from page B23

In terms of my religious understanding, the experience of Kaplan's book opened entirely new vistas, so many new ways in which I could act out my own desire to live a committed Jewish life. I cannot claim that I always found Kaplan's own ideas of Jewish life compelling, but they always provided me with an impetus for religious reflection, out of which my own choices and my own commitments eventually matured.

It was not, however, just a matter of religion. In one area of my life after another I found that as a result of reading *Judaism as a Civilization*, I was now better attuned to history and the value of knowledge of the past as a stronger foundation upon which to creatively manage the present and build for our common future. I was now more aware of the need to balance the commitment to liberty and free will with what Tzvetan Todorov refers to as "sociability," not only for "... the purposes of nourishment and reproduction, but also for becoming conscious and speaking beings." Finally, I felt empowered – life was not only something that happened to you; it was, at least some of the time, something that you made happen.

Was there something inherent in *Judaism as a Civilization* that produced this response or was it just that I picked it up at a time when, for other reasons, I was ready for it? In all likelihood, it was both, and, therefore, for those who have not read it, you might want to consider if this is the moment for you.

Bernard Shapiro is the principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University.

Each book is 'a gem unlike any other'

Continued from page B13

to tears. Books that taught me about the beauty of nature, about the perfection of some parts of reality and the imperfections of most of it. Books that made me laugh uproariously, and books that brought sadness and hopelessness. Books that caused me to think I could reach the stars, and books that made me despair for the future of mankind.

Through almost a dozen years of university, I was altered by several books and by the professors who brought them to my attention.

I remember one law teacher, a francophone teaching in English, who insisted that the Civil Code, a book, should be treated like a mistress: sitting on our knees and held close to our hearts. Another, a Marxist-Leninist political scientist who stuttered during classes (but who was still by far the most dynamic lecturer I ever had), forced me to question the value of most books. His commentary on a book review that I had submitted was a devastating "At night all cats are black," meaning that I had not succeeded in differentiating this book from any other. I no longer remember which book that was, but he had made it different for me, and from that day onward, I have treated every book as a gem unlike any other.

Then there are the books that indelibly marked my soul. I remember devouring an anthology, *The Poetry of Freedom*, at a time when I was enthralled with left wingers such as Pete Seeger who revived ballads to make them the passionate harbingers of a new order. Much of the poetry was liberating; it allowed me to imagine a different world in whose centre I might yet be permitted to live.

Above all, books permitted me to persist in dreaming, both for myself and others.

When I was a child I imagined myself controlling the unfolding narrative of each story that I read. I was the hero. I, too, could do whatever the book's champion could do. By the time I was in college, I had learned the luxury of permitting each story, each theory, each poem to control me by allowing it to teach me.

Now I look back on the many favourite books of my life with nostalgia. They still have the power they had when I first read them, the power to evoke the happiness, the imagery and the freedom of *Yingala Ringala* – the little boy with a ring that I once was.

Yoine Goldstein is the national president of UIA Federations Canada.

Critical thinking in a complex world

Continued from page B17

framework for navigating the spiritual conflicts between Jews and Christians in the modern world.

Most of all, Rabbi Soloveitchik helped me understand that man and his worldview are never static, that struggle is heroic, and that the forward-backward dance of withdrawal and conquest is noble and leads to spiritual growth.

And thus today, I am both a Chassid and a Lithuanian *mitnaged*. Both a scientist and a believer. An admirer of Leibowitz-ian stoicism and of Rabbi Soloveitchik's passionate existentialism. A mystic and a hard-nosed realist. I am optimistic and pessimistic about Israeli life and global Jewish continuity. I know that no one book, or approach has all the answers.

Prof. Moshe Kaveh is president of Bar-Ilan University in Israel.

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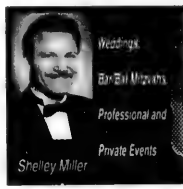

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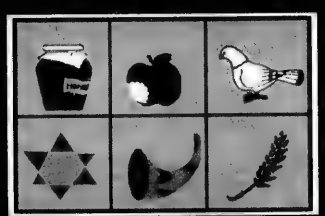
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The Torah's greatest influence: the Book of Psalms

By RABBI MOSHE STERN

Of all the books of our holy Torah, except for the Five Books of Moses, the Book of Psalms (Tehillim) has had the greatest influence on me, personally, and on the development of the Jewish spirit generally.

The psalms, which take as their basis truths taught in the Torah, sing of HaShem's workings both in nature and in the destiny of Israel, of man and of the nations. The psalms impart to us the spiritual life of a nation that bases itself on the commands and provisions set forth in the Torah. Under the benevolent eye of HaShem and directed and instructed through His providence, both man and nation strive to an evermore perfect fulfilment of their destiny and goal in life.

Tehillim manifests the expression and yearning of emotions that fill the heart of man as he walks through the vicissitudes of life. Reading Tehillim is an enobling and enriching experience that nourishes our souls and elevates our spirits.

In times of suffering and sorrow, as we are currently experiencing in our community in Toronto and in the land of Israel – indeed, as Jews are experiencing everywhere – the Book of Psalms offers gentle solace to our troubled hearts.

Before the book is opened, we stand alone, overwhelmed by misfortune. All avenues of escape appear to be closed. But upon entering the eternal words of Tehillim, the Psalmist says in the best known of all his verses: "Though I walk in the valley overshadowed by death, I will fear no evil, for *Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me* (Psalm 23:4)." A rod is something that causes pain and affliction. Seen on its own, it is rather frightening. However, as we come to understand and realize that the "rod of punishment" is also a "staff" that provides protection, support and aid, a sense of comfort and courage envelops us.

The Radak (Rabbi David Kimchi 1160-1235) explains that King David, author of most of the psalms, knew this well. As a shepherd, he used one stick for two purposes: as a "rod" to get the sheep to their place and to strike out harmful creatures, and as a "staff" upon which to lean his weary body. Thus, says the Radak, the rod symbolizes pain and suffering and the staff represents redemption and salvation. We can see from this merger of concepts that HaShem balances pain with salvation, bringing comfort to us.

The *Midrash Shochor Tov* mentions that King David prayed to HaShem, "Let the one who says Tehillim be worthy in your eyes as if one would have learned the laws of *Negaim* [laws concerning spots on the skin] and *Oholot* [laws concerning impurities under a roof]."

The Ksav Sofer (Rabbi Shmuel Binyamin Sofer, 1815-1872) explained, "Why especially these two laws? The halachah of *negaim* [leprosy] is that only a kohen can decide whether or not it is pure or impure. Even if the kohen is uneducated and he must ask a scholar for advice, only the kohen can pronounce 'pure' or 'impure.' From this we learn that even if a kohen does not know the Halachah, his words have the power to make someone pure or impure."

King David prayed for a similar effect, continued the Ksav Sofer: "Even if the person saying Tehillim does not understand the meaning of the words, let his words have the power of the kohen and accomplish what they were meant to do."

There are 150 chapters in all printed editions of Tehillim. In *Magechet Sofrim,* however, we find there that there are only 147. The *Minchas Chai* points out that the Talmud (Berachot 9B) considers the first two chapters as one. The Radak considers Chapter 115 as part of Chapter 114 and 117

Continued on page B28

Seven influences chosen

Continued from page B8

Subsequent to my discovery of and attraction to the Gideon approach, I was to read Oswald Spengler's *Decline of the West* and then the refutation of metaphysics by 20th-century philosophers. But Gideon revealed to me the satisfaction of developing an internally consistent theory, even if it could not ultimately be externally consistent or unique.

5. *Philosophical Investigations* by Ludwig Wittgenstein.

Wittgenstein is to philosophy what Masaccio is to art and architecture or what Louis Pasteur is to science – someone whose vision changed a field of endeavour forever. For someone entranced by the sound and etymology of language, by its power and musicality, it was a revelation to have yet another aspect unfold – that of the discipline of meaning.

6. *Systems of Survival* by Jane Jacobs.

The novelty and simplicity of Jacobs' explanation of social behaviour and motivation in *Systems of Survival* is breathtaking. It is a book that leaves one with that wonderful "aha" feeling: aha, that's how it works. Her division of the world into traders (employing mercantile behaviour) and guardians (those entrusted with the public good) gives an extraordinarily coherent understanding of society. The confusion conservative governments make of these roles – the precept that government should be run like a business – has lead to a diminution of the public realm. The dilution of the guardian role among professionals, such as accounting professionals who acted as traders and not as guardians, has led in some measure to the current economic debacle in the stock market.

7. Pablo Neruda and Roy Campbell.

Neruda and Campbell are two poets who perhaps have not influenced me but who represent to me the deep pleasure the language of poetry can provide: Neruda, for the language of romance, sensuality and pain; Campbell, for the exhilaration of word combinations and the powerful imagery these invoke.

Jack Diamond is a partner with the firm Diamond and Schmitt Architects Incorporated.

A freak snowstorm in the North of Israel last year, created a scene more familiar to Canadians than to Israelis.

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"The recitation of Psalms can help us"

Continued from page B26

as a continuation of 16, which brings the total to 147.

The Kisei Rachamim suggests that this particular number was chosen to correspond with the years of life of our patriarch Jacob. This is because Jacob, in a prophetic-mystical way, recited psalms while watching Laban's flock throughout the night. To be sure, nighttime is a metaphor for exile. Jacob is the one who begged HaShem to reveal the End of Days (see Rashi at the beginning of Parshat Vayechi — Genesis 47:28). Jacob is the one who pleaded with HaShem for peace and tranquillity.

In our times, we are living through dramatic and traumatic events. The world is in an upheaval, and to survive these trying times, we steady ourselves with faith and trust. Israel is the focal point of the entire world. As Reb Nachman of Breslov said, "Jerusalem is the eye of the universe." The recitation of Psalms can help us through both personal and collective trauma and unite us with fellow Jews the world over.

Rabbi Aryeh Levin of Jerusalem, a man of rare compassion and sensitivity, attempted to comfort a recently widowed woman who came to his home crying uncontrollably. All of his efforts to console the distraught widow were fruitless, until she said, "Rabbi, I will accept your words of consolation on one condition: Please tell me what happened to all of my tears. I prayed and prayed for my late husband, I recited chapter after chapter of Tehillim, and shed thousands of tears. My very soul flowed into those tears. Were they all wasted?"

Gently, Rav Aryeh replied, "After 120 years, when you leave this world and ascend to the heavenly tribunal, you will see how meaningful and precious your tears were. You will discover that God himself gathered up and counted every single teardrop, treasuring it like a priceless gem. And you will discover that whenever some harsh decree was looming over the Jewish people, one of your tears came and washed it away, nullifying it completely. One sincere tear is a source of salvation in the world!"

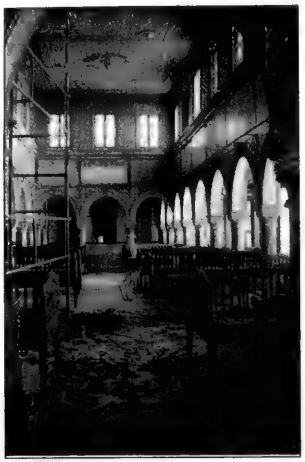
Upon hearing this, the woman burst into a fresh flow of tears – not tears of grief, but tears of courage and hope.

So there it is, the Book of Psalms, the book that has profoundly affected me in many ways. It is a book that can affect any reader whose heart is open and whose spirit yearns for elevation. I pray that you too can be similarly moved and uplifted by its holy words.

Rabbi Stern is the spiritual leader of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation in Toronto.

Dry Bones
WE JEWS SPRING AHEAD INTO THE NEW YEAR...
BY LOOKING BACK AT THE YEAR THAT'S PAST.
WOW.
THIS EXPLAINS WHY WE KEEP BUMPING INTO THINGS!

Anti-Semitism abroad



SHULS OF EUROPE VANDALIZED:
Anti-Semetic acts were perpetrated last year throughout Europe. (From left) synagogues in Tunisia, England and France. [RNS/Reuters photos]

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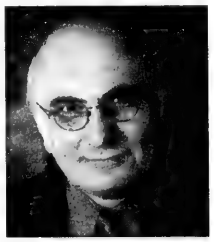
Ces lectures qui nous habitent

By VICTOR TEBOUL

Lire est toujours associé chez moi au plaisir des sens. Je me souviendrai toujours de mon professeur d'arabe qui n'ouvrait jamais un livre sans en contempler d'abord la couverture; il tournait ensuite la première page et semblait la caresser lorsqu'il l'aplanissait de sa main en s'apprêtant à nous la lire à haute voix. Il nous communiquait, par son geste, la jouissance que lui avait procurée le livre avant même de commencer sa lecture. "Une personne seule dans une chambre paraît toujours étrange, ce qui n'est pas le cas si elle est absorbée à lire", aimait-il nous dire.

Je comprenais que le livre était un excellent compagnon dans la solitude. Grâce à ce professeur de langue arabe, je reconnais très vite aujourd'hui ceux et celles qui ont une véritable affection pour les livres; c'est dans leur façon de les toucher qu'ils se révèlent à moi.



Plus tard, lors de mes études de journalisme, mon professeur de lettres était si passionné de littérature qu'il me mettait l'eau à la bouche lorsqu'il nous lisait certains extraits des œuvres au programme. En l'écoutant, j'avais envie de croquer ces mots qui se roulaient entre ses dents comme des fruits succulents. Comment, en plus, pouvais-je résister lorsqu'un des ouvrages dont il nous parlait sans cesse avait pour titre *Les Nourritures terrestres*? C'est grâce à lui que je découvrais André Gide et Albert Camus, et la sensualité toute méditerranéenne dont est imprégné *L'Étranger*. Je me souviens de ce professeur interrompant sa lecture pour que nous puissions savourer avec lui la sonorité de telle ou telle expression. "Écoutez! Écoutez!", répétait-il en détachant lentement les sons des mots. "Aurore" était, pour lui, le plus beau mot de la langue française, car il résonnait d'images et de sons. Je n'oublierai jamais le professeur Guy Boulizon.

* * *

Il y a des livres qui arrivent dans notre vie sans que nous sachions pourquoi. Mais, comme on le sait, les coïncidences ne sont jamais tout à fait fortuites.

C'est dans un souk, à Tunis, que j'ai acheté mon premier livre: *Le Journal d'Anne Frank*. J'avais douze ans, nous arrivions, mes parents et moi, de Marseille, d'où nous avions été refoulés, n'ayant pas le visa d'entrée exigé par les autorités françaises. J'avais très certainement déjà entendu parler de ce livre pour qu'il ait si bien retenu mon attention. Je m'associais sans doute aux thèmes très connus de l'histoire: fuite, refuge, guerre, persécution. N'étions-nous pas des réfugiés, expulsés d'Égypte? Étant à court de ressources, nous venions même de nous présenter aux bureaux tunisiens de la HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), l'organisme qui devait assurer les frais du voyage pour notre retour en France. J'avais de bonnes raisons sans doute de m'identifier à Anne Frank.

Après que mes parents eurent obtenu le visa pour la France, je me souviens que, sur le pont du navire en route pour Marseille, j'étais assis sur une chaise longue, emmitouflé dans une couverture, et que j'avais lu d'une traite ce "livre de poche". À notre arrivée, j'avais mal aux doigts de l'avoir serré si fort durant la traversée.

J'écrivais moi-même mon propre journal, ayant commencé sa rédaction lors des événements de Suez, et je découvrais d'étranges coïncidences avec cet ouvrage. Comme Anne Frank, j'avais éprouvé, dès les premières pages, le besoin d'expliquer qui j'étais avant d'entreprendre la description des événements du premier jour. Je reconnaissais, à la lecture de ce livre, la force de l'écriture. Non pas celle qui vous permet de vous survivre, comme on dit, ou de toucher la corde sensible de votre lecteur, mais celle, plus simple, plus terre à terre, de vous accompagner au cours d'une vie. Cela me fascinait qu'Anne Frank ait pu donner un prénom à son journal et qu'elle lui adressât la parole comme à une amie. Elle décrivait les événements de la journée en commençant par "Chère Kitty" et finissait par "À toi, Anne".

"Le papier est patient" écrira-t-elle à quelques reprises. Comme si l'écriture absorbait ses peines et la libérait en

Suite à la page B33

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The Zionist Idea: *A rich storehouse of thoughts that still resonate*

By GIL TROY

I first read Arthur Hertzberg's *The Zionist Idea: A Historical Analysis and Reader* when I was in high school. In truth, I did not read all 638 pages of this anthology of key Zionist writings cover to cover, then or ever. This is a book to be sampled and savoured. I am now on my second well-thumbed copy, for the book opened my eyes to a rich ideological universe that debated the essential tensions between Judaism and the modern world.

The book begins with a nearly 100 page introduction covering the history of early Zionism. I have read that authoritative overview repeatedly over the years. The introduction is followed by excerpts from the writings of nearly 40 Zionist thinkers, all of whom were born before 1900. So many different Zionisms, and so many different Judaisms, come to life in the book: Theodor Herzl's political Zionism and Ahad Ha'am's cultural Zionism, Nahum Syrkin's socialist Zionism and A.D. Gordon's labour Zionism, Micah Berdichveski's secular Zionism and Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook's religious Zionism, David Ben-Gurion's activist Zionism and Ze'ev Jabotinsky's revisionist Zionism. And there are obscure Zionists with their own Zionisms represented here as well, the Zionism of Rabbi Meir Bar Ilan and of Horace Mayer Kallen, of Samuel Hayyim Landau and of Rabbi Yehudah Alkalai.

Remarkably, this cornucopia of now relatively old ideas still feels both relevant and resonant. It overflows with insights about our present predicament as moderns and as Jews. Here, for example is Moses Hess, writing in 1862 about the strain on modern Jews and Christians battling between faith and reason:

"Jewish rationalists, who have as little reason to remain within the fold of Judaism as have the Christian rationalists for clinging to Christianity, are as inventive as their Christian friends in discovering new pretexts for the existence of a religion which, by the logic of their position, no longer has any raison d'etre."

Here, half a century later, is Jacob Klatzkin, articulating what we would now call the ethnic basis of a modern Jew's identity: "To be a Jew means the acceptance of neither a religious nor an ethical creed. We are neither a denomination nor a school of thought, but members of one family, bearers of a common history."

All these thinkers are struggling with the question that confounds so many modern Jews today: Why bother? Once we left the shtetl, once we stopped believing in the compulsory nature of the covenant and of Jewish law, once we could assimilate, why remain Jewish? And once we figured out why, the question became – and remains – how. How do we build an identity that is meaningful, authentic, rooted and real? How do we balance the anchors of Judaism with the freedoms of the modern world? How do we make something out of our Judaism and avoid the ennui of so many North American "nothings" who have abandoned their traditions, be they Jewish or non-Jewish?

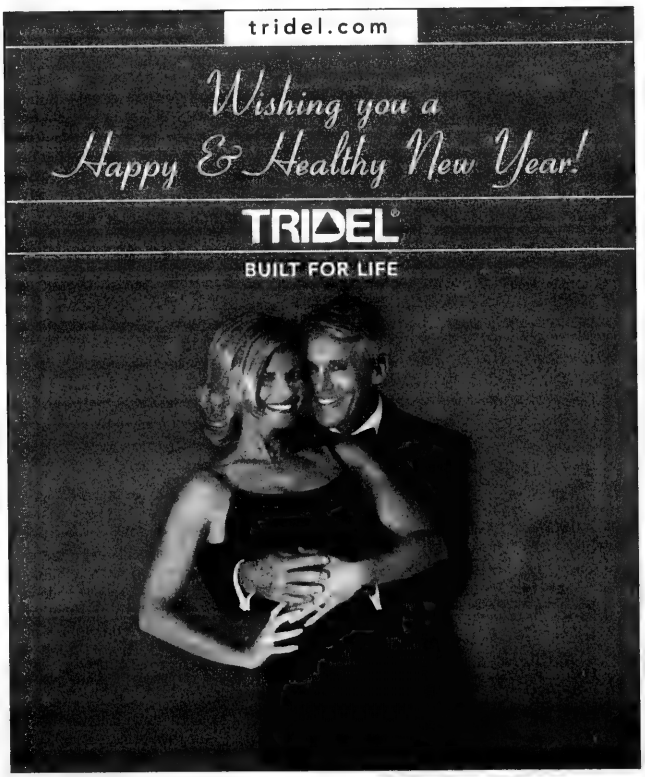
> 'A century ago, Herzl said, "If you will it, it is no dream." Fifty years later, we can yet again cry " *Im tirzu, ayn zu aggadah*" '

Many of these Zionists were revolutionaries and subversives. They questioned many things about the modern world and sought to incorporate their Judaism and their Zionism into a broader vision of a better world. Marxist revolution has never been my thing, but I loved the reach of Ber Borochov's *The National Question and the Class Struggle*, trying to solve all the problems of the world, along with *the* Jewish problem, at once. I thrilled to the criticism often lobbed against the establishment, against the status quo, against Jewish passivity in Europe: Ahad Ha'am's complaint about how the Oral Law had become "fossilized"; Joseph Hayyim Brenner's critique that European Jewish history was "not a history of Sanctification of the Name, but a history of awaiting the chance to assimilate… The expulsions and the ghettos – these assured our survival"; and Brenner's lament that whenever Jews enjoyed a little bit of acceptance from their European neighbours, "[they] immediately starting aping them in everything, gave in on everything, and mustered the last of their meager strength to be like everyone else."

Of course, *The Zionist Idea* is no mere stroll around the modern identity smorgasbord. It is about Zionism, which is Jewish nationalism. Zionism places Israel front and centre in the Jewish national experience and narrative. All Zionists agree with Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, who said that "Eretz Israel is not something apart from the soul of the Jewish people; it is no mere national possession, serving as a means of unifying our people and buttressing its material, or even its spiritual survival. Eretz Israel is part of the very essence of our nationhood; it is bound organically to its very life and inner being."

One of the things that has always intrigued me about *The Zionist Idea* is that none of the writers emerged as my absolute favourite. I learned from their insights. I agreed with some, disagreed with others. I relished their engage-

Continued on page B34



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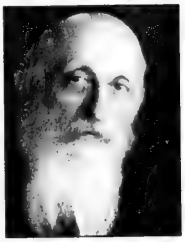
Making the connection between addictions and spirituality

By RABBI ABRAHAM TWERSKI

Torah literature abounds with invaluable books. Choosing a favourite is almost like asking which of your children you love the most.

Nevertheless, the book that had the greatest impact on me is *Path of the Just* (*Mesilas Yeshorim*) by Rabbi Moshe Chaim Luzzatto (the Ramchal). I am not alone in this. The Gaon of Vilna said that, had they been contemporaries, he would have walked barefoot to learn *mussar* (ethics) from Rabbi Luzzatto. Before leaving his house, the Gaon would review a chapter of *Mesilas Yeshorim* 13 times!



For the past 30 years in my practice, I have largely been treating people addicted to alcohol or drugs. It is noteworthy that in reprimanding the Israelites, the prophets compare them to alcoholics, because behaviour that deviates from Torah is very similar to an alcoholic's behaviour. Instead of being dominated by alcohol, many people live under the compulsion of pursuit of wealth or acclaim, which, like alcohol or drugs, are insatiable drives. Others are addicted to one or more of a myriad of physical indulgences. Typically, they deny that their behaviour is errant, and may give ingenious rationalizations to justify their actions. They succeed in deceiving themselves even more than others.

The necessary steps to overcome any of these addictions involve the pursuit of spirituality. *Mesilas Yeshorim* is a text on spirituality. Many people may read *Mesilas Yeshorim* and be in full agreement with Rabbi Luzzatto, but make no changes in their lives. The alcoholic who comes to treatment has reached a point where he must make significant changes if he is to survive. The non-alcoholic mussar reader may not have this sense of desperation.

Unprecedented scientific advances have extended the human life span and have given us many inventions that make life more comfortable, to the point where our culture has become hedonistic. As Ramban says, ritual Torah observance can result in a person being a "frum" hedonist. But while technology has made life more comfortable, it has not made life more meaningful. Spirituality is what gives meaning to life.

Mesilas Yeshorim is a primer on spirituality. It is also a text for a graduate course on spirituality.

Rabbi Twerski, M.D., is the medical director of the Gateway Rehabilitation Center in Pittsburgh, Penn., an associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and the author of several books.

Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham chats with his Israeli counterpart, Shimon Peres, during a visit to Israel last year.

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Ces lectures qui nous habitent

Suite de la page B30

quelque sorte de ses sombres pensées.

* * *

À la fin des années 1960, je suis tombé amoureux du Québec et de sa littérature. *Salut Galarneau!*, le roman de Jacques Godbout, compte certainement parmi les oeuvres littéraires de cette époque qui m'ont le plus marqué. François, le héros, incarne avec une candeur tellement poétique l'esprit anti-matérialiste de cette période.

J'apprenais qu'au Québec, le soleil avait un nom... propre: Galarneau. Depuis, lorsque je suis au bord de la mer, je pense toujours à ce sentiment d'éternité qu'éprouvait François au contact avec l'eau. Ce roman m'a permis d'apprécier encore plus Gaston Bachelard. Comment, en effet, ne pas se sentir éternel en contemplant l'eau, l'eau de la mer, des lacs ou du fleuve? Je sais que j'ai partagé le rêve de François Galarneau, soit celui d'être un écrivain de la vraie vie ou, comme il disait, de "vécrire". Grâce à ce livre, j'ai découvert qu'on pouvait écrire comme on respirait; c'était aussi naturel. Enfin, presque!

Plus tard, j'ai été séduit par l'univers romanesque de Michel Tremblay et par la sensibilité de cet écrivain. Je ne connais pas d'auteur qui aime autant ses personnages. *La Grosse femme d'à côté est enceinte* m'a touché profondément. Je retrouvais dans ce livre le monde merveilleux de l'enfance; il m'a révélé une période de l'histoire du Québec que je n'ai pas connue. Le récit se déroule en une seule journée au mois de mai 1942, quelques jours après le référendum sur la conscription, au cours duquel, comme on le sait, le Québec vota massivement contre le service militaire obligatoire.

Dans ce roman, paru en 1978, Tremblay pose un regard critique rafraîchissant sur le contexte entourant la crise de la conscription, regard probablement sans égal dans la littérature. Je me souviens d'une scène, qui a lieu dans une taverne, où un personnage du nom de Willy Ouellette remet les pendules à l'heure en osant contester les idées reçues de son entourage sur la guerre. Cette scène constitue un véritable morceau d'anthologie.

En tant que professeur de littérature - initié très tôt au plaisir des mots et à leur pouvoir de résonance, comment aurais-je pu échapper à mon destin?- j'estime que l'écrivain idéal est celui qui captive son lecteur et ne tient pas coûte que coûte à communiquer un "message". En fait, j'aime que le texte "respire", que je puisse lire entre les lignes... et rêvasser.

Victor Teboul est écrivain et professeur de littérature. Son nouveau roman La Lente Découverte de l'étrangeté *(Éditions les Intouchables) a pour cadre l'expulsion des Juifs d'Égypte à la suite de la guerre de Suez. Son site Internet est accessible à partir de l'adresse suivante http://www.victorteboul.com*

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A trilogy for the Yamim Nora'im

By Shel Krakofsky

The Eyes of Tashlich

mere hours after
being dipped and engulfed
in a mikvah of honey
the apple is now brown and sour

obeying Micah's admonition
we turn our pockets and souls
inside out
pollute the cleansing stream

flowing and scaled
with the justice of cold-blooded fish
their eyes always open
nowhere a blink of forgiveness

we use crumbs of leavened bread
teasing those fish to rise
to the surface, shamelessly
using sins for bait

our own necks up to water
ablution incomplete
we try to reach Mount Moriah
for a final thrust of trust

next week we immerse ourselves
beside the tainted hungry fish
we thirst for purification
the fish, for our return

Continued on page B35

A rich storehouse

Continued from page B31

the stunning array of opinions and visions. *The Zionist Idea* was less my manifesto than my launching pad, far more my spur to seek out and develop my own ideas than to dictate any concepts for me to echo or embrace.

During these trying and traumatic days, I find solace in thumbing through *The Zionist Idea*. For starters, the ideas and the idealism, the humanitarianism and the utopianism, offer a reality check, a factual contrast to the ugly slurs launched against Zionism. Reading *The Zionist Idea* reminds us of Zionism as it was and ought to be, not as it is caricatured and libelled, by both friends and foes. Zionism emerges as a rich, rollicking, multi-dimensional and many-splendored phenomenon. In this accurate series of snapshots, Zionism is not a synonym for racism, nor is a Zionist a political hack or bureaucrat or fanatic. *The Zionist Idea* reminds us that Zionism today can once again be an electric, inspiring movement, defined not just by the politics of the moment but by the possibilities of the future.

When you consider just how miserable conditions were in Europe and Palestine when these authors were writing, our current situation does not seem so bleak. A century ago, Herzl said, "If you will it, it is no dream." He dreamed of a Jewish state, and his wish came true 50 years later. Now, 50 years after that, we can yet again cry "*Im tirzu, ayn zu aggadah*," this time dreaming of peace in our old-new homeland, and success in our common human quest as Jews and as moderns to find meaning and satisfaction in our inner lives as well.

Gil Troy is a professor of history at McGill University. His book Why I Am A Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today *is now in its second printing.*

A trilogy for the Yamim Nora'im

Continued from page B34

Yom Kippur, A Day for Atonement

to the memory of
Levi Yitzchak
of Berdichev

i'm only here today
to be with family and friends
much nicer than you
and to escape the hordes
i fear more than you
and to proclaim that
i like my neighbors more
than you love your people

yes, we pollute
are often cruel
to each other
even kill
but when it comes to killing
you are the biggest murderer
the winner
who eventually takes us all
and shamelessly admits it
with the divine arrogance of
famine, earthquakes, hurricanes

if you listen closely today
(though i think you are now
beyond hearing aids)
maybe you can learn something
about love and justice
although on spreading guilt
you have no peer
peddling the damaged goods
your prophets
and rabbinic wholesalers
try to sell in exchange for
charity, prayer, return

it is you who is on trial
not us
so let's just be civil about
this whole atonement business;
when you close the gates of judgement
just use a screen door
and maybe i'll give you
another chance

i'm not yet brave enough
to ignore the passionate blast
of the ram's horn
so i'll just pen you in
for the same kind of year
you have in mind
for the rest of us
from now on
you can start
to take out your own garbage
you'll hear no hebrew from me today
a language you no longer speak
or seem to understand

Rounding Third

I have seen it drip to the end
with agonizing rust
or snuffed quickly as glass
under the wedding canopy

in this lateness of middle age
with spaghetti spine, a heart
that misfires like a speeding drunk
I ask to be spared from taking up golf
fishing for minnows or lying in a
hammock sedated with boredom

don't make me listen to
the piety of tepid aphorisms
or provide a nurse, however luscious
to clean up my drool and stool
save me from family visiting
too often or not enough

oh Lord
gird me, strengthen me, lift me up
to lasso the occasional cloud
make thunder clap with my pen's swirl
subdue and shrivel lightning
with good intentions alone

teach me to scream
without raising my voice
leave me a mind with
at least lacunae of elegance

even as I crawl rounding third
let me come home standing up

Shel Krakofsky has twice received the National Jewish Book Prize. He practises medicine in London, Ont. All poems are reprinted with permission by the author.

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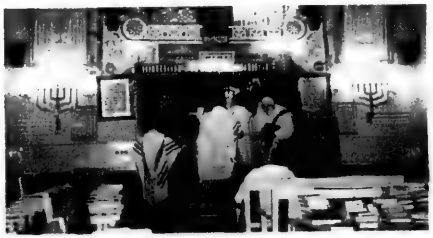
The Jews of Iran



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: Mothers waiting for their children in the synagogue courtyard in Isfahan; Judaica iten for sale in Tehran; worshippers in Tehran synagogue; the tombs of Esther and Mordechai in Hamadan; Esther's coffin. [Malcolm Alexandroff photos]

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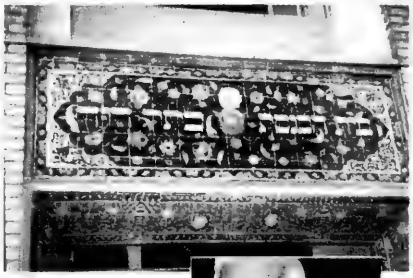

The Jews of Iran

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: The synagogue entrance in Isfahan; a shopkeeper family in Isfahan; a store in Tehran; the gate of the synagogue in Tehran; an Isfahan shopkeeper; a Tehran shopkeeper.
[Malcolm Alexanderoff photos]

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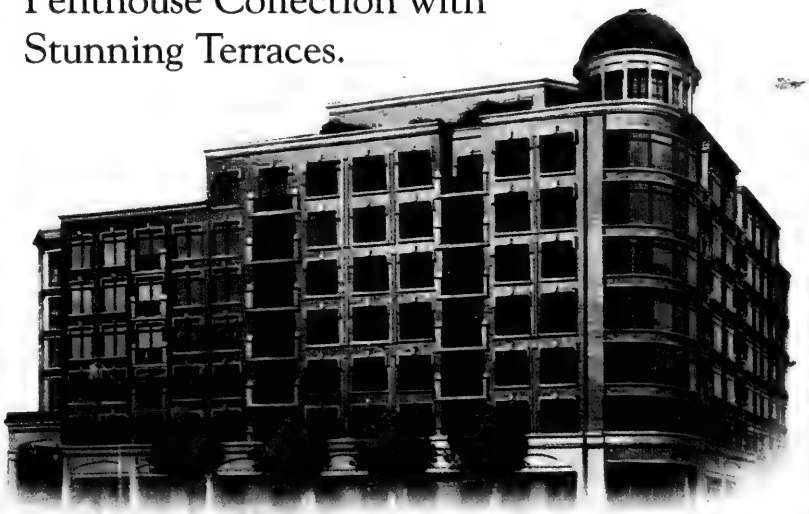

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The elusive shekel

By EDGAR ASHER
CJN Israel Bureau

As the recession in Israel continues its apparently inexorable downward trend, many institutions that rely on donations are finding it more and more difficult to solicit funds. Many well-known and established institutions that look after those in need receive a major part of their funding from government sources, and shortfalls have generally been covered by non-governmental bodies and private donations. Today, as the recession in Israel bites harder and traditional sources of income from abroad have also been curtailed due to a harsher global business climate, many of Israel's organizations dedicated to improving the lifestyles of the disabled and sick and needy people are finding themselves in serious financial straits.

As if matters were not bad enough, the governmental bodies that grant funds to institutions, such as the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and local authorities, have all had their own budgets reduced dramatically as the country tightens its belt. These institutions now have to hunker down and face what would seem to be a long period of rising costs, reduced income and fewer volunteers.

Shekel, which in Hebrew is the acronym for "community services for the disabled," is one such organization. It has in its care over 4,500 Jewish and Arab children and adults. Many of the recipients of its aid programs are severely developmentally and/or physically disabled, and often require intensive, round-the-clock care and supervision. The organization maintains 43 group homes in Jerusalem, Petach Tikvah and the Bedouin town of Rahat. Three of these homes serve people with multiple disabilities; dedicated professional and volunteer helpers attempt to give each individual the maximum attention and mental stimulation.

David Goodman, originally from Johannesburg, is the director of the community housing project in Jerusalem.

"I joined Shekel 18 months ago," he says. "I am a social worker by profession working with people who have special needs and multiple handicaps or emotional needs... We don't specialize in a particular handicap – we work with everybody."

Goodman was speaking from a duplex apartment that is home to six women over 30. These women have varying degrees of developmental disabilities and are learning to live together in a Shekel-supervised apartment.

"Originally, this house was used as an emergency house, as the women who came here were generally [developmentally delayed] and being abused by their families," Goodman says. "Now this is the permanent home...

"The present group of six women come from different backgrounds and different experiences. There is one woman from Ethiopia who knew no Hebrew when she came to the apartment. She had been sexually abused in Ethiopia; as a result, she gave birth to two children who are now in an institution in Haifa. A lot of the work here is to give her a new connection with her children. The children sometimes come to Jerusalem for the weekend and she sometimes goes to Haifa with a Shekel helper to visit them.

"We aim that a typical day for our young ladies will be like that of any other citizen," Goodman says. "The only difference is that they need a little extra help when they wake up in the morning. Today, all six commute to work by public transport on their own. When they first arrived here, they needed special rides to take them around."

From 8 a.m. to about 3 p.m., the house is empty. Five of the women work in places not connected with Shekel and one works in a Shekel-operated sheltered workshop.

"The furniture you see was chosen by the women, as this is their permanent home," Goodman says. "They have a say as to how they will live; this is very important. I might also point out that before these ladies came here, they had not even chosen their own clothes, which now they do.

Menachem Yochanan supervises the physical therapy of Dror.

"There is, of course, similar housing for men as we have no mixed housing," says Goodman. "This doesn't mean that there is no social interaction between the houses. The ladies also go to social clubs, take part in plays and handicraft classes... they are sociable, happy and outgoing.

"Until they came here, nobody asked them what they wanted and what food they would like. Now they are part of their own destiny."

In Jerusalem, Shekel also operates four special vocational workshops for some 150 people with developmental and physical disabilities. Three of the workshops and Shekel's administrative centre are located in Jerusalem's Talpiot industrial area. The fourth is in a religious neighbourhood and caters only to men who are observant. The workshops are a hive of activity. Many participants, young and old, have various mobility problems and a large variety of special wheelchairs, many motorized, move around the workshop area. Several local businesses provide the workshops with jobs that require limited skill or concentration, although some projects require more dexterity.

Chisa Segawa, 30, and Kayoko Akutsu, 31, are both from Tokyo. They knew each other before volunteering at the Shekel workshop and both have visited Israel before.

Continued on page B39

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5763

Organization launched in 1979

Continued from page B38

"This is my third time in Israel and I volunteered to assist in vocational rehabilitation twice a week," says Segawa. "I came in April and I will spend about eight months here before I go home."

Both Segawa and Akutsu are members of the International Women's Federation of World Peace.

Akutsu, who is a trained cosmetician, has been to Israel twice before. She also volunteers at the workshop twice a week.

"I sometimes do worry about the security situation as I go around Jerusalem, but it wouldn't make me cut my visit short," she says.

Both Segawa and Akutsu have enough knowledge of Hebrew to communicate and help those who come to the workshop.

Shekel was established in 1979 by the Joint Distribution Committee in Jerusalem, Haifa, Bat Yam and Rehovot. The institutions in the three other locations have since stopped operating and the recipients of the aid have been absorbed into other local organizations. Today, Shekel focuses on community participation and integration. The emphasis on Jerusalem is in no small part due to the active support of the municipality.

"It costs about $9 million (US) to run Shekel activities every year," explains Clara Feldman, Shekel's executive director. "Between 70 and 75 per cent of our income comes from the government and local authorities. Most of the recipients of Shekel programs receive help throughout their lives for housing and training programs and this is protected somewhat by the law, which stipulates that the government must always support people [with disabilities]."

Shekel was established by the Joint Distribution Committee in Jerusalem

Feldman points out that all government and local authority grants are earmarked for special projects and this sometimes causes major problems when one particular program is underfunded.

"We are always appealing to private foundations and individuals in Israel and abroad to help us make up our shortfall."

One hostel that caters to children with multiple handicaps may have to close its doors when funds run out. The hostel, in the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Har Nof, allows parents who have disabled children at home to send them there for a short time. This gives the parents a brief, much-needed period of relaxation. The professional work is very demanding and intense (a child who is severely autistic and/or developmentally disabled needs one-on-one attention). For the families of these children, the Shekel hostel represents the only possibility of some respite from the daily trauma of looking after their child at home.

"The older and bigger the child gets, the bigger the problem in dealing with their day-to-day needs," says Feldman. "For example, it is impossible for many parents to lift a fully grown person into and out of a wheelchair to attend to their basic needs – just think about it."

Feldman makes it clear that if Shekel did not exist, most of the recipients of these programs would just stay at home all day.

Continued on page B40

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Shekel deals with all aspects of the lives of the disabled

Continued from page B39

"We are not the only organization in Israel that helps... but Shekel is unique in the way it does it," Feldman says. "We deal with all aspects of the life of the disabled, such as housing, leisure time and training programs every day of the year. We do not have a segregated system, we work with all kinds of handicapped people and with all strata of society – religious, non-religious, Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs. We have a very professional team and one helps the other, which is very important for the handicapped themselves."

Shekel has about 400 staff from all over Israel and some 200 local volunteers. Before the start of the intifadah, a large number of young volunteers came from abroad, some of whom used to work at Shekel for up to 15 months. They were given apartments during their stay and were reimbursed for their travel expenses and given spending money.

"Now," says Feldman, "they just don't come. I need to employ people to fill the gaps left by the lack of overseas volunteers, but I have no budget for this."

Shekel's activities are directed mainly to people with developmental disabilities, who represent some 60 per cent of those receiving help from the organization. Some 25 to 30 per cent of them have both mental and physical problems. The remainder have emotional illnesses, drug and drink-related problems or are homeless.

"We do not refuse anybody help; we give him the help he needs, specially tailored to his requirements," says Feldman.

Menachem Yochanan is responsible for three apartments in Jerusalem and one apartment in Petach Tikvah. Each apartment caters to children and young people with multiple handicaps.

Slavik (left) and Rental communicate by means of a special device.

"This apartment, which is situated in the Gilo neighbourhood is home for six; they grow up together, and professional help comes to them in the community, rather than [having them] sent to an institution," Yochanan says. "We have found that this integrated policy [brings] great dividends to the welfare and improvement of the children. In Petach Tikvah, we have a hostel for 16 profoundly handicapped young people, but unfortunately, unlike our experience in Jerusalem, we get no help from the local authority."

Yochanan is in charge of the professional group and the volunteers who work in the four apartments. He has to remain within the budget for food, transport and special services. He also is responsible for keeping in close contact with the parents of the children.

"I must tell you that the relationship between the parents and Shekel is of the very best. You have to understand that

Continued on page B41

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BORDER INSPECTION: U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell on a visit last year to northern Israel with General Moshe Ya'alon. Ya'alon would subsequently become Israel's chief of staff. [Israel Sun photo]

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5763

A sixth child, Dror, is a success story

Continued from page B40

this apartment is their home forever and we try to make their lives as constructive and happy as possible."

On one visit, five children are being prepared for an outing to a swimming pool. A sixth child, Dror, will join them later as he has to have some physiotherapy, supervised by Yochanan.

"When Dror first came to the apartment two years ago, he was nine years old. He was like a baby, he only drank from a bottle and ate only puréed food. He didn't know how to speak. Today Dror is advancing so much, to our great pleasure. He is learning to walk with the aid of a walking aid and he no longer wears diapers. You can have a simple conversation with him and he loves looking at pictures. He now goes to a special school which is able to maximize his potential. He has four normal brothers and a fifth brother who also has some disabilities.

"Dror for us is undoubtedly a success story. There is no doubt that the more time you can invest into a child the more you will get back in their improvement. One has to have patience."

In the meantime, Galia, who will soon be 30 years old, is preparing the evening meal for the children when they return from the pool. Galia lives on her own in a Shekel apartment with a small amount of regular supervision.

Galia cooks in her Shkel apartment. **[Isranet photos]**

Galia is also somewhat delayed, but she is able to contribute in a way that helps both Shekel and herself. She receives a small monthly wage for her services.

Her help is very important, Yochanan says. "We don't have volunteers today because of the political situation. Usually we need six volunteers in each apartment. Today we have two professionals in the apartment at night and four during the day... Galia's degree of responsibility is very high."

Adrienne Dodi, Shekel's director of resource development, says, "Most organizations start off at the initiative of parents or volunteers. Shekel started out at as a result of professionals seeing a need.

"They saw that in much of the western world there was a trend for handicapped people to gradually move from institutions back to the community. In order to further the development of these services, they realized that they would have to create a framework for this to happen.

"Shekel is the result of this new thinking. Shekel believes that the place for everyone is in the community. Ideally, no one should be confined to an institution."

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[RNS/Reuters photo]

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5763

Amsterdam: The 'mokum' of Jewish freedom

By MYRIAM SHECHTER

In a small park next to the world famous Amsterdam Portuguese Synagogue called the Esnoga stands the statue of a docker. A robust, simple man with a little paunch, his fists clenched, his feet firmly entrenched, he defies a world gone mad. On Feb. 25, 1941, together with other Dutch workers, he went on strike to protest the round-up of Amsterdam's Jews.

For me, this man – symbolically brought to life by artist Mari Andriessen – stands for Amsterdam, the haven for Jews from all over Europe, Sephardim and Ashkenazim alike, the place where, in 1796, Jews were granted equal rights with the Dutch citizens, the place where many gentiles rose to protest the deportation of the Jews and organized a large network to hide thousands of people from the Nazis.

The interior of the famous Portuguese Synagogue.

The tolerant Amsterdam of the Middle Ages is still tolerant in the third millennium. It tolerates coffeehouses where you can purchase drugs legally, it tolerates the famous red light district – by now a quaint tourist curiosity – and it tolerates the 17 million bicycles that make walking on its streets a constantly risky adventure. And it accepted the Jews when most of the world was chasing them from place to place.

Today, Amsterdam has a prosperous Jewish community that traces its origins to the end of the 16th century. Those first arrivals were, according to Prof. Carl Gebhardt, "Roman Catholics without faith and Jews without knowledge, but wishing to be Jews." However, over the next few centuries, this community would exert its influence over Jewish life in Europe and even in the New World.

But let us back up about one century and travel south to the Iberian Peninsula. In 1492, the Holy Inquisition gave Spain's Jews the choice of either conversion to Christianity or exile. Many fled to Portugal, where they were forcibly converted in 1497; these New Christians, most of them secret Jews, were under the constant close scrutiny and bloody persecution of the Inquisition. The Portuguese converts, also called Marranos, started looking for ways to escape from the Inquisition's grip, but at that time Holland, under Spanish domination and within reach of the Inquisition, was not a possibility. Instead, they spread into Northern Africa, Italy, France, Turkey and also on northern routes towards Belgium, Germany and even Scandinavia. It would take another century for the Marranos to find their way to Amsterdam.

In 1579, the Union of Utrecht established the Protestant Dutch provinces, finally independent from Spanish Catholic rule; one of the important terms of the union was "freedom of conscience." In this hospitable environment, and free from the dreaded arm of the Inquisition, Amsterdam became home to a flourishing Jewish community, where the Marranos, who had lost almost all their knowledge of Jewish beliefs and practices, joyously and openly returned to Judaism.

Originally, there were three Sephardi shul communities in Amsterdam: Beth Jacob, founded around 1602, Neveh Shalom, established between 1608 and 1612 by Jews of Spanish origin, and Beth Israel, founded in 1618. The three communities began co-operating in 1622, eventually merging in 1639 to form Talmud Torah, the Portuguese Jewish community of Amsterdam.

The founder of the Amsterdam community, Uri Halevy, entered history as the first rabbi to bring Marranos back to Judaism. His son Aaron, the community's mohel, performed close to 1,000 circumcisions, as the new arrivals returned formally to their ancestors' faith.

Continued on page B44

The Canadian Jewish news

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Country home to large population of Ashkenazi Jews

Continued from page B43

Another prominent figure from this period was Menasseh ben Israel, who became rabbi of the Neveh Shalom synagogue in 1622 when he was only 18 years old. A friend of Rembrandt's, who illustrated one of his books, Rabbi ben Israel was instrumental in obtaining admission to England for the Jews. He also founded the first Jewish printing house in Amsterdam which, in 1627, published the first Hebrew prayer book printed with Hebrew characters.

The highly educated Portuguese Jews – they maintained their Portuguese status to distance themselves from the hated Spanish identity – quickly integrated themselves into Dutch society, but conserved the memory of their ancestors' peregrinations from Portugal to Holland.

I talked to Rudie Cortissos, the president of Amsterdam's famed Portuguese Synagogue. Like most other Dutch Jews of Portuguese ancestry, he can trace his family's history all the way back to Portugal. The Cortissos fled first to Spain, then to France – Bayonne, Bordeaux, Rouen, Paris – then Brussels, Antwerp and finally to Amsterdam.

Beside the Portuguese community, Amsterdam also became home to a large population of Ashkenazi Jews. Around 1630, they began to arrive from central and eastern Europe, fleeing the violence of wars, persecution and pogroms. This was to be a group very different from the Sephardim. While the latter were wealthy, established merchants who maintained their Portuguese language but also quickly acquired a thorough knowledge of Dutch, the Ashkenazi refugees were penniless, destitute Yiddish speakers who took a long time to escape poverty.

Amsterdam's dock worker statue stands testimony to the city's protest of the round up of Jews during the Holocaust.

Jews were allowed to settle anywhere, did not have to wear distinctive clothing and were allowed to practise their religion freely. But they were banned from joining guilds and becoming registered tradesmen, and were thus unable to open shops or become craftsmen. The only guilds open to Jews were the brokers' guild – mostly beneficial to Portuguese Jews – and the printers' and surgeons' guilds.

In 1796, Jews were granted equal rights and eventually, with the development of the diamond industry, the Ashkenazi community began to prosper. The "Jewish" name for Amsterdam, "mokum," is their legacy, as Amsterdam became their "place" – *makom* in Hebrew – their free home at last.

The two communities – Portuguese and Ashkenazi – came from completely different backgrounds and, therefore, had separate places of worship.

The Portuguese community commissioned architect Elias Bouman to build them a magnificent synagogue, the Esnoga, or Snoga (derived from "synagogue"). Completed between 1671 and 1675 and modelled after the Temple of Solomon in Jerusalem, it was the largest synagogue in the world. The many surviving engravings and paintings made of this astonishing building show it unchanged today, after more than 300 years of continuous use.

Imagine walking into Esnoga's stately hall through its entrance, over which is written in Hebrew, "I shall enter Your house through Your abundant kindness," words which include within their letters the year 1672 (when the building was supposed to be ready) and the name Aboab, the chacham who initiated the building of the synagogue. Maybe it is Yom Kippur and more than 1,000 candles illuminate the warm wood of the ark, the bimah, and the seats facing each other across a central aisle. The members of the synagogue, most of whom trace their ancestry hundreds of years, wear ceremonial top hats.

The Esnoga has no electricity or central heating; during the winter months, a smaller synagogue, located in the low buildings surrounding the main structure, serves as the place of worship. These buildings also include classrooms for children, offices and the world famous Ets Haim library, the oldest operating Jewish library in the world. Its venerable bookshelves contain about 500 manuscripts, some dating from the 13th century, and about 30,000 printed titles from 1484 to the present day. An educational institute based on strict religious observance, the library extends its scope to cover philosophy, law, medicine, ethics, mysticism and even literature and music.

Rabbi Rosenberg, Ets Haim's librarian, kindly allowed me to handle some of the old manuscripts and medieval

Continued on page B45

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Anne Frank had huge impact on everyone who read her diary

Continued from page B44

printed books. It is impossible to describe the thrill, the emotion of touching these beautifully illustrated volumes that have been handled by generations of illustrious scholars such as Rabbi ben Israel, the philosopher Baruch Spinoza, or Isaac Aboab, the founder of the Esnoga. An unforgettable experience.

The medieval Ashkenazi community, in its turn, built for its members a number of synagogues, four of which were located on a complex very close to the Portuguese Synagogue in what was then the Jewish neighbourhood: the Great Synagogue (1671), the Obbene Shul (1685), the Dritt Shul (1700) and the New Synagogue (1752). Until 1943, each functioned separately as a place of prayer and study.

These four synagogues, and a mikvah located on the premises of the complex, were restored and reopened by Queen Beatrix in 1987 as the new Jewish Historical Museum, an architectural unit that links the past and the present, and serves as a permanent reminder of the history and culture of the Jews in Amsterdam and of the devastation of the Holocaust. (The museum, which first opened in 1932, had previously been located in the medieval Weigh House.)

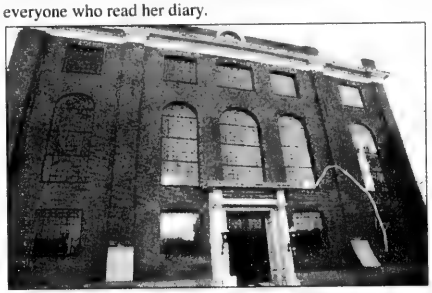
The area surrounding the Jewish Historical Museum, as well as the Portuguese Synagogue, is an open book of the history of the Dutch Jewish community. The former Jewish quarter juxtaposes medieval Jewish life and the terrible legacy of the Holocaust with Amsterdam's gracious architecture and the romantic network of its canals reflecting in their calm waters the fairy tale-like houses, the trees and the picturesque boathouses. Rembrandt lived here in his red-shuttered house, using his Jewish friends and neighbours as models for his paintings. The Waterlooplein Flea Market tells stories of the Jews, who, barred from owning shops, bought and sold goods on the street.

Not far from the market, a sombre black marble memorial is dedicated to the memory of Holocaust victims. Of Netherlands' 140,000 Jews – two thirds of whom lived in Amsterdam – 100,000 died in concentration camps. Sixteen thousand people went underground with the help of members of the Dutch Resistance; half of those were captured and deported, first to Westerbork, and from there to Auschwitz and Sobibor. In a small park on Weesperstraat, another monument honours "the protectors of the Dutch Jewish people during the occupation years."

The Resistance movement was formed by ordinary people who, because of their moral outrage, risked their lives to shelter the Jews and the young men called up for forced labour camps in Germany. They concealed thousands of people and found hiding places for children. They were the exceptional "hidden heroes" of this dark period.

Most famous among the Jews in hiding was Anne Frank, the young girl who left behind a diary that touched the world. The house on Prinsengracht Canal, where the Frank family was hidden between 1942 and 1945, has become a pilgrimage place and a testimony to the courage of those who dared oppose the Nazis.

Just around the corner from the house, a modest-sized statue of Anne Frank belies the huge impact the girl had on everyone who read her diary.



The Portuguese Synagogue of Amsterdam, the Esnoga.

* * *

I am sitting in the park next to the Portuguese Synagogue, saying goodbye to Amsterdam. I look at the celebrated building with a tinge of sadness. There are practically no more Jews living in the former Jewish quarter; other areas, such as the Amstelveen suburb, with its six new synagogues, are now home to the thriving Jewish community. It is too far to walk from there to the Esnoga for Shabbat or holiday services. From a pre-war membership of 4,700, the synagogue has only about 500 members left now. "We will have to close [it] down," ponders the Esnoga's president Rudie Cortissos, "but we will build a new one" where the members reside now.

And the Esnoga? It will eventually follow the example of the old Ashkenazi synagogues and become a museum, perhaps opening only for High Holy Day services. Together with the defiant statue of the docker, it will attest to the resilience of the Jewish people and of the country that adopted them.

Myriam Shechter is a travel and history writer who lives in Toronto.

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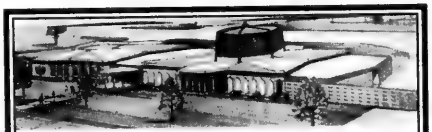

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University aids Argentinian students

By GAIL LICHTMAN
Israel Press Service

The year 5762 was not a good one for Argentina and its Jewish community of about 200,000, the largest in Latin America. Financially, the severe economic and political crisis all but wiped out most of the country's middle class and with it, most of the assets of the Jewish community.

But for some Argentinians, 5763 is holding out the promise of a better life, a new beginning in their old/new homeland – Israel – thanks to a special recruitment project recently launched by the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The one-year project, being conducted in co-operation with the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Student Authority and the Jerusalem Municipality, aims to encourage Argentinian students to study at the Hebrew University by offering them extra incentives beyond the standard tuition package for new immigrant students (paid by the Student Authority). These include offering qualified Argentinian students free dormitory rooms for the first year, additional financial aid and more flexible and quicker admissions processing (including Spanish-speaking personnel to assist the students).

HU Pharmacology Prof. Jaime Kapitulnik dispenses advice to students from Argentina. [Tay Or photo]

"The University is going out of its way to create the best conditions to facilitate the absorption of these students and is putting out the reddest of red carpets for them," says the university rector, Haim Rabinowitch.

As part of the project, Argentinian-born pharmacology professor Jaime Kapitulnik, who himself made aliyah in 1963, travelled to Argentina in February to interview 180 students referred to him by the Jewish Agency. More than 50 of them registered for the 2002-2003 academic year and have already arrived in Israel.

Kapitulnik had another trip planned this summer to the Jewish Agency's Expo Aliya and is confident that the project will include some 100 students for the coming academic year.

Martin Kohan, 28, grew up in Concepcion del Uruguay, where his father is a doctor and hospital department head. He completed bachelor's degrees in biochemistry and chemistry in Buenos Aires and will be starting a special master's program in medical research at the Hebrew University's faculty of medicine that will enable him to continue on and work towards a PhD in four years.

"I came to Israel because I am a Jew," he says. "I went to Hebrew school and was in a Jewish youth movement. Studying in Israel is providing me with the opportunity to fulfil two very important things – my Jewish identity and my professional objectives. Here, I feel at home as a Jew, and the very high level of medical research means I do not have to sacrifice my professional goals.

"I know that I did not choose a good time to make aliyah," he adds, "but then there has never really been a good time in the history of this country. If you want to come, you have to come, and that's it."

Lilaj Latker, 23, was born in Israel to Argentinian parents. In 1986, when she was seven, the family returned to Buenos Aires. Latker attended Jewish elementary and high schools and later studied at the Universita de Buenos Aires.

"Our family never lost its connection to Israel," she claims. "We were always a very Zionistic family and my brother and I always talked about coming back to Israel."

In January 2002, Latker and her 21-year-old brother arrived in Israel with the Birthright Israel program – their first time back in 16 years, and decided to remain. Latker entered an ulpan in Ashkelon and her brother went to a kibbutz in the north. Latker will begin studying either first-year psychology or social work at the Hebrew University in the fall; her brother will be starting the preparatory program.

"The situation in Argentina today is terrible," Latker says. "Young people want a future, but there is no future in Argentina. Israel holds out that promise for us. I feel much more secure in Israel because I know that the government here cares about the people. The fact that the university is providing free dorm rooms is also a blessing for us. So too are the Spanish-speaking staff members who explain everything about the programs to us and help with the bureaucratic procedures. They opened their hearts to us and I really appreciate this."

Carla Landau, 21, came on aliyah in March 2002 from Behia Blanca, a small city in southern Argentina with a Jewish community of some 300 families. She has been living in a Jerusalem absorption centre and will start studying medicine at the Hebrew University in the fall.

"I always loved Israel and wanted to come to live here," says Landau, who was a leader in her local Zionist youth movement and studied in Machon Greenberg in Jerusalem, an institute for training Jewish teachers. "In Argentina, you are someone if your parents have money. In Israel, you are what you make of yourself. I am sure that a young person with talent can achieve great things in Israel."

Landau met Kapitulnik during his recruiting visit to Argentina in February 2002. "The Hebrew University is undertaking a really great Zionist enterprise. When I first considered aliyah, I was afraid my studies in Argentina would not be recognized, but that is not the case. This has enabled me to skip the preparatory year and begin my medical studies immediately. The university is not giving us a free ride; it is simply meeting us halfway. Also Prof. Kapitulnik remembered me and welcomed me like a daughter. It is really important for me to feel that I am not alone and that there are those I can turn to for help and support. It is not easy to decide on aliyah. You want to be sure you have a secure place. The university is providing us with such a place."

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Women are being integrated into battle troops in the IDF.

[RNS/Reuters photo]

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Israeli judges look to Canada for constitutional guidance

By AMNON REICHMAN

One would have to be quite removed from the comparative legal scene to miss the emergence of Canadian jurisprudence as a source of inspiration to like-minded jurisdictions around the globe.

The Indian courts turn to the Canadian judiciary when confronted with human rights issues; the Australian courts are well versed in constitutional developments in Canada; the South African drafters of that country's interim and final constitutions, and constitutional scholars and judges on the constitutional court, rely on the Canadian experience in charting South Africa's path back to democracy and the meaningful protection of human rights.

Even scholars, politicians and judges in Great Britain, whose legal system has been at the centre of jurisprudential gravity for centuries, are taking a close look at the Canadian Constitution, and in particular the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and its evolving interpretations, as they debate the best forms and procedures through which to accord legal protections to fundamental rights in Britain under the British Human Rights Act of 1998.

In this respect, Israel is no exception. The realization that human rights are a necessary component of any democratic system of governance, as enshrined in the Canadian Charter, is shared by the Israeli legal system, which embarked upon the constitutionalization of some fundamental rights a decade after the Charter enactment in 1982.

Section 1 of the Charter served as a model for the Israeli limitation clause. Section 1 states that protected rights cannot be infringed by the government except for limits prescribed by law that can be demonstrably justified in a democratic society. The Canadian clause uses the phrase "free and democratic," whereas the Israeli clause uses the phrase "Jewish and democratic." The essence is similar, though not identical, especially since the Israeli Supreme Court has suggested that "Jewish and democratic" means the overlapping values and principles that are both Jewish and democratic – that is, that can be demonstrably justified as parts of both Jewish tradition and democratic theory and experience.

The Canadian override clause is commonly known as the "notwithstanding clause." It allows legislatures to enact a statute notwithstanding the violation of a protected right, provided the statute declares its infringing nature explicitly (by using the phrase "notwithstanding").

It was imported to Israel to allow the legislature to override judicial interpretation of fundamental rights. As in Canada, such a statute will cease to be in force after several years (in Canada five and in Israel four, since the Canadian election cycle is five years and in Israel elections must be held every four years). The rationale is clear: to allow voters to voice their opinions on whether the rights infringement was indeed called for (assuming that if it was not, the sponsors will pay a political price) and to instruct their representatives whether the infringing statute should be re-enacted. In Israel, enacting a notwithstanding statute requires the actual support of the majority of Knesset members (at least 61 of 120 must vote in favour), whereas in Canada, any majority will do.

But the mechanism of rights protection as part of a democratic regime based on the meaningful consent of the governed is not the end of the comparative tale. Israeli judges often refer to, and rely on, Canadian cases for guidance and support.

When the Israeli Supreme Court ordered the Air Force to admit women to its prestigious and highly demanding flight school, it referred to the Blainey case. In that instance, the Ontario Court of Appeal ordered a hockey league to admit girls. In rejecting the Air Force's argument that admitting women would require a substantial budget increase (for separate facilities, but more importantly for the training of more pilots, since women are likely to be unable to fly for substantially longer periods of time than men, especially if the differential years of reserve service are taken into account), the Israeli court relied on Singh v. Canada, for the proposition that budgetary considerations carry little weight in justifying the infringement of human rights.

Canada's famous Oakes test, which interpreted the limitation clause, has also long since been incorporated into Israeli jurisprudence and is being relied on by the courts.

As well, Hill v. Church of Scientology was relied upon for the proposition that reputation must also be a component of a democratic society and hence may limit freedom of expression; R. v. Keegstra was analyzed and refined when the Israeli Supreme Court dealt with Holocaust-related expression; Schachter v. Canada was relied on to establish the remedy of suspending a judicial declaration of invalidity until Parliament has had the opportunity to address the matter; and the Manitoba Language Rights case was analyzed regarding the effect of declaring a large number of legislative acts unconstitutional.

In addition to case law, works by Canadian legal scholars such as Peter Hogg are routinely consulted by Israeli lawyers, judges and academics, as well as the Israeli Supreme Court.

On a personal level, the transnational dialogue between Canadian judges and prominent scholars, primarily in the field of constitutional law, is commonplace. Senior government lawyers and judges in Israel have probably met their Canadian counterparts at least once.

This, of course, is not to suggest that the Israeli system mimics Canadian precedents, or that all Canadian decisions and opinions are incorporated automatically.

The Canadian Supreme Court decision in Adler v. Ontario, where the court found that the disparate allocation of funds

Continued on page B49

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5763

Israeli judges look to Canada

Continued from page B48

to Catholic schools raises no constitutional issue is taken by scholars as an example that all systems have their blind spots. And the Supreme Court decision in R. v. Finta barring in fact the ability to prosecute Nazi-era war crimes in Canada is seen by some as a cop-out.

Some Israeli judges are presumably eagerly awaiting the appropriate case to test Canadian-made (or Canadian-refined) judicial powers. Meanwhile, other judges and scholars ponder the possible ramifications of exercising judicial review over legislative silence and "reading in" missing words in existing statutes (as was done in Vriend v. Alberta on the issue of gay rights), or the full magnitude of allowing judges to determine constitutionality based on "unwritten constitutional principles" (as was done in the Monfort Hospital case).

It might be interesting to note that Israeli judges are comfortable with the idea of unwritten principles as the basis for a robust structure of human rights protection. But thus far that doctrine, much like its British source, has been limited to the area of administrative law, in which the acts of the administration were required to be based upon explicit statutory authorization if such acts infringed human rights. In the area of administrative law, then, Israeli jurisprudence is perhaps more advanced than the current state of Canadian law. It is still an open question whether the Israeli Court will expand this doctrine to the constitutional arena, as the Canadian case in point suggests.

Charter and its case law a model for enshrining human rights

In short, the Israeli legal system takes the Canadian scene seriously. The Canadian constitutional provisions are carefully read, cases are analyzed and academic writings are consulted. For many members of the Israeli bench, bar and academia, this comparative exercise is standard practice.

Being in the legal limelight as a source of guidance and inspiration brings with it responsibility. Canada's rich and nuanced experience in developing structures for the protection of human rights and doctrines for implementing and formalizing judgments on human rights matters must have something to say about the recent events in the Middle East.

Clearly, these events have human rights dimensions. They involve the rights of Palestinians and Israelis to self-determination. They involve the rights of the Palestinians to a democratic system of governance, as well as the rights of Israeli citizens to live free from terror. The right of return of both people can be seen as a human right. The status of Palestinian refugees in the West Bank, Gaza and neighbouring Arab states certainly raises human rights concerns.

It would seem that the input of Canadian human rights experts could help elucidate the different aspects of the conflict.

It is regretful to many Israelis that the Canadian electronic media sometimes fall short of providing ordinary Canadian citizens with a multidimensional picture and instead present a rather simplistic, if not incomplete or skewed, account of events.

It is also regretful that some politicians opt for such underdeveloped approaches as well.

Yet the Canadian body of human rights knowledge should not remain unengaged. In our shared struggle for the realization of human rights for all, the sober, fully informed and experienced Canadian voice should be heard; dialogue should be expanded and deepened; and constructive criticism and a call for self-reflection from all parties articulated. It could benefit us all.

Amnon Reichman is a professor of constitutional law at Haifa University. He is currently visiting Canada.

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Best Wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year
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City of Vaughan Councillor
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The Honourable
Maurizio Bevilacqua, P.C., M.P.
Vaughan • King • Aurora

Wishing everyone in the community a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.
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Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year

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City of Vaughan
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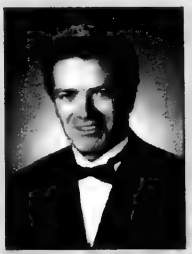
e-mail: mario.racco@city.vaughan.on.ca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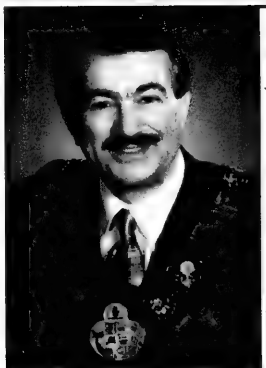
Wishing the Jewish community joy, prosperity, health and happiness in the coming year!
Mayor Michael Di Biase
City of Vaughan
905-832-2281 ext. 8340

Heather and I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year
HON. JIM PETERSON
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
WILLOWDALE
5799 Yonge Street, Suite 806,
416-223-2858

A few divine miracles

By SHIRA HONIG
CJN Staff

One decision, large or small, can change our lives forever. How much truer is that statement when the decision is made smack in the middle of wartime.

It was the spring of 1942. My Bubbie and Zaidy and their 2 children lived in Château Gontier, France. (Esther, Pinkas, Cecile, Fanny.) Forced residence. My Bubbie was 2 months pregnant with my father.

At this time, Jewish residents of Occupied Northern France had to wear the Jewish Star of David, and to report their whereabouts twice daily to the German command. They were not allowed to leave their homes after 8 p.m. Their passports were stamped. Irrevocable ID.

The laws against the Jews kept building. Outside, the sun was high and the sidewalks warm. Inside, my Bubbie was afraid to have the child. One of her husband's wealthy friends arranged a meeting with an abortionist in Paris: Felony Extra-ordinaire.

She went by train. To see her friends and get to her "meeting." She was unaware that a French official had seen her board the train and reported her to the Germans, who had staff deployed to the Paris station immediately.

The scene of the crime.

And they didn't even know about the abortionist.

She was arrested with another Jewish woman who happened to be caught doing the same thing at the same time in the same section of the train.

For 4 days she occupied a jail cell.

There were 10 other girls. French girls whose husbands were leftists. French girls who were suspected of Communism. The big C word.

They all thought she was a prostitute. For food, they were given black water. For personal hygiene, an open toilet. (A community of sharing.)

My Bubbie didn't eat or go to the bathroom for 4 days.
An infinity.
A dark tomb of nail-biting, unyielding worries.

Will I ever see my babies again?
What will I do if I get out?
Do I want this abortion after all?

But she got out. By the grace of Lord Knows Who. Or by Divine Miracle itself.

A streetcorner in Paris was where The Decision was made. One of those decisions where the decision has you. The abortionist was to her left, home in Château-Gontier was to her right.

She caught sight of an eagle-eyed German sentry stationed nearby. The sight of his uniform cemented the thought that had been germinating unknowingly for days.

"What I could do with two children I would do with three," she thought. She turned right. To the Gare du Nord métro. 3 months pregnant.

2½ months pregnant later, the Germans came to her door and took her husband away to the record-books, where his name would be found years later amidst millions of others. Pinkas Honig. Death by "Double Pneumonia." (read: Auschwitz.) He left behind

1 wife-Bubbie.
His 2 children.
And 1 fetus.

That day: July 16, 1942. The first deportation in France. The day my Bubbie stopped sleeping.

3 months pregnant later (total: 8½ months), she barely heard them come again. Their German car ran smoothly, softly, on gas. Not like French cars that ran on coal. The door shut quietly and their boots clicked up 2 flights of stairs. 2 or 3 men, she doesn't remember. It was 5 in the morning.

They said, "Make yourself ready – you're joining your husband." As if she should be thanking them for the opportunity. So she faked labour. They balked. The Nazi manual didn't cover this scenario. They didn't want labour stains all over their pristine Mercedes. They left.

When they came back for her
and her 2 children
and 1 fetus

she had gone and taken her Jewish blood with her. Felony Très Extra-ordinaire.

1 Bubbie. Now in a convent.
Her 2 daughters, in a Catholic home.
My father, in the care of a woman with her own baby who would camaflouge his crying.

When the other baby got sick, he was taken to a Catholic orphanage in Angers. No longer a fetus.

A web of deceit and protection to hide 4 Jews in France for the rest of the war, created by 2 unorthodox and heroic Frenchwomen and their families who will never be forgotten.

My Bubbie says, "A stone of 1,000 pounds fell off my chest when I decided to go home."

Her choice gave me:

1 Bubbie
2 aunts
2 uncles (married in)
3 cousins
1 father, no longer a fetus
1 mother (married in)
2 brothers
1 sister
1 brother-in-law (married in)
and me.

1 Decision.
And a few Divine Miracles.
I'm here to tell you the story.
(And do the math.)

Howard Hampton
Leader, Ontario NDP
NDP

L'Shanah Tovah

Howard Hampton and the NDP caucus wish you, your family and friends a Happy & Healthy New Year

phone 416-325-8300
fax 416-325-8222
e-mail: ndpmail@ndp.on.ca
www.ndp.on.ca

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year

John Godfrey, M.P.
Don Valley West

146 Laird Dr., Suite 203
Toronto, Ontario M4G 3V7
Tel: 416-467-7275 Fax: 416-467-8550
Website: www.johngodfrey.on.ca

Dalton McGuinty
Leader of the Official Opposition
Leader of the Ontario Liberal Party
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www.ontarioliberal.com

Members of the Ontario Liberal Caucus
wish the readers of the
Canadian Jewish News
Best Wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Michael Bryant
ST. PAUL'S

David Caplan
DON VALLEY EAST

Mike Colle
EGLINTON-LAWRENCE

Monte Kwinter
YORK CENTRE

Happy New Year to our Jewish Community.
Wishing you joy, prosperity, health and happiness in the coming year!

Regional Councillor
Joyce Frustaglio

Mayor
Michael Di Biase

Regional Councillor
Gino Rosati

Ward 1 Councillor
Mario Ferri

Ward 2 Councillor
Linda Jackson

Ward 3 Councillor
Bernie Di Vona

Ward 4 Councillor
Mario G. Racco

Ward 5 Councillor
Susan Kadis

City of Vaughan
The City Above Toronto

A survivor's claim against the Claims Conference

By ELI PFEFFERKORN

An innocent passerby walking by the Russell Community Centre in Miami on Feb. 23 would have seen an odd mix of people debating no less an odd issue. Customarily, they would meet to protest against Holocaust deniers and revisionists, or voice their abhorrence at the erection of crosses in Auschwitz by the Carmelite Order. However, this time, as in recent years, the representatives of the 46 survivors' organizations met to express their anger with, and frustration at, a Jewish organization, an organization that was supposed to have been survivor-friendly.

The Claims Conference (whose official name is the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany) was founded on Sept. 10, 1952. Its responsibility was to negotiate with the federal government of Germany for reparation payments for survivors, and for the owners or their kin for property lost during the war. In theory, the conference was intended to represent the survivors and the other claimants against the German government. In reality, it became a trustee of billions of dollars, unanswerable to their legitimate beneficiaries. The survivors have been kept in the dark about the ongoing negotiations and the principles guiding the distribution of the money received.

Despite promises to make the institution more transparent, writes Netty Gross in the *Jerusalem Report* of May 7, 2001, "the atmosphere of mystery persists. The conference remains, in large part, an insular and secretive organization."

Not to put too fine a point on it: the Claims Conference is dealing with blood money and one would have expected its officials, therefore, to treat it with the sensitivity, integrity and responsiveness that the survivors' human situation warrants. But this was not to be.

> Despite promises to make the institution more transparent 'the atmosphere of mystery persists. The conference remains, in large part, an insular and secretive organization'

Instead of openness, a veil of opaqueness descended on the conference's activities. There is no accountability for monetary allocations, no transparency of budget breakdown. To fend off the increasing criticism of the print media such as the *Forward*, the *Jerusalem Report*, the *Jerusalem Post* and *Ha'aretz* – not to mention the newsletters issued by survivors' orgainzations – the conference printed a couple of brochures in 1998 and 1999 reporting on its activities. But the information they contain is mere smokescreens, intended more to obfuscate than educate, conceal than reveal. How is it possible that a non-elective body of trustees is doing its business as if it were a private estate hidden from the public eye, and turning a deaf ear to the survivors' and beneficiaries' concerns?

Apparently, the Claims Conference enjoys a special legal status that gives it immunity from being sued in the United States. Over the years, the hundreds of suits that have been filed by survivors against the conference have been, with one exception, thrown out of court on the grounds of the defendant's immunity from litigation. What is intriguing about these litigations is that the conference retains pricey Manhattan lawyers who are paid from the restitution money – money that belongs to the survivors – to fight the survivors in court. Neologists will want to find a new word to define this new brand of cynicism. How did it happen that the conference has received such an extraordinary status? The legal experts advise me that the agreement between it and the German government was an arrangement of convenience for both parties. The agreement benefited postwar Germany in that it enabled it to obtain forgiveness from the Jewish world organizations. As a result, it was readmitted to the international community. It benefited the conference in that it became the exclusive transfer money channel, giving it the status of trustee of billions of dollars – after the 1965 cut-off date. In addition, the agreement freed Germany from the burden of dealing with individual cases. The literature pertaining to the subject unambiguously indicates that the German governments of both political parties intended the survivors to be the beneficiaries of the restitution money.

"The Claims Conference, however," observes David A. Lash, head of a Los Angeles-based legal aid service representing many Holocaust survivors, "has not focused on the tens of thousands of faceless, voiceless survivors."

In an article called "Poor Justice" in the *Daily News* of Los Angeles of Sept. 19, 1992, Lash points out that instead of caring for the elderly and the needy survivors, the conference "finds itself immersed in high profile matters, pushed to the centre stage by the rich and the powerful."

And as befits the rich and powerful, the conference's officials convened in luxurious Manhattan hotels, such as the Pierre Hotel in 1999 and the Waldorf Astoria in 2000, where they toasted their new financial acquisitions, oblivious to the people for whom the money is intended. And even as the conventioneers slapped each other's backs in self-satisfaction and glowed in each other's speeches, dozens of destitute survivors trod the sidewalks of the hotel protesting the wrong being done to them. These "faceless," "voiceless" survivors once had a spokesperson to give voice to their anguish, articulate their concerns and shield their dignity.

In an aptly titled essay, "A Plea for Survivors," Elie Wiesel castigates the Jewish organizations for sidelining the survivors: "Do you know that not one survivor was asked to be a member of the special council in charge of the financial reparations negotiations with West Germany – not one survivor was given a chance to air his views on the distribution of funds – not one survivor sat on the famous Claims Conference? Others expressed themselves on behalf of the dead, not they. Others managed their inheritance; they were not considered qualified even to plead their own cause in their own behalf."

These words were taken from the suvivors' pain three decades ago. But since Wiesel's climb to the gilded iconic pedestal, his gaze has been scanning international horizons and his voice addressing issues of humanity at large. We survivors, alas, are mentioned at commemorations of the dead victims. Notwithstanding the insulated make-up of the Claims Conference, some changes have occurred. According to the conference's 1998-99 annual report, its board of directors comprises 49 members. Out of this number, four are survivors. Three survivors are seated on the allocations committee (the one responsible for money disbursement), out of a total of 14 members.

Israel Singer, a reputed master negotiator who was instrumental in obtaining mega-dollars from Germany, was unable to negotiate a livable payment for destitute survivors. Article 2 Fund, established in 1992, was intended for those survivors who, for a variety of reasons, did not register for the *Wiedergutmachen*, which could result in a monthly pension, in accordance with the German Federal Indemnification Law. Some of us simply missed the deadline; others were not psychologically ready to go through the registration procedure.

The agreement reached between the Claims Conference negotiating team, presumably headed by Singer, and the German government, agreed that a survivor and his or her spouse would receive DM 500 monthly on condition that their joint annual gross income (Canada pension exempted) does not exceed $40,000 (Cdn) gross. This seems to be an

Continued on Page B52

A's . . .

Tom & Sharon Adler
David, Adam & Brandon
wish their parents, relatives & friends a happy and healthy New Year

Nathan & Rina Arback
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Keith, Sheila & Denise Alexander
Debra, Gordy, Jaime & Courtney Verk
Donna, Jason, Chloe, Jacklyn & Joshua Berns
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Walter & Edie Arbib
Stephen & Dana
Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Honey & Roy Agar
Michelle, Blair, Sarah, Maggie & Jack
Wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

David & Margaret Attis
Samara, Leyla & Aviva
Nick & Yona Attis-Day
Moncton, New Brunswick
Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

Barry & Eleanor Appleby and Family
Wish their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

The Apelowicz Family

wishing our family and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.

B's . . .

Molly & Bert Bainerman

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Manning & Marie Baker and Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Anne & Allan Bank

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Leo & Sara Beliak
Marlin Bendayan and Family
Robert & Tamara Beliak and Family
Chaim & Chava Beliak and Family
Murray & Stacey Beliak and Family
Arnold & Ruth Kravetz and Family
Wish their relatives, friends and neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Samuel & Janet Berger

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, great grandchild, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Kalman & Cynthia Bielak, Yakov, Pamela, Daniel & Naiomi, Simcha, Barbara & Brandon, Shneur, Gideon & Shlomo

wish their relatives & friends a happy and healthy New Year

Susan, Fred, Ricki & Sarah Birnbaum

wish their relatives and friends a happy, and healthy New Year.

Arthur Birnbaum and Susan McCallum

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Abe & Freda Blankenstein
Harvey & Fay Blankenstein & Family
Larry & Marla Blankenstein & Family
Randy & Annette Goodman & Family
Joel & Sharon Waisglass & Family
Wish all their relatives and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Rivy & Harvey Blass
Joel, Mitchell, Elana, Zachary & Zoe

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

Wishing all our family & friends a peaceful, healthy and happy New Year.
David & Sandy & Marni & Jesse Bleeman
Amanda-Beth & Brian & Joshua & Evan Cepler

Dr. & Mrs. Alan Bobkin
Erin and Alyssa

wish their patients, relatives and friends a happy & healthy New Year.

Larry & Helen Bossin
Brian, Helen & Brielle
Melanie & Robbie

Wish all our relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

"The Benyovits Family"
Miriam & Ted
Amit, Patti & Jamie,
Ronit, Dale, Joshua & Rebecca
Wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

EVELINE "VELI" BERLITZ & FAMILY

Wish our relatives, friends and family in Israel a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

'What they know about survival'

Continued from page B51

arbitrary cut-off sum, lacking a grading scale by which specific needs of the individual recipient are taken into account. As we grow older, our medical expenses increase, not all of them covered by the Canadian National Health Program or by U.S. Medicare. The economic circumstances of survivors were among the factors that the conference negotiation team ignored. Is it surprising? I don't think so.

What Singer and his associates of the Claims Conference know about survival and survivorship they know vicariously. They did not stand on the roll call ground in the sweltering heat or windswept cold; their eyes did not follow the hangman's baton on the selection line; their stomach did not churn the acid circling in the stomach entrails seeking morsels of food. What do they know about loneliness? Loneliness, gnawing loneliness; and yes, loneliness after liberation.

I don't expect Singer and his associates to share the ordeals of survivors, but what I do expect of them is to show understanding and, if possible, sensitivity, not only as fellow Jews, but as human beings. Who would have thought at the time, even in the grotesque of nightmares, that 40, 50 years later we would have to demand our entitlements and our dignity from an organization that has been putatively charged with protecting them? Life seems to abound in ironies. One telling example is how the conference relates to survivors. This is a Canada moment.

Life seems to abound in ironies. One telling example is how the conference relates to survivors. This is a Canada moment.

For a variety of reasons, the survivors living in Canada were late in founding their own organization. On Jan. 1, 2001, Gerda Friedberg, the president of the newly founded organization called Jewish Survivors of Canada, wrote a letter to Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the Claims Conference, requesting representation on its board. A reply to the letter was received on Feb. 23, three weeks later, signed by Gideon Taylor, executive vice-president. It stated that the conference was reviewing "its membership structure" and "in the meanwhile," he advised Friedberg to "be in touch with [the Jewish Congress] to share your thoughts, as it is a representative of Canadian Jewry."

The unmistakable inference from this statement is that the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) represents all Canadian Jews and hence also the Jewish survivors, and therefore, survivors' representation would be superfluous. Indeed, it took almost two years before the Canadian survivors received a seat on the conference's board, but only after Jack Silverstone of the CJC relinquished his own. Its first project was to develop a register of survivors in Canada, presumably numbering 14,000, the third largest survivor community in the world. Its requests to the UJA to finance the project dragged on for many months to no avail. Eight months ago, the organization applied for a grant of $28,000 (US) to the conference. As of today, it has received no reply.

And there is another Canada moment that reveals the sensitivity of the conference's officials. Greg Schneider, vice-president of allocations, spoke before an audience of survivors on May 5, 1999. The occasion was the distribution of the Swiss Bank reparations. A major theme of his talk was the need to establish better communications between the conference and the survivors. These praiseworthy sentiments, however, rang hollow as Schneider had a convoluted response to the complaints of several members in the audience about their real estate in Germany being withheld from them by the

Continued on page B53

Criteria for receiving allocations

Continued from page B52

conference. He also discussed at great length the importance of education, on which the conference spent 20 per cent of its allocations. In a rhetorical flurry, he evoked memory that must be preserved – a plank of the conference's policy.

Encouraged by Schneider's promise to open communication and his enthusiastic endorsement of education about the Holocaust, I wrote him a five-page letter. In the letter, I apprised him of the comprehensive Holocaust education offered at Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT). I also mentioned the large number of survivors' grandchildren who study at CHAT. The letter also pointed out the possibilities of enlarging the program and extending it to the public high schools, where a large number of Jewish students attend. The letter mailed on May 28, 1999, remained unanswered.

On June 28, I wrote Schneider another letter reminding him of his solemn promise to make the institution more responsive. Only after conference board members intervened on my behalf did he write me a formal letter adorned with bureaucratic platitudes. Attached to it was an application form for a grant. The forms were duly filled out by CHAT's headmaster, Paul Shaviv, sent out without delay, and promptly turned down. The reason for the rejection: "The number of requests for allocations has exceeded our resources."

Which were the more qualified institutions to have received allocations; what were the criteria for receiving them? This basic information was not included in the rejection letter. The lack of funds seems to be a lame excuse in light of the billions of dollars that are accumulating in the conference's coffers, as asserted by Edgar Bronfman, president of the Jewish World Congress and the conference's vice-president.

In the *Forward* of Jan. 4, 2002, Bronfman stated that "monies unclaimed or unneeded by survivors or their heirs – which may total in the billions of dollars – can be gathered and parcelled to education programs worldwide." Since Bronfman passes over the survivors' predicament, I thought it would be proper to portray a few of these cases.

Leo Rechter, the president of The National Association of Jewish Child Holocaust Survivors (NAHOS), was commissioned to conduct interviews for Steven Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation. While conducting the interviews, he encountered an appalling depth of poverty among survivors.

> ... you can see people scurrying to buy the unsold challot at reduced prices. These are the needy survivors not mentioned in Bronfman's statement

"I met destitute survivors," he writes in the NAHOS newsletter of Dec. 20, 2001, "who lived in walk-up tenements in Washington Heights and in Brooklyn. Some did not even have a decent chair to offer me during the interview."

New York City is no exception. Netty Gross tells a story about an 82-year-old Los Angeles survivor (*Jerusalem Report*, May 7, 2001), that should put to shame the Claims Conference and its defenders.

"Leon Granowski was a barber in Majdanek. Though ill with heart disease and cancer, Granowski is still cutting hair to make ends meet. Years ago, the conference turned down his application for a reparation pension on the grounds that he'd received a DM 2,000 payment from West Germany."

Michele Gillen's investigative report that aired on CBS News in Miami portrays the dire poverty of survivors in Florida. And as more survivors retire, they plunge even deeper into poverty. Toronto is no different. Just before dusk, on the eve of the Sabbath when the bakeries are about to close, you can see people scurrying to buy the unsold challot at reduced

Continued on page B54

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Brand
Bonnie, Barry, Morris
and Grandchildren

Wish their relatives and friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Bella Brand,
Sylvia and Barry Hennick
Eleanor and Jeff Stainsby
Karen and Eric Machtinger

Wish their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Murray & Melissa Berall
and Cole Alexander

Wish their relatives & friends a happy and healthy New Year

Carmella & Joe Betel

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Joe and Sarah Bogoroch

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year

Richard, Melanie,
Adam, Samantha & Matthew
Bogoroch

Wish all their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best Wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness To our relatives and friends And the people of Israel.

Sam and Yetta Brown

Sharon & Syd Bojarski
Michelle & Michael

wish their relatives and friends a happy, and healthy New Year.

C's . . .

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel

Ella & Marshall Cohen

Wayne and Ann Caplan
Elana & Stewart, Dayna & Jeff

wish their parents, family and friends a very happy and healthy New Year.

Elsa & Howard Chandler
& Family

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Mrs. Fannie Caplan
Sid & Nancy Caplan

Wish their relatives, friends and neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Fred Chapnick

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Ted and Joli Chester
Children and Grandchildren

Wish their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Jack & Donna Cohn and family

wish their relatives & friends a happy and healthy New Year.

D's . . .

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel

Gloria & Morris Dadoun

Ronnie & Rene Daiter and Family

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

E's . . .

Sam & Sara Eker and Children

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

F's . . .

Jerry & Helen Fishman
Mark & Doreen, Aimee, Haley,
Stacey & Shane Fishman
Gary & Sheryl, Robbie, Raquel & Alexander Rubinoff
Marcy & Ryan

Wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

'Fully aware of material deprivation'

Continued from page B53

prices. These are the needy survivors not mentioned in Bronfman's statement.

The Claims Conference's notables are fully aware of this material deprivation. Roman Kent, a vice-president of the conference, addressed his colleagues at its Nov. 28, 2001 meeting that discussed the allocations of money. He pointed out that the "lack of concern for needy survivors in the Jewish community has left survivors with no choice but to claim every last cent from the compensation funds for basic needs."

Kent himself is not a needy survivor, but he stood for the roll call and trailed on the death march, and he remembers. While others annually evoke the memory of the dead, he remembers those still living.

As the survivor population has aged, the need for a health-care system has increased exponentially. This is as true in Toronto as in Miami, in Montreal as in New York. Attuned to this urgency, the umbrella organizations of the survivors made the demand for establishing a health care system its centrepiece policy. They have advocated this idea since 1998. The American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, for example, met in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 17, 2002, and called on the Claims Conference and other relevant agencies "to devise and implement, without further delay, a health-care system for survivors – which must include home health-care services."

Furthermore, the Gathering also pledged on behalf of the survivors to forgo any compensation or restitution so as to enable it to bring this project to fruition. At its meeting in Miami on Feb. 23, 2002, the umbrella organization of the survivors reinforced this resolution, urging the Claims Conference to avoid further bureaucratic delays.

The State of Florida is home to a large number of aging survivors who have been afflicted with a series of ills. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency of Aug. 29, 2000, reported that a group of South Florida survivors comprising 15,000 people applied to the Claims Conference for financial help to set up a home- care health system. Its purpose, they argued, was to avoid the indignities – as long as possible – of old-age homes. The cost of the system was assessed at $46 million (US) and they requested from the conference seed money of $15 million (US), a paltry sum in comparison to the billions of dollars it has received over the years.

While its two-pronged mandate – its raison d'être – is the welfare of the survivors and education about the Holocaust, the evidence shows that these declarations are honoured more in the breach than in the observance. So where do the enormous sums of money go?

As in the case of CHAT's application, the conference turned down the survivors' request, citing a lack of funds. While its two-pronged mandate – its *raison d'être* – is the welfare of the survivors and education about the Holocaust, the evidence shows that these declarations are honoured more in the breach than in the observance. So where do the enormous sums of money go?

A 500-page internal report of funds allocations, dated April 25, 2000, indicates the name of the institution, the allocated sum and usually the account number and the name of the bank that made the transaction. Very often, funds are allocated to institutions without an account number, an odd way of dispensing public money. The following is a random sample of allocations:

1. Trust for Planning and Development Services – $315,000, no account number;

2. Amigour, a branch of the Jewish Agency engaged in building affordable housing – $22 million, listed for the purpose of "sheltered housing," acc. no. 70750/88, Bank Leumi (there is a series of account numbers listed);

3. *Irgun Olei Merkaz Europa*, $15 million, acc. no. 14567/95, Bank Leumi (there is a series of account numbers listed).

The criteria for distribution of funds are shrouded in mystery, a practice that the Claims Conference has elevated to a level of metaphysics. Since it does not provide a rationale for money distribution, I will try here to provide an anti-rationale – that is, why these institutions should not have been funded, except for the trust for planning and service institution whose identity I could not establish, notwithstanding my investigative efforts.

The Jewish Agency is a vestige from the pre-State era that has fulfilled its historical mission and, to the dismay of many Israelis, is still strutting on the national stage. One of the reasons it has not vanished, among other reasons, is that it serves as an asylum for "have-been" and "wannabe" politicians, the former seeking new careers after having lost their seats in the Knesset, the latter gleefully eying the would-be vacant seats in the Knesset, while using the agency as a springboard for their next career move. Are the $22 million (US) given to the agency to pay the salaries of its officials and travel expenses to visit their brethren in the Diaspora? More to the point: What has the Jewish Agency ever done for survivors? When we came en masse to Israel in the '50s and '60s, we were told to buckle up and stop whining. How many clinics did the agency found? How many support groups did it form? In what way did it help the psychologically battered and physically shattered newly arrived immigrant-survivors adjust to the new environment? The answer to these questions is: it didn't. Clearly, the Claims Conference, for political reasons, is infusing enormous amounts of money into an institution that lives off its past and now lives off the money that should go to provide for the needy and elderly survivors. Shame, where art thou?

Irgun Olei Merkaz Europa was originally founded in 1932 to facilitate the absorption of immigrants from Germany that steadily increased when the Nazi party came to power. Later, it absorbed immigrants from Austria and Czechoslovakia. A non-profit organization, the Irgun developed apartment buildings for its members and helped them settle in Palestine. As its membership population aged, the Irgun built old-age homes and administered them. At present, it boasts well-equipped and efficiently managed homes across the country.

Unlike Polish immigrants to Palestine, the Austrian and German immigrants were relatively well-to-do, thanks to a fiscal arrangement between the Jewish Agency and the Nazi government. The German and the Austrian immigrants received generous restitutions from the German government in the '50s for deprivation of citizenship, and most of them enjoy a life pension. In the context of Israeli class stratification, Israeli citizens from Germany and Austria belong to the upper middle class and hardly need financial assistance. Whereas the conference was initially charged to handle cases that have fallen between the cracks, German and Austrian immigrants certainly do not belong in this category.

Of course, it is quite possible that the conference considers them to be survivors for having been targeted for annihilation had they not escaped in time from Germany. Guided by this logic, $72 billion (US) have been allocated to Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union. True, these Jewish refugees spent the war years in Soviet Asia – so the argument goes – and yet they were potential victioms of Nazi persecution. So if I am scheduled to fly out to Miami and I miss the flight and the plane crashes, am I eligible for compensation as a crash victim?

Continued on page B55

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5763

'Cabal-like secrecy'

Continued from page B54

Undoubtedly, there are Jewish communities living in dire poverty in urgent need of help. "Israel is responsible for each fellow Jew," a talmudic slogan has instructed Jews through history. Jewish organizations in North America raised millions of dollars last year and according to Charles Bronfman, private Jewish foundations have assets of $25 billion (US) dollars. Why not earmark some of these funds to help needy Jewish communities, instead of draining the unclaimed restitution funds intended to better survivors' lives? The Claims Conference was not designated to become a Jewish philanthropic organization.

As reported by Netty Gross of *The Jerusalem Report*, the "conference is in breach of its own 1952 U.S. Article of Incorporation, which states that its mission is to 'voluntarily assist, aid, help, act for and on behalf of Jewish persons who were victims of Nazi persecution.'" So how does this legal clause square with lavishing enormous sums of money on the World Zionist Organization (WZO)?

According to the Claims Conference's internal report, the following are grants given to the WZO:

1. $500,000 (US), acc. no. 11231254-8 – no designated purpose;
2. DM 300,000, acc. no. 2231254-1 – trips;
3. DM 1,095,000, acc. no. 3231254-2 – trips;
4. $900,000 (US), acc. no. 5231254-3 – trips;
5. $4 million (US), acc. no. 8231254-7 – no designated purpose;
6. $5 million (US), acc. no. 9231254-8 – no designated purpose.

Against these lavishly allocated amounts of money, the allocations to Baycrest $15,500 (US) and the Bernard Betel Centre $128,400 (US) are casual, dime-tossing handouts. The Bernard Betel Centre, like Baycrest, serves a large number of survivors, and it offers them a variety of courses in the arts and other therapeutic activities. Surely, the German restitution was intended precisely for the kind of institutions represented by Baycrest and Betel, and not for covering travelling expenses for WZO officials.

"For those [victims] in the final years of their lives, it will provide them with a little more means than they would otherwise have had." Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's statement refers to the establishment of the Remembrance, Responsibility and the Future Foundation on Feb. 16, 1999. The mission of the foundation is to compensate Nazi slave and forced labourers. The German law defines slave labourers as "persons who were compelled to perform work in a concentration camp... a ghetto or a similar place of incarceration under comparable conditions."

According to Yad Vashem's statistics, there were 200,000 Jewish concentration camp and ghetto survivors in 1945. Using actuarial assumptions and methods that are reasonable in aggregate, Andre Knapp, senior actuarial analyst, estimates that of that population, there would have been 46,000 to 65,000 alive in 1955.

Given the physical deprivation and mental brutality that this population was exposed to over a period of two to five years, the survival rate leans toward the lower figure. It is therefore surprising, to use an understatement, that the German branch of the Claims Conference mentions the figure of Jewish concentration camp and ghetto survivors as 400,000, out of whom 135,000 are still alive.

Refuting the allegation that these are manipulated figures, Karl Brozik, director of the conference's German branch, argues that this estimate is "based on four sources, including a German restitution office and an Israeli disability centre." Assuming that Brozik's figures, though defying demographic logic, are correct, how many of the eligible survivors fall under the conference's administrative province? How many cases have been processed so far? Which cases get priority?

These questions are not driven by statistical inquisitiveness. Rather, they are at the heart of the matter, for they have financial ramifications affecting every single slave labour recipient. Since the total amount of the money available is fixed, the amount that each individual receives depends on the number of approved applications. The underhanded way the conference has handled the unclaimed and claimed restitution money gives justifiable rise to suspicion that the slave labour compensation will meet with the same fate.

Sadly, the cabal-like secrecy that has informed the conference for decades continues. Its officials did not even find it necessary to keep us abreast of the process, though we are the process and we are the processed. It sent out a letter whose underlying message was: Don't call us; we'll call you.

Yes, the conference has set up a Web site on the assumption that the elderly survivors are adept at surfing. And therein lies the psychological gulf separating the survivors from conference officials. But even if they were adept at surfing, the survivors would not have found Yair Sheleg's column on the site. In *Ha'aretz* of June 29, 2001, Sheleg reports that "fifty-one lawyers will receive about $53 million in legal fees for negotiating the Slave-Labour Agreement. New York attorney Melvin Weiss is set to receive some $6.9 million (US). This sum is equal to the amount to be distributed to 1,000 survivors." And there is much more that does not show on the conference's Web site.

Sheleg entitled his article "Profits of Doom," apparently assigning the profiteers and their accomplices to be judged on the Day of Judgment. The survivors, however, cannot wait that long. Time is running out on us at a shocking rate. Action must be taken now. Life's irony is such that justice can be obtained in a German court on German soil. And only there can the survivors find recourse to right a wrong that has been done to them.

Eli Pfefferkorn teaches Jewish history at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto and is a published author.

TURJEMAN DEATH:
Friends of slain Israeli soldier Erez Turjeman, who was killed in an ambush near Ramallah the day before, mourn during his funeral in Jerusalem, February 20, 2002. A deadly Palestinian raid which killed six Israeli soldiers drew the pre-dawn retaliation by Israeli warplanes and gunships killing 15 Palestinians and firing a missile near Yasser Arafat's office.
RNS/Reuters photo]

Chaim & Eda Feinstadt

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Philip & Cyla Fiksel
Nathan, Miriam, Jamie & Stacie Birnbaum

wish their relatives & friends a happy and healthy New Year

We wish all our relatives & friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year

The Finkelsteins
Henry, Molly& Matthew, David & Rachel

שנה טובה
Bernard & Connie Fox *and* Charise
Felicia & Warren Spiegelman, Samantha *and* Spencer

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy Shana Tova

Allan, Pat & Marla Friedland

Wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.
Betsy, Lou & Marla Fruitman
Pamela, Howie, Jeffrey & Jason Gould
Lisa, Dan & Amanda Belzowski

Phil & Rochelle Feldberg
Jeff, Waleuska & Victoria
Robyn & Jarred & Adam

Wish all their relatives, friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.
Allen & Miriam Finklestein
Perry, Naiad, Matthew & Jeremy

Dale & Michael Feldman
Lauren & Adam

Wish all their relatives, friends and neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Phyllis & Irving Feldman
Jonas & Brandon

Wish all their relatives and friends a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Sylvia & Edward Fisch and family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

G's . . .

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel

Daniella & Ari Gold
Jordan and Alexandra

Sam & Gitta Ganz
Children & Grandchildren

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Al & Julia Gelfant & Family
Susan Fine & Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Irving & Faye Gold

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gladstone and Neil
Dr. & Mrs. Terry Davis and family

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

Morris & Ada Rose Glick

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Max & Guta Glicksman
19 Misty Crescent

Regina and Charles Goldfinger and Family

Best wishes to our children grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Mr. & Mrs. Israel Goldgrub and Family

Irving & Paula Goldhar

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Annie Goldlist

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Fay Goldlist
Marlene & Sam Hait
Barry & Randee Goldlist
Rochelle & Seymour Frydrych and Families

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5763

5762 was year of terror, turmoil in Israel

By LESLIE SUSSER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Launched in the shadow of Sept. 11, the Jewish year 5762 was marked for Israel by two developments directly related to those terror attacks: a tightening of ties between Israel and the United States and growing American disaffection with Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat.

Shortly after the planes hit the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, many Americans said they understood how Israelis felt to live in a society threatened by terror. Aside from the immediate emotional identification between the two nations' plights, however, a larger strategic alliance developed in the ensuing months.

In one of the defining policy pronouncements of his early presidency, U.S. President George W. Bush said shortly after Sept. 11 that the international community would be divided between those who supported terrorism and those who opposed it.

Arafat ultimately came down on the wrong side, and paid the price in diplomatic ostracism. The discrediting of Arafat in American eyes was, for Israel, the most significant political development of 5762, and appreciably changed the diplomatic balance between Israel and the Palestinians.

The process of discrediting the Palestinian leader took several months. Sensing the political shift, Arafat on Sept. 19 prudently declared a ceasefire in the intifadah against Israel. If Palestinian attacks on Israel continued, he realized, he risked being branded as a sponsor of terrorism.

Although the ceasefire failed to hold even for a few days, Bush gave Arafat the benefit of the doubt and in early October formally noted America's support for the creation of a Palestinian state alongside Israel.

In November, Secretary of State Colin Powell followed this up with a major policy speech in which he called for an end to the intifadah, an end to Israel's presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the creation of a viable Palestinian state.

But with the Palestinian terrorist onslaught continuing and even intensifying, American perceptions began to change.

In late November, retired U.S. Marine Gen. Anthony Zinni arrived in Israel as Powell's special envoy, charged with hammering out a ceasefire. Instead, the Palestinians greeted Zinni with a series of terror attacks that, over the course of a single weekend in early December, left 25 Israelis dead and almost 230 wounded. The attacks shattered Zinni's mission.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon held Arafat personally responsible for the attacks.

"He is directly responsible for everything that's happening," Sharon said, "and he is the great obstacle to peace and stability in the Middle East."

A few days later, after an Israeli bus was attacked outside the West Bank settlement of Immanuel on Dec. 12, killing 10 people and wounding 23, the Israeli cabinet issued a statement declaring Arafat "no longer relevant," and severing all contact with him.

Signalling his dismay at the Palestinians, Bush temporarily recalled Zinni, but sent him back to the region in late December.

The decisive shift in Bush's attitude toward Arafat came after Israel, on Jan. 3, seized the Karine-A, a ship purchased by the Palestinians and laden with arms acquired in Iran. The 50-ton cargo included Katyusha rockets, mortars, anti-tank missiles, anti-tank mines, sniper rifles and other munitions.

Arafat repeatedly denied any involvement, and the Americans at first were reluctant to believe that the arms had been purchased on his authority. Within days, however, Israel was able to prove that the arms had been purchased by Fuad Shubaki, a member of Arafat's inner circle whom the Palestinian leader often used as a financial go-between.

By mid-January, the CIA was convinced of Arafat's direct involvement in the arms deal and of his links with Tehran, which formed part of Bush's "Axis of Evil."

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Zinni mission suspended

Continued from page B56

Reportedly livid at the Palestinian leader's lies, Bush several weeks later formally suspended the Zinni mission and announced that he "was disappointed in Arafat." In early February, Powell told the U.S. Senate's Foreign Relations Committee that Arafat "must confront terror and choose peace over violence. He cannot have it both ways."

Still, the administration stopped short of severing ties with the PA leader.

After months of suicide bombings, culminating in the Park Hotel massacre in Netanya on March 27, in which 29 Israelis, mostly elderly, were killed as they sat down to a Passover meal, Israel launched Operation Protective Wall, a major ground offensive designed to crush the Palestinian terrorist infrastructure in the West Bank.

However, when the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) trapped Arafat in his headquarters in Ramallah, Powell crossed the army cordon to meet the Palestinian leader in an abortive attempt to broker a ceasefire.

The invasion of the West Bank ended in controversial standoffs at Arafat's compound and at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, but Israel did manage to uncover a trove of documents in PA offices clearly proving Arafat's personal involvement in terror.

In early June, Sharon convinced Bush that persisting with Arafat was "a cardinal error." On June 24, in a long-awaited policy speech, Bush appeared to signal the end of the Arafat era, calling on the Palestinians to elect new leaders "not compromised by terror."

The Bush speech was followed by a joint Israeli-U.S. demand for extensive reform of Palestinian political, financial and military institutions. This was a logical outcome of the new insistence on a Palestinian leadership that could be trusted to keep a peace deal that entailed major Israeli concessions. For the Israelis the key demand was reform of the Palestinian security apparatus, in the hope that once this was implemented, the Palestinians would be able – and willing – to control terror.

One of the immediate implications of Arafat's gradual loss of credibility was that Israel was able to take increasingly tough countermeasures against Palestinian violence as the year progressed. When, after the Oct. 17 assassination of Tourism Minister Rechavam Ze'evi in Jerusalem, the IDF moved ground forces into six Palestinian cities, the Americans immediately pressured Israel to withdraw.

The same thing happened soon after Operation Protective Wall was launched in the spring, though that time Sharon rebuffed Bush's call for a speedy withdrawal and kept Israeli troops in place for several weeks.

When, after another wave of terror attacks, Israel moved back into Palestinian cities in mid-July in Operation Determined Path, there was virtually no American protest.

So, too, with Israel's policy of "targeted killings" of known Palestinian terrorists. While at first controversial, the killings elicited less and less criticism as the year progressed – though critics argued that at times they were counterproductive.

After Israel's mid-January killing of Raed Karmi, the head of Arafat's Tanzim militia in Tulkarm and a leading instigator of attacks, Palestinians launched an unprecedentedly ferocious wave of terror that started with a deadly shooting attack on a bat mitzvah celebration in Hadera in mid-January and culminated in the Netanya attack in late March.

Israel, nevertheless, persisted with its targeted killings. In late July the air force assassinated the military chief of Hamas, Saleh Shehadeh, dropping a one-ton bomb on his Gaza apartment and killing at least 14 civilians, including nine children. That attack prompted a wave of international criticism and a new round of Hamas attacks – and, according to some Palestinian sources, undermined chances for at least a partial ceasefire.

Despite growing American support, Israel faced much international, especially European, criticism for its handling of the intifadah. Sharon was castigated in the European press for refusing to allow Arafat to attend Christmas services in Bethlehem or the Arab League summit in Beirut in late March, where

Continued on page B65

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel

Sara Goldlist
Larry & Anette Goldstein
& Family

Wishing all my family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

PEACE IN ISRAEL.

Selma Goldstein

Anne Gottlieb
Marc, Beth, Brian,
Stephanie & Andrew Gottlieb

Wish their relatives & friends a peaceful happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Moishe & Mania Gruda

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren and our great-grandson Jordan and relatives for a happy, healthy New Year

Jack & Ruth Gutholc

MORI & ANABELA GOLDLIST
JORDANA, RACHEL and NATHAN

wish family & friends a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

"30 minutes or it's free" is NOT how Hashem operates ... but he does in fact deliver

Gert Goldberg
children Jill, John & Granddaughter Sydney
64 Carscadden Drive

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

Nina & David Glincman

Wish their relatives and friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Avi Gottlieb
Monique, Garrett, Austin

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Felice Gropper

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Lillian Granek

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Beatrice, Hymie & Alyssa Guttman

Edna & Joseph Gelbard
Ariel, Shayne and Kira

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

Benny & Leah Gilbert
of Barbados

Wish their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

H's . . .

Max and Mary Hain

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

ADAM & ZELDA HARRIS
and Family

Wish their relatives and friends
a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year

Sonia & Yehudi Hendler,
Jeff & Fran
Sindi, Joel, Fern, Marissa & Mark Kachuck

Best wishes for a year of peace,
health and happiness
to our children, relatives & friends.

Gusta Hefner
and Family

J's . . .

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel

The Natan Janower Family

Isaac & Basia Jesin
& Family
& Sonia Slawin

wish all our friends & extended families
a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.

Wolfe & Miriam Justein

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

K's . . .

Mara & Eugene Katz
Linda, Leon, Michael, Aaron
& Daniel Katz

Wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Ruth Kerbel
and daughter Donna

BEST WISHES FOR A YEAR OF
PEACE AND SERENITY,
HEALTH AND HAPPINESS,
TO OUR CHILDREN, MACHATONIM,
RELATIVES AND FRIENDS
AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.

Joe & Jean Kichler

Best wishes to our children
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful
New Year

שנת שלום

Betty & Izzy Kirshenbaum

Ronny & Shelli Klayman

Best wishes to our children,
relatives and friends for a
happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Blossom Klein
& Family

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel

Nancy & Howard Kleinberg
children and grandchildren

wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Israel Koplowitz

Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends & relatives
for a happy, healthy and peaceful
New Year

A dark year for European Jewry

By RUTH GRUBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

The aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States and the continuing Israeli-Palestinian conflict has had a direct and unsettling impact on European Jews.

Most dramatic was the emergence of what some observers called a "new" anti-Semitism, which others saw as a resurgence of traditional Jew-hatred that had been lurking beneath the surface since the Holocaust.

"Anti-Semitism, it has been said, is a light sleeper," the London *Jewish Chronicle* stated in an editorial this spring. "It began ominously to stir from slumber with the obscenely mistitled UN Anti-Racism Conference in Durban last year; arose further after the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States; and, notably in France and a number of other European states, has leapt fully awake with the escalation of Middle East violence."

Sources contributing to the reawakening included growing Muslim communities, extreme right-wing movements, pro-Palestinian political networks, and what David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee, called "the fashionable 'salon' anti-Semitism of some elites."

A poll of 2,500 people in five western European countries, released in June by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), indicated that 30 per cent of Europeans cling to traditional anti-Jewish stereotypes. In addition, 62 per cent of respondents believed the violence against European Jews over the past year was a result of anti-Israel sentiment.

ADL national director Abraham Foxman blamed anti-Israel sentiment on European governments – specifically on French, Danish and Belgian leaders – who termed the violence in their countries "political" rather than anti-Semitic.

While not all criticism of the Israeli government is anti-Semitic, the current tension linked to the Middle East conflict "rationalizes and legitimizes" acts of violence against Jews, Foxman said.

Attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions in some countries had already risen sharply since the Palestinian intifadah began in September 2000.

Following Israeli incursions into the West Bank this spring, however, isolated incidents intensified into a wave of violent attacks against Jews and Jewish institutions on a scale unseen since the Holocaust.

No one was killed, but synagogues were torched, Jewish cemeteries desecrated and Jews roughed up on the street. The European Jewish Congress counted some 360 anti-Jewish incidents in France in the first three weeks of April alone – mostly acts commited by alienated young Arabs lashing out at Jews and Jewish institutions as surrogates for Israel.

The attacks took place mainly in western Europe, which also saw a marked political shift to the right. In France, Jacques Chirac was re-elected president in a second-round vote, but only after extremist Jean-Marie Le Pen shocked voters by coming in second in the first round.

Anti-Semitic violence was also coupled with a more subtle ideological shift, with pro-Palestinian political sentiment fostering a demonization of Israel and a growing acceptance of classic anti-Semitic rhetoric in public discourse and private conversation.

The left wing, the peace movement and anti-globalization activists adopted a sometimes fiercely pro-Palestinian bias that included calls to isolate Israel with intellectual and commercial boycotts.

"In Italy, anti-Israel and anti-Semitic opinions are spread by local Italians," said Francesco Spagnolo, director of a Jewish music study centre in Milan. "It is ideological, but very vocal. I am very disillusioned."

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5763

A year of attacks, isolation, renewal

Continued from page B58

Jews who felt that many in the European media demonstrated an openly pro-Palestinian bias launched Web sites and letter-writing campaigns to lobby editors.

In April, the non-Jewish Italian journalist Oriana Fallaci entered the fray with a blistering indictment of Italy, Italians, the Catholic Church, the left wing, the media, politically correct pacifists and Europeans in general for abandoning Israel and fomenting a new wave of anti-Semitism.

Published as a cover story in a leading Italian newsweekly, her manifesto began by denouncing an Italian peace march that had degenerated into a vicious display of anti-Israel invective.

"I find it shameful," she wrote, "that in Italy there can be a march of individuals who, dressed as kamikazes, bawl infamous abuse against Israel, brandish photographs of Israeli leaders on whose foreheads they have drawn swastikas, incite the public to hate the Jews."

Fallaci lashed out at the Vatican for fostering a pro-Palestinian bias. She also criticized leftists for forgetting the sacrifices Jews had made in the struggle against fascism, and for becoming opportunistic lackeys to a "stupid, cowardly, dishonest" political correctness.

European Jewish leaders themselves appeared at a loss as to how to combat anti-Semitism and rally mainstream support for Israel.

In the spring, the European Jewish Congress and European Council of Jewish Communities held a strategy session in Brussels and established a European Co-ordination Centre to shape public opinion and lobby governments and parliaments.

Pro-Israel rallies in several cities, including a May rally in Brussels of 10,000 people from across Europe sponsored by the new centre, raised spirits but did not appear to have much success in changing European politics.

"People think Israel is like South Africa was 20 years ago, and that [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon is like [former Yugoslav leader Slobodan] Milosevic," said Joel Rubinfeld, a founder of the Belgian-Israel Friendship Association who helped organize the Brussels rally.

"They are wrong, but I am not angry at those people in the street. I am angry at the media."

Post-Communist countries in eastern and central Europe registered anti-Semitic incidents, but these did not appear to be directly linked to the Middle East. In general, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict did not have such a strong effect on eastern Europe, whose governments and media seemed more pro-Israel.

Other developments, meanwhile, reflected new social, political and cultural realities that are redefining or overturning old models of Jewish identity and behaviour.

While fears for Israel and concern over anti-Semitism drew many Jews closer together, communities were split politically over Israeli government policy toward the Palestinians.

Internally, religious issues and Jewish pluralism were increasingly on the agenda as traditional definitions of Jewishness eroded.

Liberal Jewish groups not generally recognized by the mainstream Orthodox community operated in Italy, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and elsewhere.

Holocaust issues, particularly regarding property restitution and compensation, also remained high-profile.

This was particularly so in eastern and central Europe, where Jewish leaders remained disappointed with efforts to regain communal property, despite their governments' interest in addressing Jewish concerns as they negotiated to join the NATO military alliance and the European Union.

There were attempts across Europe to embrace and promote Jewish culture, both as part of a new, multicultural European reality and as a way of strengthening Jewish identity.

Freda & Leo Kon and Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Helene & Jerry Korn and Family

Wish all their relatives & friends a very happy and peaceful New Year.

Marilyn Kostman
Elayne & Roberto Slimak
Sasha, Jonathan & Noah
Arny, Jesse & Tyler Kostman

Best wishes for a year of Peace and Serenity, Health & Happiness to all our friends.

Regina Kozlowski & Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Bernyce & Marvin Kalifer
Ronnie &Nancy and Family
Debbie & Wayne and Family
Ellen & Gerry and Family

Wish their friends & families a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year

לשנה טובה

Mrs. Rose Krieser and Family

Wish their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

L'Shana Tova לשנה טובה

To all our family and friends
for a happy & healthy New Year

Gordon & Marilyn Kroft, Kory, Dustin & Daniel

L's . . .

Natalie & Manny Langer

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Sonia & Ben Lant

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends.

Yetta Lanys
Shane & Patricia Lanys
Tiffany & Lori
Marty & Sandy Lanys
Shawn & Jana

BLAYNE, ADRIENNE, SAMANTHA & BRADLEY LASTMAN

wish their relatives, friends and neighbours a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

I wish my family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Mary Levitt

Fela Lichtblau and Family

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year

Rose Lipszyc & Family

Best wishes to our friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Shelly & Marilyn Little
Adam, Jeremy & Sari

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Marilyn, Bruce, Erin, Michael & Brian Lubelsky

Wishing all our family and friends
a happy and healthy New Year

Max, Shirley & Shaun Lacob
Rozanne, Craig & Matthew Kibel

Robert & Regina
Alisse, Jodi and Brian Lee

Wish all their relatives and friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

M's . . .

DAVID E. MILGRAM
and family

wish our family, friends and clients
a year of ruach and shalom.
May all your dreams come to being.

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel

Honey & Milton Mandel
and Family

Best Wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel.

Nicole and Kevin Mandel

Ida & Harry Melnik
children & grandchildren

Wish all their relatives, friends & neighbours
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Basilica of St. Francis (San Francesco) of Assisi.

Assisi 2002: An Encounter with History

By GERALD SCHWARTZ

With help and advice from the Instituto di Cultura Italianna in Toronto, I signed up for an intensive course in the Italian language this past spring. Though I had read about the Holocaust experiences of Italy's Jews and the Assisi Underground, I did not expect to have a personal meeting with perhaps the last surviving member of a group that helped save the lives of hundreds of Jews.

These Jews had fled to Assisi mainly from Trieste and other Italian towns in the north and were protected there from September 1943 until June 1944, when they were liberated by the Anglo-American armies. Most were native Italians by birth, but some were refugees from other countries in Europe overrun by the Nazis.

Assisi sits high on a ridge of Mount Subasio, some 100 miles north of Rome in the province of Perugia and region of Umbria. Today, the walled *centro storico* (historical centre) has only about 1,000 permanent residents, most of whom belong to the clergy. The effects of the massive earthquake five years ago are still in evidence. While overcrowded with tourists during the day, at dawn and dusk the alleyways and cobblestone streets of Assisi are peaceful.

Though the Vatican may have remained officially silent during the Nazi deportation of Jews in Italy, some 85 per cent of Italy's Jews survived due in no small part to the support of the Catholic clergy. Hundreds of Jews were hidden in its enclaves in Rome. One of the earliest rescue attempts unfolded in Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis (or San Francesco), founder of the Franciscan order. Monsignor Giuseppe Nicolini (Bishop of Assisi), Father Ruffino Niccacci of the Damiano monastery and a young priest named Aldo Brunacci spearheaded the sheltering, feeding and protection of these Jews. Father Brunacci (Don Aldo) was a confidante of Bishop Nicolini and much work, including the hiding and safekeeping of Jewish religious books, was done in absolute secrecy.

By incredible coincidence, both my language school and rented apartment were steps from the Casa Papa Giovanni, which contains Don Aldo's residence. A Greek and Latin classicist, Don Aldo is presently a canon at the San Rufino Cathedral in Assisi and operates a retreat house and bookshop named after Pope John XXIII.

I met with Don Aldo shortly before he left for New York to attend a Shoah conference at Brooklyn College. We ended up speaking for well over an hour in French – his English and my Italian were not fluent enough at this point. Don Aldo is now 88 years old and vigorous in mind, body and spirit. He told me he has visited both Montreal and Toronto.

Up until 1943, no Jews had ever settled in Assisi. Most Italian-born Jews – in the country since pre-Roman times – were assimilated. This fact is depicted in the classic book and film *The Garden of the Finzi-Continis* by Giorgio Bassani, a Jew from Bologna and Ferrara. (The book, available in every bookshop in Italy, is on many high school reading lists there.)

With the fall of Rome and Northern Italy to the Germans in September of that year, Bishop Nicolini asked Father Niccacci to hide and protect fleeing Jews, which he did, in 26 monasteries and convents in and around the town. Those who could easily pass as Italian were issued false identity cards and taken into private homes of his parishioners with no pay for their lodging. A local printer and his son, Luigi and Trento Brizi, forged false documents, allowing the refugees to pass themselves off as Italians from the southern areas of Italy where the Allies had already landed. Trusted clerics conducted academic classes for Jewish children and also taught Jews to behave as Christians so as not to arouse suspicion.

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5763

The Jews of Italy

Continued from page B60

Eventually, the SS raided the hideouts, but the refugees were able to flee in time into the nearby forests and mountains, escorted by priests and partisans. The Germans arrested Father Brunacci in May 1944, while the Viterbi family of Padua was actually in his home. Held in confinement in Rome, the Vatican intervened to save his life, and he took refuge there until Rome was liberated on June 4, 1944. In the end, not a single Jewish refugee in Assisi was caught, deported or denounced to the Germans.

I was transfixed as Don Aldo showed me his Righteous Medal (*chasidei umot ha'olam* in Hebrew) and photos of his tree-planting ceremony at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem in 1977. The medallion is inscribed with the famous quote in Hebrew and French: "Whoever preserves one life it is as though he has preserved the entire world."

Don Aldo ensured that Monsignor Nicolini was recognized posthumously. In addition, he recorded his testimony as a rescuer for Stephen Spielberg's Visual History of the Shoah Foundation and showed me a personal letter in Italian from its American director.

After the war, Father Brunacci kept in close touch with the survivors, who were living in Italy, Israel and elsewhere. He spoke fondly of all but made special mention of the Viterbi family, Prof. Emilio Viterbi, a scientist at the University of Padua, his wife Margherita Levi Minzi and their daughters Graziela and Mirjam. Graziela recently returned to Assisi from Rome after the death of her husband but moved the month I was there while her home was being repaired after earthquake damage. One of her sons is a rabbi living in Rome. She is now the only Jewish resident of this town.

Don Aldo has presided at a reunion of the Jews from Trieste in 1955 and presided over a day in 1982 dedicated to the Jews of Italy: *Giornata Degli Ebrei D'Italia*.

Throughout the German occupation, Don Aldo dealt directly with the German commander of Assisi, Col. Valentin Muller. According to Don Aldo, Muller and Bishop Nicolini were instrumental in keeping Assisi – declared in 1944 a hospital city – immune from bombardment and stationed with military from both sides. When the Germans retreated from Assisi in June 1944, their rear guard abandoned the city without the kind of atrocities and destruction that occurred elsewhere in Italy. The people and art treasures of the city of St. Francis were spared.

Don Aldo made me photocopies of some pertinent Italian documents which also included photos of some of the events mentioned in this article. The definitive book on this period, by Franco Santucci, is called *Assisi: 1943-44 Documenti per una storia*, which chronicles day-to-day critical events of the time. I bought a short English summary of it called *The Strategy That Saved Assisi*.

The time I spent with Don Aldo Brunacci was a major highlight of my six weeks in Italy. His modesty and selflessness overwhelmed me. It was an honour to greet him personally. In a time of darkness and destruction, he was one of a small number of people who stood for humanity and justice.

Gerald Schwartz is a freelance writer living in Toronto.

Mrs. J. Mendlewitz
Shirley & Jamie Hanet
wish their relatives & friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Carl & Sylvia Mahler
Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, relatives and friends
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Shana Tova – לשנה טובה
Cy & Reta Mann
and Freda
Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, relatives and friends
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Sam & Lori Merson
Wish their family and friends
a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Max Moneta
wish their family & friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

JOE & HELEN MORGAN
AND FAMILY
wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Dr. & Mrs. Seymour Moskovitz
and Family
wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

David Mendlowicz
Simon Mendlowicz,
Wendy Lebskin & Jenna
Itzik Ravuna, Lisa Mendlowicz,
Jordan & Danielle
Wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Seymour Marcus
Best wishes to our children,
grandchildren, friends and relatives
for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Rebecca Moscoe
1 Clark Avenue West, Apt. #1708
Wishes her relatives, friends & neighbours
a happy and healthy New Year.

The families of
Sid & Sandy Moshenberg
Wish their relatives and friends
a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

N's . . .

Chaim Neuberger
Children & Grandchildren
wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

O's . . .

Best wishes for a year of
peace and serenity, health and happiness
to our relatives and friends
and the people of Israel.
Mr. & Mrs. Sam Orlan

Mark & Barbara Obar
Children & Grandchildren
wish their relatives and friends
a happy and healthy New Year.

P's . . .

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Mr. & Mrs. Martin Pearl
Melvin & Rhonda, Jordan
Michael, Zane & Samantha
Jack, Tommy, Mickie & Tal

Sadie Perel
Arnold, Hyla and Yosepha Perel
Steven, Chana Miriam, Moshe Tzvi and Kalman Perel
Chaim, Bryna and Yehuda Zev Roth

Wishing their relatives and friends a peaceful, Healthy and Happy New Year.

Rose & Harry Perlstein & Son

Wish their friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Isaac, Minny, David, Barbara, Sammy & Alyssa Peters
Morris & Marsha Goldstein
Michelle, Wayne & Dahlia
Jennifer & Harold

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy & healthy New Year.

Zalman & Pola Pila
199 Clanton Park Road

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Leib and Fanny Pillersdorf and Family
83 Collinson Boulevard
Toronto, Ontario

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Sam & Dora Prince

Wish their family & friends a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Moniek & Genia Prusznowski

Isaac & Sylvia Peck
Ryan & Judith, Jared & Samantha

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

R's . . .

Ralph, Jesse, Danielle, Joanna, Kari Rabinowicz & Mrs. Bella Rabinowicz

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

David, Shanea, Ryan and Dara Rakowski

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

Genia & Henry Rakowski

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Martin, Lena, David & Joshua Rauchwerger and Helen Rauchwerger

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. P. Rechtsman and Family

Wish their relatives and friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Rosh Hashanah: the birthday of the world

By SHARON KANON
Israel Press Service

"Today is the birthday of the world. Today all creatures of the world stand in judgment..." These are the verses sung each time the shofar is blown during the Rosh Hashanah service.

On the secular calendar, the dates to circle this year are Sept. 7 and 8; on the Hebrew calendar, Tishrei 1, 5763. The first day coincides with the Sabbath, making it a doubly festive event.

How do we know the date? A terse directive was given by God in Emor, Leviticus 23:24, the 31st chapter of the Torah that deals with festivals: "In the seventh month, on the first of the month, there shall be a rest day for you, a remembrance with shofar blasts, a holy convocation." The name Rosh Hashanah is not mentioned.

In the Bible, the Hebrew months are referred to primarily by numbers. Later, when the Mishnah gave Babylonian names to the months, the seventh month was called Tishrei; its root, seru, means "to begin." Coincidently, the agricultural year is also considered to begin at this time, with the fall harvest.

The name Tishrei thus marks a beginning, a new year for establishing dates that occur annually or at annual intervals. Tishrei is also a time of judgment, and the sign of the zodiac associated with Tishrei is a scale, symbolizing judgment.

Rosh Hashanah does not mark the first day of creation. The first day of creation was actually five days earlier, on the 25th day of Elul, in the year 3761 BCE. A universe without humans was not a cause for celebration. Only with the creation of Adam and Eve on the sixth day did the total creation become purposeful and commemorative. The proclamation of God as King, His coronation, takes place on Rosh Hashanah

According to the sages, the patriarchs Abraham and Jacob were also born on Rosh Hashanah. Just as many bad events occurred on Tisha b'Av, so many happy events occurred on Rosh Hashanah. Three barren women (Sarah, Rachel, and Hannah) were made fertile enabling them to bear children – Isaac, Joseph and the prophet Samuel. Jewish slave labour in Egypt stopped on the first day of Tishrei.

The New Year occurs on a rosh chodesh (literally, head of the month), another reason for biblical celebration. All the other festivals fall in the middle of the month.

The name Rosh Hashanah (head of the year), the New Year of Years, was first used by the rabbis in the Mishnah.

When Ezra, on his return from Babylon in the fifth century CE, read out the law to the people on the first day of Tishrei, it also became known as the Day of Judgment. Aware of their shortcomings, the people were in despair, until Nehemiah emphasized the positive side of the festival: "Go your way, 'eat rich viands, and drink the sweet beverages, and send portions to him who has none prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord; do not be sad; for joy in the Lord is your refuge." (Nehemiah 8:120)

Thanks to Nehemiah, we celebrate and enjoy Rosh Hashanah even as we stand in awe of its message. Human beings are judged as individuals and as part of a group, as individual "sheep" and as a "flock."

In the Mussaf prayer, we chant these words: "On Rosh Hashanah it will be inscribed and on Yom Kippur it will be sealed how many will pass from the earth and how many will be created; who will live and who will die... who will rest and who will wander... who will be impoverished and who will be enriched, who will be degraded and who will be exalted."

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Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5763

We are granted a 10-day period in which we can appeal our fate

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If we read on, however, we find that we are granted a 10-day period in which we can appeal our fate (which has been written but is not yet permanent). The liturgy gives three specific ways to avert the decree: "Repentance, prayer and charity remove the evil of the decree!"

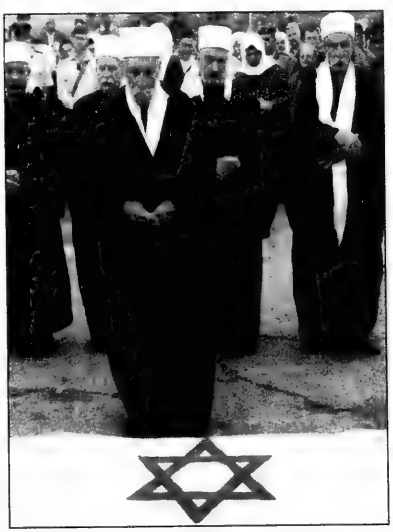
In other words, we can change our fate, start a clean slate and begin anew.

The process of tshuvah (repentance) begins during Elul, the month before Rosh Hashanah, when the Slichot prayers are said asking forgiveness; it continues during the 10 days before Yom Kippur.

The three main themes of Rosh Hashanah are God's kingship, remembrance (of the covenant and the sacrifice of Isaac) and the shofar. The shofar heralds the day as the anniversary of God's coronation as king. The shofar, a ram's horn (a symbol of mercy, a reminder of the ram offered by Abraham instead of Isaac) is blown 100 times each day (6 x 10 plus 40 at the end of the daily service) during the two-day festival. This year, it will not be blown on the first day of Rosh Hashanah, as it falls on the Sabbath.

The first and the last shofar blasts are long and strong, like the sound that accompanied the revelation at Sinai, while the middle notes are short, sad and somber, expressing trepidation in the process of judgment.

"There is definitely a dual nature to the holiday," says Phil Chernofsky, educational director and *Torah Tidbits* editor for the Orthodox Union Israel Centre in Jerusalem. "Fortunately, though, the last note sets the tone for a triumphant march into the New Year."



DRUZE FUNERAL: Druze religious leaders pray at the funeral of first sergeant Ala Habeishi in Julius in the north of Israel on March 15, 2002. Habeishi, a Druze Israeli soldier was one of three crewmen killed in a Merkava-3 tank destroyed by Palestinian militants as it drove in a convoy through the Gaza Strip the day before.

[RNS/Reuters photo]

Bella Robinson

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Adele & Jan Rolin

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy and healthy & peaceful New Year.

Mike & Sally Rosen

31 Denmark Crescent

Wish all their relatives, friends and clients a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Lily & Mike Rosenberg,
Marilyn, Robert, Daniel & Sarah Jacobs,
Pauline, Vanessa, Jon & Ben Elias

wish their relatives & friends a happy and healthy New Year

Paul & Phyllis Rosengarten

Best wishes to our children grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Willie & Bertha Rosengarten & Family

672 Briar Hill Avenue

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

THE ROSENS
Hannah, John and Eric

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Pinchos & Luba Rywiec

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Heddy Rydel

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Marvin Katz & Lynn Raskin
and children, Dianna, Rosalyn,
Nathan, Stephanie, Jessica & Danielle

Express their wishes of love and caring to all, for the new year. Shanah Tovah!

Myer Rosenberg

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, my great granddaughter Maya Shira, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

S's . . .

Rosita & David Salomon

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Samuel J. Sable & family

1 Ava Road

Wish their relatives, friends and neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

David Scheer & Naomi Weinfeld and their children

Florence Shainhouse

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Lois, Jordan and Miriam Smiley
of Richmond, B.C.

Adolf and Alice Schmid
Monique, Amanda & Jordana Irwin

Wish their family and friends a Happy and Healthy New Year

Nachum & Lea Shore
23 Fanshawe Dr., Richmond Hill

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

David & Luba Smuschkowitz and Family

Wish all their relatives, friends a year of peace, good health and happiness

Leon & Bela Sniatowski

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year to all our relatives, clients & friends

Mr. & Mrs. Milton Snow
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Snow & family
Karyn, Ashleigh, Carly & Jason Schwartz
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Cohen & family
Mr. Leo Snow

Rob & Hedy Steen
Samantha, Ben and Jeremy

Wish their relatives, friends and neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Anne & Joe Steinberg
Bella, Elliot, Jason, Adam & Daniel Sinukoff
Wendy, Stuart, Zachary, Cory, Matthew & Michael Himmel
Evy, Elliot, Hailey, Carly & Jordan Sugar
Wish their relatives, machatunim & friends a happy & healthy New Year.
52 Green Acres Road

IDF developments last year

New Israeli army chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Moshe Ya'alon (R) and outgoing Chief of Staff, Lieutenant-General Shaul Mofaz (C) are welcomed by army Generals at the Defence Ministry at army headquarters in Tel Aviv on July 9. Ya'alon took over as the 17th Israeli army's chief of staff, replacing Shaul Mofaz who has overseen Israel's response to a 21-month-old Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

[RNS/Reuters photo]

IDF reserve soldiers - *Milu'imniks* - meeting after getting their emergency call up near Alfei Menashe. Their unit entered Qalqilia later that day.

[Israel Sun photo]

Arab countries endorsed Saudi plan

Continued from page B57

Arab countries endorsed a Saudi initiative for "normal" relations with Israel in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal to its pre-1967 borders.

But the heaviest criticism came after a heated early April battle in the Jenin refugee camp, where Palestinians claimed a "massacre" had taken place with several hundred to several thousand victims. Though Israel said only some 52 Palestinians – most of them armed fighters – had been killed, the massacre claim gained credence around the world.

Israel initially agreed to allow a UN Security Council team come to Jenin to investigate the Palestinian claims, but later reversed its stand when the UN's refusal to address Israeli concerns led some to conclude Israel was being set up for condemnation by a biased jury.

In July, a UN report dismissed the massacre claims, but criticized the IDF for allegedly not allowing humanitarian aid to reach Palestinians for several days.

The Jenin battle also coincided with calls throughout Europe to boycott Israeli goods and end contact with Israeli academics and other professionals. Such calls made little progress, but anti-Israel media, anti-Israel demonstrations throughout the continent and an outbreak of anti-Semitic attacks tied to the intifadah showed how low Israel had fallen in Europe's estimation.

The intifadah took an enormous economic toll on both Israel and the Palestinians. On the Palestinian side, economic activity ground to a halt and food supplies grew scarce when Israel imposed long curfews on Palestinian cities to curb terrorist movements.

On the domestic political front, the Labor Party remained in disarray as it struggled to find a leader and many members called on the party to leave Sharon's national unity government. Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer bested Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg in a disputed election for party chairman, but was expected to face additional opposition when Labor held yet another leadership vote in November.

For a time it seemed that longtime Labor politico Haim Ramon would challenge Ben-Eliezer in November.

In August, however, Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna, a former general whose initial interviews suggested strongly left-wing views, emerged as a potential challenger.

More ferment was evident on the two fringes of the political spectrum. In March, the far-right National Unity-Israel, Our Home bloc deserted the unity government because it felt Sharon was not being tough enough on Palestinian terror.

On the left, more dovish elements of the Labor Party and some leaders of the Meretz Party debated breaking away to form a new left-wing movement that would focus on social justice and seek to revive the peace process with the Palestinians.

On the religious front, the Orthodox Shas Party threatened to withdraw from the government in May unless Sharon met its funding demands at a time when the government was facing severe budget cuts. Unlike previous prime ministers, who largely gave in to Shas' demands, Sharon stared them down, firing the Shas ministers and allowing them back into the government only when they agreed to vote for his budget.

Yet for many Israelis, political intrigue and realignment seemed an abstract concern in 5762; the main priority merely was to stay alive.

Some pinned their hopes on the construction of a security fence that Sharon approved in June along Israel's convoluted border with the West Bank. But others warned that in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, not even good fences would make good neighbours.

Leslie Susser is diplomatic correspondent for the Jerusalem Report.

Alter & Helen Steinfeld

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Corinne Stern

188 Redpath Avenue
Toronto

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

Derek, Jill Zachary & Jared Stern

55 Oakhurst Drive
Thornhill

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

Max & Dorothy Stern

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Zanvel & Sylvia Stern

37 Steele Valley Road
Thornhill

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy and healthy New Year

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Stork and Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy, and healthy New Year.

Isaac and Mary Szames

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

The Steinman Family

6 Barclay Court

Jack, Lola, Rose-Mary Sylman Sid, Evelyn, Madison & Tyler Rochwerg

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Morris & Yetta Sternberg and Family

Wish their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Laury & Evy Snow

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

MINKA SMITH
IAN, TOBE & SHELDON TWEYMAN
AUBREY, KAREN, SAMUEL & MATTHEW LIPMAN

Nathan & Helen Shiff
Martin, Michelle, Mitchell, Jaimie & Jeremy Shiff
Jeffrey, Aviva, David, Tatum & Melissa Shiff
Adam, Barbara, Matthew & Carly Altberg

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy & healthy New Year.

Rachelle, Lisa, Mindy & Jessica Salamon

Wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

T's . . .

Dina and Willie Tenenbaum

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Tenenbaum
Sid, Judy, Ari-Lev, Elie & Avichai
Gary, Louise & Josh
Uli, Tamara, Odeyah & Daniel Friedman

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours here and in Israel a happy and healthy New Year.

Mrs. Rose Tenenbaum

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Morris Teper & family

Mr. & Mrs. G. Thaler and children
Sam, Bess and grandchildren
Jason and Amy Wagowsky

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Norman & Ruth Trachter

Wish their children, grandchildren, relatives and friends a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Norm & Sandra Turk and Family

wish their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

U's . . .

Tom and Elaine Ungar
Allan, Stephen and Melanie

Wish their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Irving & Sylvia Ungerman and family

Wish their relatives & friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Harry Ungerman and Family

V's . . .

Gordie, Debra, Betty, Jaime & Courtney Verk
700 Woburn Avenue

Wish their relatives, friends and neighbors a happy and healthy New Year.

W's . . .

David & Ruth Warsh and their Families

Wish their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

The Jews of China

By BEVERLEY STERN

I remember the day I was at the Beth Hatefutsoth Museum of the Diaspora in Israel, and I caught a fascinating glimpse of a model of the Kaifeng Synagogue of China. It raised many questions about the mysterious presence of Jews in that country.

This past spring, I had the opportunity as part of a group of 30 Jews from Ontario and Quebec to remove the veil of mystery and see "China through Jewish Eyes." Over 18 days of travel, led by Jewish community leader Harriet Morton, we saw sites of Jewish life in three major centres – Kaifeng, Shanghai and Beijing.

What emerged was an astonishing history of more than 1,000 years of a rich Jewish communal experience that, free of the anti-Semitism of Christian Europe, welcomed Jews, esteemed their values of family, community, education, hard work and success, and allowed them to rise to dazzling heights of prosperity and prominence.

Arriving as merchants in approximately the eighth century, Jews established their first permanent community in Kaifeng over the 11th to 13th centuries. They were followed in the 1830s by Sephardi Jewish entrepreneurs; at the turn of the century, by Russian Jews fleeing pogroms; and from 1933 to 1941, by 30,000 desperate Jewish refugees fleeing Nazi Europe.

Remarkably, the latter were accepted without Chinese visas by the Chinese consulate in Vienna at a time when, with few exceptions, doors to Jews were closed around the world.

While most Jews left China in the years after the Chinese Communist takeover – particularly after the Cultural Revolution of the 1960s – a new influx began arriving from Israel, North America and Europe with the liberalization of the Chinese economy and the establishment of diplomatic ties with Israel.

Archeological discoveries reveal that Jews, many from Persia, first came to China as merchants, often in dusty camel caravans, along the Silk Road as well as by sea and coastal areas. The descendants of those merchants formed the first permanent Jewish community in Kaifeng.

The story of the once-thriving Kaifeng Jewish community, with a population of about 4,000 to 5,000 by the 15th and 16th centuries, is a model of prosperity, assimilation, intermarriage – and ultimately, disappearance.

Drawings and prints in a mini-museum in Kaifeng reveal Jews of the time wearing Chinese garb and to be flourishing and influential in Chinese political and social circles. They intermarried, changed their names and absorbed Chinese traditions. By the late 17th century, they had lost contact with the Jewish world outside. The Kaifeng synagogue and the once-vibrant religious traditions and communal life it inspired lay in ruins.

Interestingly, a new chapter of Kaifeng Jewry might now be written. Moshe Zhang, a Kaifeng Jew with purely Asian features, is one of about 100 or more Kaifeng Jews currently striving to reclaim their Jewish heritage. A small group, including Moishe, hold Friday and Shabbat services (but observe no other religious traditions) and meet with curious visiting Jews from abroad such as ours. Moishe's son, Shi Lei, is now studying Hebrew and Jewish history at Bar-Ilan University on a scholarship.

Unlike Kaifeng Jewry, the Jews of Shanghai sustained a strong, vital Jewish life right up until the time they left for Hong Kong and places further abroad in the wake of huge losses of property during the Japanese occupation, the subsequent Chinese Civil War and the Communist victory over the Nationalists in 1949.

Similarly to Kaifeng Jews, however, Sephardi Jews, many from Baghdad, Bombay and Singapore, first came to Shanghai as merchants seeking their fortunes. They amassed their initial wealth during the years of the forced legalization of the opium trade on China by Britain and other European powers. They later parlayed this wealth into huge fortunes in real estate, manufacturing and trade.

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Russian Jews came fleeing anti-Semitism

Continued from page B66

Many of the most striking hotels, apartment towers and commercial buildings in the architecturally beautiful Bund district of Shanghai were built by the Sassoons, Hardoons and Kadoories and other Sephardi Jews.

Besides building mansions and villas with lush gradens and tennis courts, the Sephardim generously supported Jewish causes and Zionism and built syngogues, Jewish schools and community centres.

Unlike the affluent Sephardim who came for trade, impoverished Russian Jews came to China fleeing the vicious anti-Semitism of the late 19th century and the turmoil of the revolutions of 1905 and 1917; they arrived in the thousands, initially eking out a living in Harbin, Shanghai and other cities.

In time, however, these Ashkenazim viewed China as their "second homeland." They also succeeded in business, surpassed the Sephardim in numbers, actively promoted education and the creative arts in music, drama and ballet and demonstrated a vigorous commitment to their faith, community and Zionism. Particularly supportive of Vladimir Jabotinsky's Revisionists, they formed Betar units, including one naval unit that joined the British forces in 1941.

During World War II, when about 30,000 Jewish refugees fled Nazi Europe and were given sanctuary in Shanghai, Rabbi Meir Ashkenazi miraculously escaped with some 50 students from the famed Mir Yeshiva. Many one-time Russian residents can still vividly recall

> Impoverished Russian Jews who fled anti-Semitism and came to China viewed the country as their second homeland

Passover seders led by Rabbi Ashkenazi, who became the spiritual leader of the Ohel Moishe Synagogue and the Russian Jewish community in Shanghai.

Life for Jewish refugees still living in Shanghai changed sharply when the German Gestapo arrived in July 1942. The Gestapo put heavy pressure on the Japanese authorities to impose the Final Solution. But according to one of the trip's participants who lived in Shanghai during the war, they refused the Gestapo's request because of Jewish communal pressure, particularly from Russian "*balabatim*" (some said that money crossed a few hands).

Instead of the Final Solution, the Japanese occupation authorities proclaimed a "Designated Area for Stateless Refugees," and the 25,000 refugees were moved into a crowded ghetto where they remained for the rest of the war. Living under rigid travel, curfew and work restrictions, they survived by learning new trades in carpentry and sewing often taught by ORT as well as opening small businesses, professional offices and restaurants. (ORT is an international Jewish agency promoting education and trades. Its name was coined in 1880 from the acronym of the Russian words *Obschestvo Remeslenovo i zemledelcheskovo Trouda*, meaning the Society for Trades and Agricultural Labour.)

Of this remarkable chapter in Jewish-Chinese relations, noted Chinese academic and author of *The Jews in China*, Pan Guang writes: "Like Schindler,Wallenberg and Sugihara, the name 'Shanghai' has become synonymous with 'rescue' and 'haven' in the annals of the Holocaust."

Continued on page B68

Albert & Helen Waisglass

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Jack & Anne Weinbaum & Family

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Weinstock
David, Moss, Mark & Daniel

Wish their relatives, friends & neighbours a happy & healthy New Year.

Mark & Jodi Weisleder, Hillary & Jillian
Louis & Marlene Weisleder, Joshua, Lindsay & Zachary
Marsha Weisleder
Anne & Sam Himelfarb
Adam & Eric
wish their family, machatonim, neighbours and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

John & Marcia Wenus
Dustin, Shelby and Brittany

Wish their relatives, friends and neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Sarah & Abe Wertman

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy holiday and a healthy & Peaceful New Year.

MR. JACK WINE
Ted & Annette Wine
Madison & Eden
Esther & Bruce Newman
David & Sharon and Jamie
Alyssa & Mark Rolnick
wish their relatives, friends and neighbours a happy & healthy New Year.

Shana Tova

To our friends & relatives for a happy & healthy New Year

Stefanie & Steve Winter

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

Victor & Klara Wise

THE WISEBERGS
Leonard & Gloria
Barb, Darrel & Joseph Hotz (Canada)
Azriel, Sigal, Nitzan, Dafna & Maya Har Lavan (Israel)
Wish all their relatives and friends a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sidney Wolbrom

Best wishes to my children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Lou & Helen Wronzberg
Rick, Debbie, Alexis & Danielle
Larry, Darlene, Lynsey & Tarah
Randy, Debbie, Jordan, Ashley, Dustin & Melissa
Donna, Jonah, Nechama, Chaim & Shmuel

Wish all their relatives and friends a happy and healthy New Years.

Ted and Perlan Waxman
Mark, Marnie, Mandy & Justin
Aaron & Rosemary
Randy & Jody
83 Stonedene Boulevard
wish all their relatives, friends and neighbours a happy and healthy New Year.

Sylvia & Henry Waks

Wish all their relatives and friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel

Brenda & Jimmy Westbrook & family

Y's . . .

Best wishes for a year of peace and serenity, health and happiness to our relatives and friends and the people of Israel.

The Yermus Family

Hy & Ruth Young

Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, friends and relatives for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Z's . . .

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Zajdner

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.

Abe & Margot Zukerman

7,000 Jews in China today

Continued from page B67

While only now there is a growing public awareness about China's role in saving Jews during the Holocaust, little is known about the individual Jews who helped China to resist the Japanese invasion and occupation — or those who, believing in the Communist cause, stayed on after the People's Republic was established in 1949.

These idealists, who believed in building a new Communist China, provided valuable services as doctors, political advisors, teachers and scholars. Only after the years of terror and repression launched by the Cultural Revolution in 1966 did most, if not all, the remaining Jews leave.

The current re-appearance of Jews on the mainland follows the expansion of foreign trade and investment in China and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Israel and China in 1992.

A wonderful Friday night service and dinner with a small Beijing Reform congregation is a microcosm of the revival of Jewish life in China. Men and women from around the world, including Israel and the United States, have come to this country to study, work with the Jewish community here or to advance their careers.

* * *

The number of Jews in China today is about 7,000; 6,000 in Hong Kong, 200 in Shanghai; 200 in Beijing and 200 elsewhere. Diplomats, technology experts, professionals, entrepreneurs and students, they are forging new institutions of communal and religious life, from the secular and Reform to Lubavitch. The latter just opened a new Jewish community centre in Shanghai that is meant to serve the whole Jewish community regardless of affiliation.

Significantly, the return of onetime Chinese Jewish residents as both visitors and investors is compelling testimony to the harmonious relationship and mutual respect Jews and Chinese have enjoyed for over 1,000 years.

Beverley Stern is a writer living in Toronto.

Shown (clockwise from top right) Rabbi Meir Ashkenazi, Dr. Jacob Rosenfeld, Jews fleeing persecution in Europe, a descendant of the Kaifeng Jews, and a luxury hotel built by the Sassoon family.

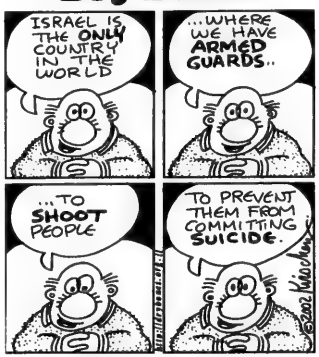
[Photos from *Jews in China*, edited by Pan Guang]

Rosh Hashanah Greetings 5763

A Dry Bones Year in Review

I AM READY TO GIVE MY LIFE FOR THE CAUSE!
NAME ONE SACRIFICE WHICH I HAVE NOT MADE FOR PALESTINE AND I WILL MAKE IT NOW!
RETIRE GRACEFULLY AND ALLOW YOUR PEOPLE TO HAVE THEIR STATE.
YOU'VE GOT MAYBE A SECOND CHOICE?
THE ONLY REASON THAT ISRAEL SEIZED OUR SHIP WITH ITS...
50 TONS OF WEAPONS, AMMO, EXPLOSIVES, LANDMINES, AND ROCKETS
IS BECAUSE ISRAEL IS SO PARANOID THAT...
THEY STILL REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT WE WANT PEACE!
AN ARAB SPRAYING BULLETS INTO A CROWD AT AN EL AL COUNTER IN LA...
...IS NOT NECESSARILY A TERROR ATTACK.
MEANING?
WELL...
HE COULD HAVE BEEN HAVING A "BAD HAIR" DAY!
NAQBA DAY COMMEMORATES THE DISASTER THAT BEFELL PALESTINIAN ARABS
WHEN THEY CHOSE WAR INSTEAD OF PEACE WITH THE JEWISH STATE.
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT "BACK THEN" OR "THIS TIME"?
WHENEVER.

Dry Bones


ISRAEL IS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD
...WHERE WE HAVE ARMED GUARDS..
...TO SHOOT PEOPLE
TO PREVENT THEM FROM COMMITTING SUICIDE.

Dry Bones ..King Solomon and his adviser

IF WE MAKE SUNDAY AN OFFICIAL DAY OF REST...
...WE WILL SLASH LOCAL ISRAELI UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES!!
?
BECAUSE ON SUNDAYS THEY WONT BE UNEMPLOYED..
...IT'LL BE THEIR DAY OFF!

Dry Bones

HAS ARAFAT SAID THAT MURDERING JEWS IS WRONG?
NO...BUT HE DID SAY THAT "KILLING JEWISH CIVILIANS INSIDE THE 1967 BORDERS"..
"...SHOULD BE STOPPED AT THIS TIME FOR STRATEGIC PURPOSES."
HOW MUCH MORE DO YOU PEOPLE WANT?!!

Dry Bones THE UN AND ISRAEL'S KIDNAPPED SOLDIERS.

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- Lawrence Plaza 3090 Bathurst St., North York (416-783-1227)

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The Year 5762 in Review

The year began with a security alert to Jewish institutions

Tishrei

EVENTS

• The Canadian Jewish Congress issues a warning to all Jewish organizations, community centres and synagogues to go on heightened alert after the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

• The *Los Angeles Times* reveals that the Mossad had warned the United States in August 2001 that 200 terrorists linked to Osama bin Laden were entering the country to plan "a major assault on the United States."

PEOPLE

• Isaac Stern, master violinist, dies at 81.

Cheshvan

EVENTS

• British Prime Minister Tony Blair announces that a Palestinian state is key for peace in the Middle East.

• Syria is elected to the United Nations Security Council.

• Israeli Tourism Minister Rechavam Ze'evi is assassinated by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Israel responds by sending troops into six Palestinian cities.

• Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Thornhill, Ont. is vandalized with graffiti reading "Jews must die/Taliban lives/Osama bin Laden lives."

• Eleven Jewish organizations in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Windsor receive letters containing substances feared to be anthrax.

• MP Irwin Cotler says the selection of the United Nations and its secretary general for the Nobel Peace Prize legitimizes the "festival of hate" against Israel and Jews that occurred at the UN anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa.

• A Palestinian terrorist opens fire on bus in the French Hill neighbourhood of Jerusalem. Two Israelis are killed and the gunman is shot dead. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility.

• Then-foreign minister John Manley tours the Middle East. He attempts to get Israel to withdraw from Palestinian areas and criticizes the Palestinian Authority.

• The Israel Defence Forces officially declares dead three soldiers who were kidnapped by Hezbollah in southern Lebanon last year.

• U.S. President George W. Bush, declares support for an independent Palestine alongside Israel.

• The U.S. State Department freezes the assets of terrorist groups, including Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

PEOPLE

• Simon Wiesenthal announces his retirement at age 92 after bringing close to 3,000 war criminals to justice.

Kislev

EVENTS

• Hezbollah rejects a secret U.S. offer to "forgive" terrorist attacks in exchange for ending hostilities towards Israel.

• Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon calls for seven days without violence as a first step to implement the peace plan brokered by former U.S. senator George Mitchell.

• Vandals burn down part of a Jewish elementary school in Marseille, France.

• Eight Israeli terror victims go to Belgium to petition a court there to charge Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat with war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

• In a 24-hour period, 28 Israelis are killed in two separate terrorist attacks by Palestinians. The first occurrs in Jerusalem. In the second, a suicide bomber hits a city bus in Haifa.

• The Israeli military fires missiles at locations near Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Gaza headquarters.

• Chapters and Indigo bookstores remove copies of *Mein Kampf* from shelves, calling it "hate literature."

• Canada endorses a UN declaration calling on Israel to refrain from violating the Geneva Convention.

• US mediator Anthony Zinni begins a visit to the Middle East with the goal of bringing peace to the region.

• Israel cuts of all contact with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, claiming he is "no longer relevant," after a suicide bomber kills 10 Israelis near the West Bank settlement of Immanuel.

PEOPLE

• Shimon Fogel is appointed executive director of the Canada-Israel Committee.

Tevet

EVENTS

• Israel bars Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat from attending Christmas services in Bethlehem unless he arrests those responsible for the assassination of Tourism Minister Rechavam Ze'evi.

• Leger Marketing releases a survey which shows that twice as many Canadians believe Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat rather than Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is responsible for the resurgence of Mideast violence.

• The Jewish Agency for Israel says French immigration to Israel is up 30 to 40 per cent in the wake of anti-Semitic attacks in France.

• After seizing a ship headed for the Palestinian Authority from Iran with more than 50 tons of weapons, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declares "the PA is a central part in the international terror network, with Iran at its centre."

• U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni concludes a trip to the Middle East, saying there are opportunities for progress.

• The Shin Bet security service reveals that Saudi Arabia has been sending money and instructions to Gaza for a Kassam rocket-development project.

PEOPLE

• Senator Sheila Finestone steps down after reaching the Senate's mandatory retirement age of 75.

• Israeli Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer becomes Labor Party leader.

Shvat

EVENTS

•A freak snowstorm blankets Jerusalem.

• Israeli forces enter Tulkarm, imposing a curfew and arresting dozens of suspected militants.

• Numerous attacks on Jewish sites in Paris trigger condemnation by French President Jacques Chirac.

• Israel's deputy foreign minister, Rabbi Michael Melchior, criticizes France and calls the country the "worst Western country concerning anti-Semitism."

• Reports suggest the Al Qaeda terror network is trying to move its headquarters from Afghanistan to Lebanon.

• Six Israelis are killed when a Palestinian terrorist attacks a bar mitzvah celebration in northern Israel.

• A suicide blast kills 1 and wounds 100 others in central Jerusalem. The bomber is described as a 20-year-old female student from Nablus.

• Three teenagers are killed by a suicide bomber inside a shopping mall in the West Bank.

• Six Israeli soldiers are killed at a roadblock near Ramallah, leading Israel to launch land, sea and ground, attacks that kill 14 Palestinians.

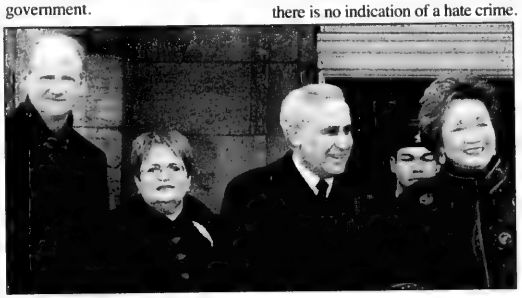
• Kidnapped *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl is confirmed dead after U.S. officials view videotape of his throat being slit and his head being decapitated. The tape also shows Pearl saying repeatedly that he is Jewish.

PEOPLE

• Comedian Frank Shuster dies at 85.

• Deputy prime minister Herb Gray, 70, unexpectedly resigns from Parliament around the same time that Prime Minister Jean Chrétien shuffles his cabinet.

• David Levine becomes Quebec's junior health minister, the first Jewish cabinet minister in a Parti Québécois government.



The Governor-General of Canada, Adrienne Clarkson, hosted a State Dinner for Moshe Katsav, the president of Israel.

Adar

EVENTS

• Israeli forces strike the main security complex in Gaza City in retaliation for shooting and rocket attacks in the Negev.

• A new Saudi peace initiative is called "a positive trend" by a senior aide to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, but Israel said it would not agree to a key provision – a return to the pre-1967 war borders.

• Canada abstains in a UN vote that begins implementing resolutions passed at the World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, which was denounced by many Western nations as an exercise in Israel-bashing.

• Toronto Police report Jews were the single largest victims of hate crimes in 2001, being targeted a record 338 times – a 66 per cent increase over the previous year.

• An Ontario judge orders Daniel Weiz and two youths to stand trial in the beating death of Matti Baranovski.

• A suicide bomber kills 10, including six children, in Jerusalem's haredi neighbourhood of Beit Israel.

• In a 24-hour period 14 Israelis are killed. Eleven are killed in a suicide blast at the Moment Cafe, mere blocks from the official residence of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. In Netanya two Israelis are shot dead by Palestinian gunmen.

PEOPLE

• Ben Kayfetz, writer, broadcaster, activist and historian of Canadian Jewry, dies at 85.

Nisan

EVENTS

• Israeli President Moshe Katsav is honoured by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien at the 17th Canada-Israel Committee Dinner.

• Arson is cited in a fire at Toronto's Anshei Minsk Synagogue. Damage is estimated at $100,000. Police say there is no indication of a hate crime. Books dating back to the 1860's were damaged in the fire.

• An 18-year-old Israeli is killed and 44 wounded in two separate terror attacks in Kfar Sava and Jerusalem.

• A suicide bomber kills 29 people and wounds hundreds in an attack on a seder at a hotel in Netanya.

• In Haifa, a suicide bomber strikes a restaurant, killing 15 people.

• Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, in a national television address, calls Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat "Israel's enemy and the enemy of the entire free world." He launches Operation Protective Wall and the army engages in heavy fighting in Ramallah, Nablus, Bethlehem and Jenin. Arafat is put under house arrest at his Ramallah compound. Two right-wing Israeli cabinet ministers resign from the government after Sharon releases Arafat.

• March of the Living cancels the Israeli portion of the trip.

• Nine hundred people attend the first-ever Edmonton Jewish Film Festival.

• Israel withdraws its troops from Bethlehem and the Gaza Strip, but leaves troops in several towns and

Continued on page B71

The Year 5762 in Review

...and ended with an increasing toll of intifada death

Continued from page B70

cities in the West Bank.

• A Palestinian ambulance is found carrying a bomb hidden under a gurney carrying a sick Palestinian child. The driver admits it's not the first time Palestinian ambulances have been used to carry bombs.

• Anti-Jewish attacks take place in France, with fires reported in shuls in Lyon, Strasbourg and Marseille.

• Thousands rally in Paris to express solidarity with Israel and protest a wave of anti-Jewish violence in France.

• Three Jewish community buildings in Ottawa and Toronto are vandalized with anti-Israel slogans. In Saskatoon, the Agudas Israel Synagogue is struck by a firebomb, causing $130,000 in damage.

• Hezbollah fires anti-tank rockets at Israeli forces on the Lebanese border.

PEOPLE

• Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon is appointed the Israel Defence Forces' 17th chief of staff.

Iyar

EVENTS

• Youths attack the central synagogue in Kiev. They march down the street chanting "kill the Jews."

• Canadian Jewish Congress pulls out of a meeting of the Canadian Christian-Jewish Consultation, saying the CCJC doesn't support Israel in its fight against Palestinian terror and that churches have been silent on incidents of anti-Semitism in Canada.

• Twenty-three Israeli soldiers are killed in heavy fighting in Jenin, including eight killed in one ambush in an alley.

• Eight Israelis are killed and 14 wounded by a suicide bomber on a bus near Haifa.

• Six Israelis are killed at a bus stop in the Machane Yehuda market in Jerusalem.

• A crowd of 25,000 rally on Parliament Hill in Ottawa to show solidarity with Israel. A similar rally in Washington draws 100,000 people.

• Solidarity rallies in Montreal and Vancouver draw thousands.

• Canadian Jewish Congress calls the NDP "biased and simplistic," even after leader Alexa McDonough apologizes for actions taken by former foreign affairs critic Svend Robinson during a trip to the West Bank.

• Israel captures Palestinian militia leader Marwan Barghouti, alleging he has been involved with "directing, encouraging and financing terrorist activities." Israeli forces also capture Hamas operative Husam Badran.

• A truck filled with natural gas explodes outside a synagogue in Djerba, Tunisia, killing 15 people. Al Qaeda later claims responsibility.

• French Jews rally against extreme right-wing presidential candidate Jean-Marie Le Pen, who shocked France by qualifying for a head-to-head run-off vote against incumbent President Jacques Chirac.

• Israel rejects a UN-led fact-finding mission to the Jenin refugee camp. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres claims the mission was looking to "blood libel" Israel.

• Twenty-two Canadian MPs and five senators – a record number – return from a trip to Israel sponsored by the Canada-Israel Committee.

• The standoff between Israeli forces and Palestinian gunmen at Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity ends as Israel says most of the wanted Palestinians would go free, while a few would be sent to Gaza and a small number would be deported.

• A Palestinian terrorist wearing an Israeli army uniform kills four people in the West Bank.

• El Al begins direct flights between Toronto and Los Angeles.

Sivan

EVENTS

• Canada abstains on a UN resolution condemning Israel hours after a suicide blast at a billiards hall in Rishon Lezion kills 15.

• The Likud Central Committee rejects the creation of a Palestinian state. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had tried to delay the vote on the resolution.

• After a meeting with Israeli Prime Ariel Sharon, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham says Canada recognizes "the need for Israel to have its security and it must take actions to ensure security."

• The Beth Israel Ohev Shalom Synagogue, Quebec City's only synagogue, is firebombed in the early morning hours.

• The Israeli embassy in Paris burns to the ground, but terrorism is not cited as the cause.

• Two Israelis are killed and 41 injured in a suicide bombing in Rishon Lezion.

• Israeli Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer orders a 225-mile-long security fence to be built between Israel and the West Bank.

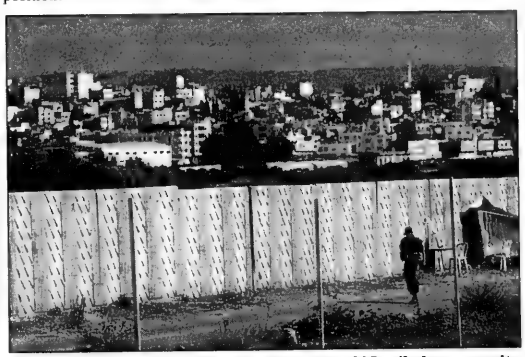
• Four Israelis are killed in two separate terrorist attacks. One attack kills three yeshiva high school students in Itamar and a 50-year-old is ambushed near Ofra.

Tammuz

EVENTS

• Seventeen Israelis, including 13 soldiers, are killed when a suicide bomber detonates a car loaded with explosives beside an Egged bus near the northern town of Meggido. Islamic Jihad claims responsibility.

• At the Ontario regional convention of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), a resolution condemning Israel is passed without opposition.



The government of Israel decided to erect a 225-mile-long security fence along the "Green line" seam with the West Bank.

• Israeli forces attack Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's Ramallah compound for six hours. Tanks and bulldozers destroy three buildings. One shell hits Arafat's bedroom.

• Unemployment in Israel hits a record 10.6 per cent, translating into 270,000 unemployed people.

• The Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) passes resolution calling on Israel to withdraw from Palestinians areas. As well, the executive committee and council adopts a policy comparing Israel to South Africa under apartheid.

• One teen is killed by a suicide bomber in Herzliyah, leading the Israeli army to re-occupy Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's compound for two days.

• In one week, 32 Israelis are killed by terrorism. In one incident, a suicide bomber blows himself up on a bus in Jerusalem.

• U.S. President George W. Bush, calls for new Palestinian leadership through democratic means. He says if this happens, the United States will help put the new Palestinian Authority on firm financial footing.

• Israeli intelligence links Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to a $20,000 (US) payment to the Fatah-affiliated Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades terror group.

PEOPLE

• Yossi Goldberg, president of the Israeli Ice Skating Federation, dies at 60.

Av

EVENTS

• Hesham Mohamed Hadayet, an Egyptian immigrant living in the United States, opens fire at an El Al ticket desk in Los Angeles, killing two people before being shot dead.

• Pakistani tennis player Aisam Ul-Haq Qureshi, who teamed up with Israel's Amir Hadad in doubles play at Wimbledon, faces criticism and a potential ban by the Pakistan Sports Board because Pakistan has no ties with Israel.

• The *New York Times* reports that former Argentine president Carlos Menem received a $10-million (US) bribe from the Iranian government to remain silent about his country's role in the 1994 bombing of a Buenos Aries Jewish centre that killed 85 people.

• Nine people are killed when Palestinians wearing Israeli army uniforms ambush a bus on its way from Bnei Brak to Immanuel.

• One Israeli and two foreigners are killed in Tel Aviv by two suicide bombers.

• The Jewish Agency reports that 17,000 new immigrants have arrived in Israel since January 2002.

• The Israeli Consulate in Montreal is one of eight foreign missions slated for closure by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. The Montreal Jewish community begins lobbying to reverse the decision.

• Israeli forces bomb the home of Saleh Shehadeh, head of Hamas's military wing in Gaza. The bomb kills 14 people, including Shehadeh's wife and three children.

• A bomb in a cafeteria at Hebrew University's campus on Mount Scopus kills seven and wounds 80.

• Israel releases $15 million (US) in frozen tax funds to the Palestinian Authority to avert a humanitarian disaster in the Palestinian areas.

• Israel launches a new offensive against Hamas, sending dozens of armoured vehicles into Nablus.

PEOPLE

• Thousands mourn after David Rosenzweig is stabbed to death in front of the King David Pizzeria in the heart of Toronto's Jewish community while helping his son with a broken-down car.

Elul

EVENTS

• Israel tells the United States that it will respond to a strike against it by Iraq, even if there are no Israeli casualties.

• Israel announces it will purchase 1 billion cubic metres of water from Turkey over the next 20 years.

• Jewish leaders in Prague launch an appeal for aid after floods cause $4 million (US) in damage to Jewish holy sites.

PEOPLE

• Notorious Palestinian terrorist Abu Nidal, 65, is found dead in Baghdad from gunshot wounds. It's unclear if he committed suicide after a lengthy illness or was ordered killed by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein for refusing to [illegible] Al Qaeda fighters in Iraq.

• Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs announces that, as of Aug. 30, 609 Israelis – 427 civilians and 182 members of security forces – have been killed by Palestinian violence since Sept. 29, 2000.

The Year in Review was compiled by the CJN's intern Adam Grachnik.

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FEATURES

Velcro fastening tops

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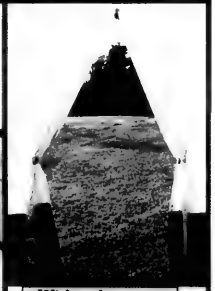

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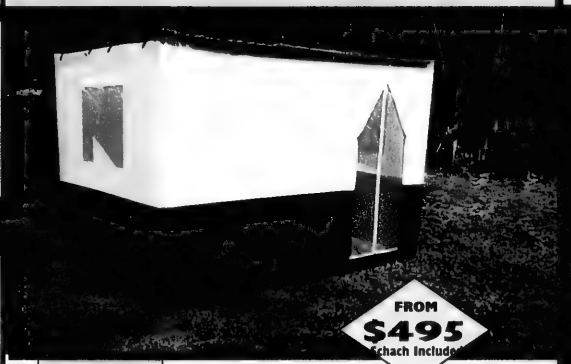
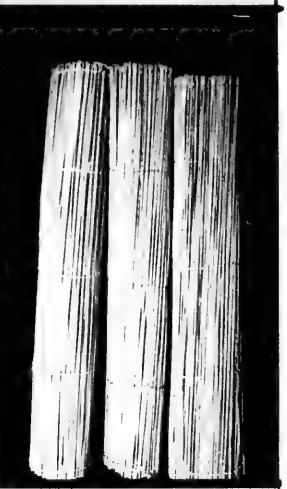


PERMANENT SCHACH



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This Week

National

Intermarriage may preclude membership at shul.
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Matlow sisters raise money for Israeli ambulance.
Page 15

Waterloo professor heads Cairo Genizah project.
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Arts & Travel

Yiddish culture reigned supreme at Ashkenaz Festival.
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Health & Lifestyle

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A PRIMARY REFRESHER COURSE: Israel's Prime Minister Arial Sharon dropped in at a first grade class at the Ben Zvi Primary School in Ramle at the start of the school year last week. The children appear bemused and somewhat non-plussed by the attention of their prime ministerial visitor. *[Israel photos]*

Israel consulate spared

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Staff at the Israeli consulate and Montreal's Jewish community are thrilled that the consulate here will stay open after all.

Bowing to extraordinary pressure from the Jewish community – as well as to a call from Canadian Foreign Minister Bill Graham – the Israeli government notified the consulate Sept. 2 that it would not close.

"We're very happy," said Israeli Consul General Shlomo Avital. "We're happy for all our friends. It's a good day for the Jewish community and all our friends in Quebec."

The decision, which came as the consulate was literally packing its bags, brought a collective sigh of relief.

Two weeks ago, a New York official from Israel's Finance Ministry visited the consulate to take inventory and prepare the paperwork for closure, which was expected to take place around the High Holy Days.

Out of eight Israeli diplomatic missions slated for closure, two others – in Marseille, France, and Minsk, Belarus – were also spared.

Meanwhile, the Jewish community of Sydney, Australia, said it would be willing to pay to keep Israel's consulate open there. The offer was made by the head of the Australian Zionist Federation in Israel, Frank Stein, in a letter to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Israel Radio reported last week.

Continued on page 28

Libya wants nuclear weapons

U.S., Israel agree

By ZE'EV SCHIFF and NATHAN GUTTMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

The United States agrees with Israeli assessments that Libya has renewed its efforts to acquire a nuclear bomb, and that those efforts have been stepped up since 1999 when UN sanctions on the country were removed.

Analysis

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said last week that Libya is energetically seeking to develop a nuclear weapon. Israel believes Libya is trying to acquire fissionable material for nuclear weapons through centrifuges, but that it is a slow process. Experts say Libya may be cooperating with North Korea and Pakistan in the effort.

Sharon mentioned the same assessment, though he also raised the possibility that the Libyans are getting aid from Iraqi experts. He told media interviewers that it's possible Libya will achieve nuclear status before Iraq.

Continued on page 35

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Survey: Anti-Semitism on rise in Germany — please see page 33

The News in Brief

Canada

Link Eliminated

TORONTO — A link from the University of Toronto's Web site to a petition denouncing Israeli army "atrocities" and "crimes against humanity" during Israel's incursion into the West Bank last spring was removed late last month in response to a complaint by B'nai Brith Canada. The group had been protesting the pro-Palestinian petition linked from the official site of U of T's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE). The petition is preceded by an April 29 letter from Sherene Razack, director of OISE's Centre for Integrative Anti-racism Studies, urging academics to sign it.

Degrees Conferred

TORONTO — Nine Ontarians were among those receiving bachelor's degrees at Yeshiva University's 71st annual commencement exercises. The nine were Hamilton resident Michelle Ross and Toronto-area residents Hadassa Rutman, David Spindel, Jacob Morris Younger, David Samuel Sandel, Robert Lipman Salamon, Daniel Hershtal, Lea Kapustin and Nassi Figdor.

Israel

Dead Sea Water Plan

JERUSALEM — Israel and Jordan have agreed to lay a pipeline to refill the Dead Sea. Under the plan, reached last week at the UN conference on sustainable development in Johannesburg, South Africa, water would be sent from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea, which has been shrinking. Funds for the plan, which could cost up to $1 billion (US), would come from the World Bank.

'Lost Tribe' Arrives

JERUSALEM — Ninety-five members of a group from northeast India that claims to be a lost tribe of ancient Israel have arrived in Israel. The B'nai Menashe claim they are descended from the biblical tribe of Menashe. The contingent that arrived last week will study Hebrew and Judaism before undergoing formal conversion to Judaism. With the group's arrival, there are 700 B'nai Menashe living in Israel.

World

Alleged Nazi Guard

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Justice Department is seeking to revoke the citizenship of a New Jersey man because of his alleged wartime activities. Andrew Kuras, 80, is charged with obtaining his U.S. citizenship illegally in 1951 by concealing his service as an armed guard at three Nazi slave labour camps. The department's Nazi-hunting unit, the Office of Special Investigations, says Kuras told U.S. immigration officials that he was a farmer during the war.

LAX Terror Probe

NEW YORK — The FBI says it has viewed the July 4 shooting attack at the El Al ticket counter at Los Angeles International Airport as a possible terrorist incident "from day one." The agency said that while it refused to make this assessment public after the shooting, which killed two people, the focus has always been on terrorism. The FBI wrote to Democratic Congressman Eliot Engel that the case is being viewed as an open "terrorism investigation."

Shoe Name Outcry

LONDON — After a complaint by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, the British arm of U.S.-based sportswear maker Umbro apologized last month for giving a pair of shoes the same name as the poison gas used to kill Jews during the Holocaust. An Umbro spokesperson said it was an "unfortunate coincidence" that its Zyklon shoe, on sale since 1999, bore the name of Zyklon B. He said the $30 (US) shoe would be renamed or withdrawn. He wouldn't say whether shoes already shipped would be recalled.

Clothes Removed

NEW YORK — The U.S. department store chain Target is removing clothes with symbols that are code for "Heil Hitler." Store officials said they were unaware the "eight eight" and "88" on the baseball caps and shorts are used by white supremacists to indicate "Heil Hitler," because H is the eighth letter of the alphabet.

Mason Backtracks

NEW YORK — Jewish comic Jackie Mason has denied he cancelled a comedian slated to open for him last month because he is Palestinian. Mason did admit that the fact Ray Hanania advertised their different backgrounds made him "furious." But Jyll Rosenfeld, Mason's wife and manager, was quoted earlier as saying Mason "does not feel comfortable having a Palestinian open for him."

Israel Deports Bomber's Relatives to Gaza

JERUSALEM — Israel moved two relatives of a Palestinian terrorist from the West Bank to Gaza last week.

Intissar and Kifah Ajouri, who were accused of helping their brother Ali Ajouri plan a suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, entered Gaza via the Netzarim Crossing.

The sister and brother had been expected to be brought to the Erez Crossing, but the army declared it a closed military zone and then dropped them elsewhere. Israel gave each of them 1,000 shekels ($212 US) in relocation money.

The move came one day after Israel's High Court of Justice approved the siblings' deportation.

The court referred to the army's actions against the pair as a "relocation" rather than a deportation, saying the Palestinian areas in the West Bank and Gaza should be regarded as a single entity.

Ali Ajouri planned the July 17 double suicide bombing near Tel Aviv's old central bus station that killed five people. Israeli troops killed him in a recent operation.

The Canadian Jewish news

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Raising awareness key to resolving problems

This is the first in a series on drug addiction in the Jewish community.

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others (JACS) has just launched a teen program to help young addicts and their families in their search for recovery.

The program, which was created to provide support to Jewish teens with drug and alcohol dependencies, was launched on Sept. 11.

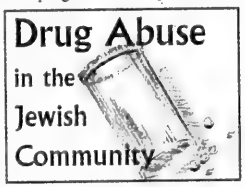
"Kids as young as 14 years old walk into JACS with problems of addiction," JACS executive director Marla Goldman told *The CJN* in an interview in her Sheppard Street office. "Some have been using ecstacy, hash, grass, cocaine, heroin."

When these children or members of their families realize that drugs or alcohol have taken over their lives, and they want help, the JACS phone number plastered on billboards around the city all of a sudden becomes meaningful.

Founded in Toronto in April 2000, the voluntary self-help group often becomes the first step on the tumultuous road to recovery, Goldman said.

JACS now receives up to 200 calls a month and the regular Thursday night support group is sometimes standing-room-only.

The group's first step is to help alcoholics, addicts, families and friends break through the barrier of denial. From there, they are directed to other facilities and programs, such as detox centres to help them overcome physical dependencies or rehabilitation programs to help them lead more productive lives. Others may join smaller support groups at JACS that meet at different times.



Throughout the process, JACS facilitates meetings and contacts with mentors and friendly voices, Goldman said.

She added that JACS allows for interaction between those who are beginning their recovery with former addicts who have been clean and sober for years. Families with children on the street can befriend and take comfort from addicts who have been there, have recovered and are now mentoring others.

For Goldman, raising awareness is the key to resolving the problem of teen addiction in the Jewish community. She would like to see educational programs run in every school and camp in this city.

"The Jewish community is living in denial," she said. "When a problem like this occurs, they take it and sweep it under the carpet."

There is an impression that alcohol and drugs are a "goyish" problem, JACS-Toronto chairperson Neville Smith said. Some members of our community feel that the Jewish people - Orthodox, Conservative, Reform and secular – are held up to higher standards.

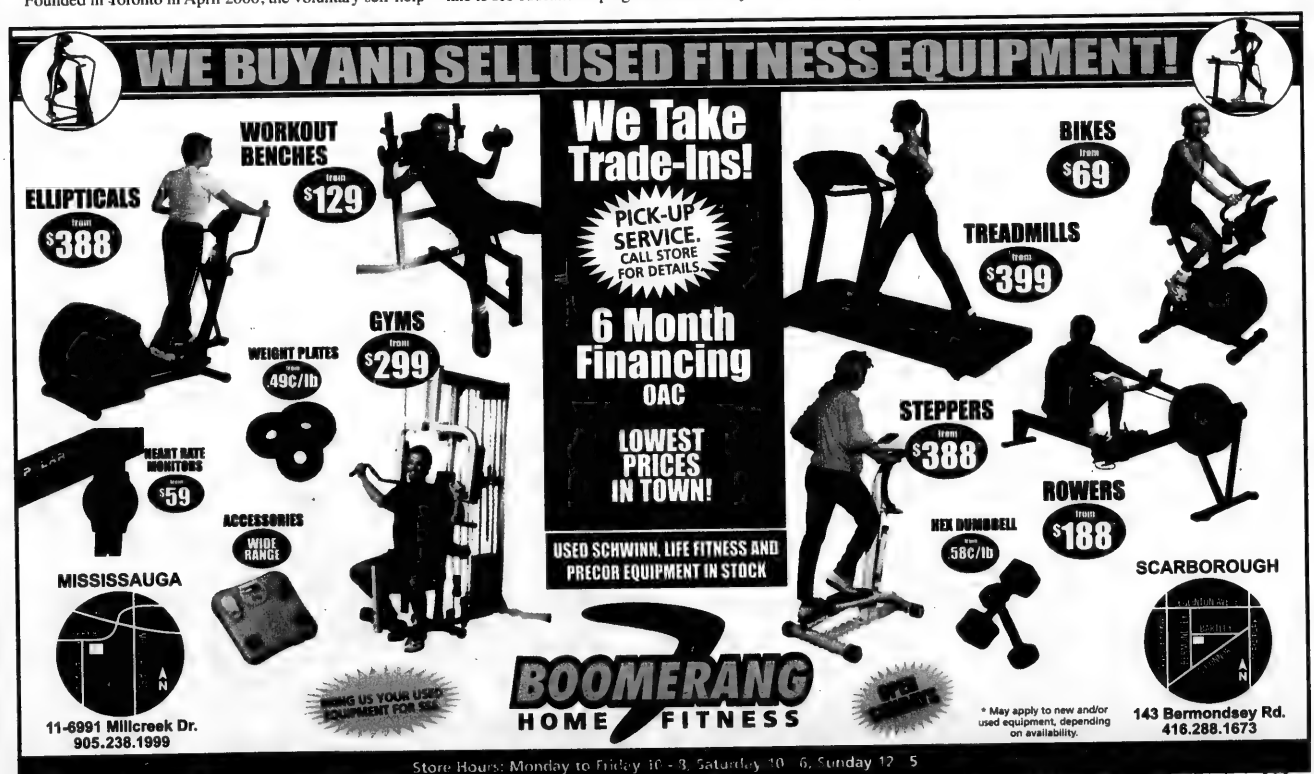
However, addiction, like cancer, is a disease that doesn't discriminate, Smith said.

Studies show that "the incidence of alcoholism and drug abuse is the same in the Jewish community as in society at large – about 10 per cent." With a Jewish population in Toronto of about 200,000, there could be 20,000 addicts suffering in this city alone. The number of people affected could be much greater when you take into account all the family members and friends involved, Smith said.

Drug abuse and alcoholism among observant Jews is neither less nor more than in any other community, lawyer and JACS board member Chuck Rotenberg said.

He said part of the JACS mission is to offer "protocols for addiction treatment programs to remove barriers for observant Jews" where denial might be especially difficult to overcome.

Continued on page 28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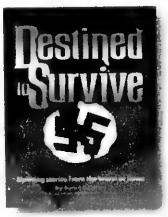
Let's help authors

Books are the focus of this column. I wish to draw readers' attention to two books, each of which, in uniquely profound ways, is an affirmation of life.

* * *

Destined to Survive, by Israel Cohen, Mesorah Publications Ltd., is an evocative, poignant anthology/chronology of personal, mostly Holocaust-related vignettes. Remarkably, given the time, the place and the subject matter they depict, the stories are neither bleak nor lachrymose.

Cohen writes deftly, with a light, descriptive touch. At times, his style is reminiscent of I.B. Singer. For example, in the first story, *Jewish Life in Poland Before World War One*, Cohen describes the ambience of the open-air market in his shtetl of Brezezin: "The farmers' wives were sitting on small low stools next to their bushels of cherries and onions. Some of the women had scales hanging from poles and others had measuring cups to measure their blueberries and beans. There were chickens in cages on top of the wagons, and the customers would feel them all over and blow the feathers on their backs in order to ascertain their bulk. Butchers frequented the marketplace in order to pick out cows and calves for the slaughterhouses. Everyone was forever haggling over prices. Only a fool would pay the asking price of anything."



The stories paint a richly detailed portrait of the life of a humane, gentle, thoughtful Holocaust survivor, who is keenly aware of the sense of the duty he owes to his forebears and to his descendants.

"Even though it is my personal story," Cohen writes in the foreword, "it represents the story of the thousands of Sruliks and Cohens who suffered a similar fate. Let it be a testimony for generations to come...

"I hope that my writing will inspire and remind others that we are constantly in the hands of the Almighty and that He guides us and provides us with the capacity to be good."

Eskimos of Jerusalem and Other Extraordinary Israelis by Sam Orbaum is a collection of nearly 120 of the columns the author wrote for the *Jerusalem Post* between 1997 and 2000. Orbaum is an incisive writer whose humour and human interest columns have been a key marker in the literary/journalistic landscape of Israel.

A former Montrealer, Orbaum combines his superb skills as a listener/observer with an economic, sarcastic, sometimes even sardonic writing style.

Published last year in co-operation with the *Jerusalem Post*, the book brings under one cover "the gems" of the *Not Page One* columns that appeared in the *Post*. In that column, Orbaum celebrated the incomparable diversity of the vast, differing array that comprise the people of Jerusalem.

His column was not about "celebrities," the people who "would likely be found on page 1." (Hence the title of the original columns.) Orbaum selected "uplifting, entertaining stories" for the book.

The result is a work that is tearful, happy, poignant, whimsical, light and heavy. It amuses, it saddens; it entertains, it informs.

The wide range of Orbaum's subjects is impossible to encapsulate. Suffice to say, he writes about a gloriously uncategorizable mélange of people and places and situations, the unifying thread binding all of them being their connection to Jerusalem.

When the news emanating from Israel is so consistently negative, Orbaum's book is like a restorative balm upon an aching wound.

* * *

To try to mitigate the literary, cultural, academic and social isolation being imposed these days on Israeli writers and scholars, *The CJN* announces a special Book Review Project.

Beginning with the last issue of October and then in the last issue of every month, we shall showcase a book written by an Israeli writer.

It is our hope that *CJN* readers will thereby be encouraged to read the book as well, and discuss it in book review clubs or parlor groups or other such discussion groups established in synagogues or neighbourhood friendship circles. The main purpose would be to generate broader public interest in the works featured in the paper.

The books should be available locally in Jewish or other bookstores. Heightened demand for the books reviewed would, of course, be beneficial to the authors, their publishing houses and local booksellers.

The Book Review Project will not replace reviews of works by other, non-Israeli writers, which will continue unabated in the pages of *The CJN* as part of the high priority we attach to encouraging "Jewish" writing and reading. Indeed, our decision to undertake the project springs from and even enhances that priority.

During these difficult times, Israeli writers, in particular, must receive some of that encouragement. This project attempts to provide it.

The project, however, is only a partial effort at breaking through the brazenly- discriminatory "quarantine" of Israel and Israelis. To be successful, it will require the involvement of as many readers as possible. We hope a great number of people take part.

—MBD

SeeJN

A MEMORIAL FOR THE MUNICH MASSACRED: An Israeli mother and son visit a memorial, in Tel Aviv on September 2, 2002, for the eleven members of the Israeli delegation who were murdered 30 years ago by Palestinian terrorists in Munich, at the Olympics games in 1972 in Germany.

[RNS/Reuters photo]

Intermarriage may preclude membership at shul

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Until he turned 30, Jordan Potasky was eligible to buy tickets for High Holy Day services at Adath Israel Congregation as the child of a member.

Last year he was distressed to learn that neither he nor his young children could attend services at the synagogue that his mother and late father joined more than 20 years ago.

Potasky, a lawyer, was told that because he was married and over 30, he would have to take out a family membership. He was also told that he couldn't do that because his wife is not Jewish.

His children, however, are Jewish. Adath Israel's spiritual leader, Rabbi Steven Saltzman, was part of the beit din that converted them, Potasky told *The CJN*.

When contacted last week, Rabbi Saltzman declined to discuss his synagogue's policy on membership for Jews with non-Jewish spouses.

Adath Israel president Mark Alter said he was not prepared to talk about specific cases, but confirmed that Adath Israel's policy mandates that all members must be Jewish and that in the case of married couples, both spouses must be members. The policy is under review and was expected to be resolved "probably some time after yontif."

At least two cases – Potasky's and that of David Cohen – are being discussed. Cohen, a member since the 1970s, says he was told earlier this year that he could not renew his membership after it came to the synagogue's attention that his wife of three years is not Jewish.

Cohen, who does not have children, said that, as an alternative, he was offered High Holy Day tickets but not to the main sanctuary where the rest of his family worships.

Eventually, Cohen, who works for a bank in large corporate lending, was able to pay his membership dues and obtain an unrestricted ticket, but said his case is still under consideration. "I'm extremely unhappy with the policy. I think it's exclusionary and doesn't consider the evolving world."

> *'Policy doesn't consider evolving world'*

He is, however, "quite happy" that his voice has been heard and the policy is being reviewed, he said.

Of the seven Toronto-area synagogues affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Adath Israel is the only one that does not allow intermarried Jews to take out membership.

Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, Ontario region, said there is no regional policy on the issue and that it's a matter of synagogue policy and individual rabbinic decision. United Synagogue policy does preclude non-Jews from synagogue membership, however.

Halachically, Rabbi Tanenbaum noted, there is no such thing as intermarriage. Under Jewish law, only a Jewish marriage is recognized.

At Rabbi Tanenbaum's synagogue, Beth Tzedec Congregation, non-Jewish partners receive complimentary High Holy Day tickets if they would like to attend services. At other local Conservative synagogues, non-member tickets may be purchased for non-Jewish spouses.

In the Reform movement, membership policy also depends on the synagogue, said Rabbi Sharon Sobel, executive director of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism.

"Some will give a family membership with full voting rights. At others, only the Jewish partner is the voting partner," she said, adding that a non-Jew cannot join a synagogue on his or her own.

At Orthodox synagogues, it is "fairly common but not universal" to allow the Jewish spouse of an intermarried couple to become a member, according to Rabbi Reuven Tradburks of Kehillat Shaarei Torah. His assessment is based on conversations with his Orthodox colleagues, but he was not speaking on behalf of Toronto's Vaad Harabonim, of which he is secretary.

At Rabbi Tradburks' synagogue, intermarried Jews may obtain membership and non-Jewish spouses are welcome to attend services and participate in events, he said. For the High Holy Days, the main sanctuary is filled to capacity with members, but a non-Jewish spouse may buy a ticket for auxiliary services.

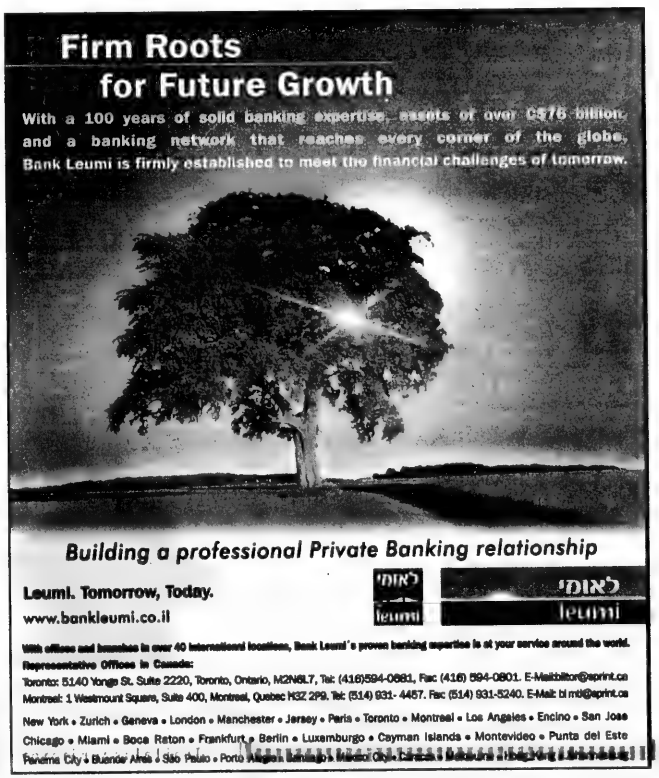
Synagogues that do not grant membership for intermarried Jews may have based their policy – particularly in years past – on the view that by granting membership, they may be "opening the door to intermarriage," said Rabbi Tradburks.

Denying membership to intermarried Jews is "wrong-headed," Potasky believes.

"I don't think that's the right road for the synagogue to take when Judaism is in danger. Here is a chance for someone who does care to try to keep his family close to the synagogue."

Both Cohen and Potasky say that their faith and religious beliefs are the same as before they married. Potasky said he used to think he would never marry someone who wasn't Jewish, but he met his wife and fell in love "without in any way disavowing my Judaism.

"I'm not super-observant," he said, "but there's a certain minimum I feel I ought to do – [including] raising my kids Jewish, and attending High Holiday services."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Ashkenaz Festival delights the crowd

A visual sampling of the fun and enjoyment at last weekend's Ashkenaz Festival.

[Jacob El-Baz photos]

Israel Is For Kids

Amusement parks, castles, fortresses and just plain fun. Israel is truly a country with kids in mind. There are hundreds of ways for families to explore and enjoy their Jewish homeland. Here are just some attractions that are sure to fill your child, and yourself, with wonder.

Biblical Zoo, Jerusalem
Stretching 62 acres on the southern edge of Israel's capital, the zoo allows children to meet both biblical animals and endangered species from around the globe. How can you pass up the Nile crocodile, Persian fallow deer, and Asian elephant? The zoo also houses its fair share of traditional guests such as lions, tigers, and bears.

Amazing World, Eilat
Experience a spectacular journey through time in this unique "edutainment" complex, the first of its kind in the world, against the beautiful backdrop of Israel's Red Sea resort. Appealing to all five senses, the facility uses hi-tech effects and moving platforms to transport visitors from creation to the dinosaur era to outer space and beyond.

Manara Cable Car, Hula Valley
Climbing at a 43-degree angle, Israel's longest cable car ride transports passengers to the top of northern Israel's majestic Manara Cliff. If the magnificent view of the Hula Valley below isn't enough to excite your youngster, try rappelling, wall climbing, mountain biking or the roller coaster on site.

Belvoir – This ancient Crusader fortress will provide kids with both a history lesson and a beautiful view. Restored through recent excavations, the fortress rises 500 meters above the Jordan Valley, overlooking the winding Jordan River.

Getting There
Now is the time to visit Israel when your presence will make such a significant difference. Contact the **Israel Government Tourist Office** for a compete list of group missions and individual travel options.

After all, Israel is yours. So please say I care and I'm going.

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The lesson that seems to have been lost

The passage of time will always dull, somewhat, the serrated, jagged edges of pain. It is one of the mind's allies for self-preservation and emotional equilibrium, an invisible hand that waves across the human psyche as memory washes even the deepest wounds of the senses.

But in relation to the mind's intellect, the passage of time can be quite capricious. It can be a foe as much as an ally, blurring the edges of understanding rather than sharpening them, a gauze that distorts the images of the past, rather than a lens that brings them into clearer focus, the invisible hand that points to wishful thinking rather than to perspective and truth.

If the results of an Ipsos-Reid poll regarding Canadians' attitudes to the events of Sept. 11, 2001, are to be believed, it is apparent that, with the passage of a year, the outlines of what happened on that fateful day have become so blurred as to have become the images of something altogether distinct from the truth.

The poll was commissioned by the *Globe and Mail* and CTV and released by them with great news-making fanfare last weekend on the front page of the newspaper and as the lead item on the network's national news. It found that 69 per cent of 1,003 people polled believed that "the United States, with its policies and actions, [bore] some responsibility for the terrorist attacks against them." Fully 15 per cent of the individuals polled believed that the United States bore all the responsibility for the attacks.

We ought not to put too much stock in the accuracy of the poll. It can be interpreted in a number of ways and is likely more reflective of current ambivalent Canadian feelings toward Saddam Hussein – although that too would be problematic – rather than of past, less equivocal feelings toward Osama bin Laden and his Al Qaeda network. Indeed in the *Globe and Mail* article, John Wright, vice-president of Ipsos-Reid, made that very point.

Nevertheless, even as an undifferentiated, broad, brush-stroke finding, the poll is troublesome in its own right and for what it may portend about Canadians' understanding of, let alone support for, the justice of Israel's cause in the conflict with the Palestinian leadership.

But this week at least, we should place on a lesser level our concerns for Canadians' understanding of the Middle East conflict. The anniversary of 9/11 calls on our conscience and beckons our behaviour more.

But it is inconceivable, even deeply offensive nevertheless, as we recall that day one year ago this week, as we pay respect to the thousands who were killed, as we reflect upon the implications of the atrocity and as we reinvigorate our resolve to fight the fanatics of terrorism, that so many Canadians, in effect, at least partially seem prepared to exonerate the murderers of culpability for their hideous, evil crime.

Is it possible that the lesson of that horrible day may have been lost, or worse, not learned at all?

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Dry Bones
HE EATS A HUGE MEAL BEFORE THE FAST...
MUNCH MUNCH
HE EATS A HUGE MEAL AFTER THE FAST...
CHOMP CHOMP
AND HE CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW HE GAINS WEIGHT EVERY YOM KIPPUR?
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND IT!!!
Kirschen

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Speaking peace

During the High Holy Days, a time for reflection and for opening of the heart, we members of the Jewish community look to a future in which all children can live in harmony in a world treated with sanctity. At present, we are deeply saddened by the ongoing loss of life and loss of hope for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

For almost two years we have witnessed the two peoples trapped in a cycle of murderous retaliation. In the last several months, both sides have plummeted further into grief and carried out new acts of brutality.

As Jews, we identify and mourn with our besieged people in these sad and fearful times. Yet, as do many Israelis, we have profound reservations about the Sharon government, whose heavy-handed militarism has caused suffering and death without offering feasible options for peace. There is hope among women and men who are working at the grassroots level for justice and reconciliation.

Though numerous actions of the Israeli government deserve rebuke, we are disturbed by the harsh rhetoric of many of Israel's critics. They bear responsibility for the current increase in anti-Semitic violence and hatred. We likewise decry the murderous tactics employed by some Palestinians. Attacks on Israeli civilians cannot be justified. That said, we acknowledge that the Palestinian people have cause to struggle for dignity and human rights. The Israeli occupation degraded them both spiritually and physically. Jewish tradition reminds us that God is with the oppressed, even when they are in the wrong (Midrash Leviticus Rabba 27:5 and parallels).

Most importantly, we call for an end to violence on all sides. We say clearly and emphatically to terrorists, warmongers and oppressors that their actions will not be supported in any way. Violence and war have traumatized and degraded all regions of the world and the planet itself.

We ask those who are warring in the name of God to consider the extent to which they are damaging the work of the Creator.

We are part of the worldwide community of Jews, Palestinians and others who wish to help repair the world by building a new culture of peace. We are deeply grateful to all who are engaged in this work. We extend our hands to all who wish to lend their efforts to it, in a spirit of mourning, prayer and hope.

Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg, Anne Goodman, Ilene Hyman, Rabbi Justin Jaron Lewis, Dorothy Lichtblau and 39 other signatories

* * *

Upholding a bargain

Allow me to offer an alternative perspective to that of Anna Morgan and Rachael Turkienicz ("Diaspora Jews refuse traditional support for Jewish state," *CJN*, Aug. 29). I am one of the Diaspora Jews that the two authors intended to describe in their article. I refuse to support many actions of the Israeli government, and have often disengaged myself from the debate raging over the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. However, a closer reading reveals that their description of me (and a growing number of my friends and relatives) is dead wrong.

Contrary to the insinuations in the article, my refusal to support Israeli government policies is completely separate from my support for the Israeli people. While I continue to contribute to organizations such as Magen David Adom that provide essential services to Israelis, my support of the government cannot and will not be unconditional. It is my hope that my political choices will help to steer Prime Minister Ariel Sharon away from policies that aim to provide security at the expense of Jewish morality. I believe there are solutions to this conflict that can integrate both of these elements, and would support any Israeli government that attempted to find them.

Furthermore, Morgan and Turkienicz do not properly understand why people like me have withdrawn from the debate. Reading letters to the editor, including Malcolm Barry's attack on Jewish protests against the occupation of the Palestinian territories, forces us into the political closet. I have been called a self-hating Jew, an ignorant fool and far worse by Jews who do not share my opinions. Many in the community have not allowed me to enter a debate; they accept no opposition whatsoever.

Morgan and Turkienicz depict me as an extremist who is not fulfilling her duty to her people, but I refuse to endorse a government that I see increasingly as vengeful and morally bankrupt. I believe that every life saved in this battle – Israeli and Palestinian alike – is an entire world saved, and I will continue to do what is within my means to promote a just peace. Although you may disagree with my politics, please know that in my eyes, I am upholding my end of my bargain with Moses.

Rae Brager
Kingston, Ont.

* * *

Israel always challenged

With few exceptions, the majority of countries at the United Nation's General Assembly hate Israel with a raging passion.

Several countries have had the distinction of being placed in U.S. President George W. Bush's "axis of evil" for exporting weapons of mass destruction. While some moderate Palestinian leaders condemn suicide bombings, the Palestinian Authority (PA) encourages Hamas and Islamic Jihad to carry out bombings and continue attacks against Israeli civilians.

Recently, for the first time, Amnesty International finally condemned Palestinian attacks on Israeli civilians as a crime against humanity and derided the double standards of Israel's critics.

But the PA pays no attention to the truth. Its members say their violent actions against Israeli civilians are justified in order to attain peace. They poison the minds of youth with hate and despair.

Under innumerable threats, the Jewish state continues to be challenged at the UN for its defensive actions and, as usual, the Jewish people look upon themselves as if they have gone out of Egypt again.

Albert Stal
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

The lost Kol Nidrei, found

By CURT LEVIANT

About two years ago, I wrote a story about my search for a lost *Kol Nidrei* written by the Russian violin virtuoso, Mikhail Erdenko, at the request of Leo Tolstoy in 1910, the last year of the great writer's life. In case you missed it, here it is in a nutshell:

In a Jerusalem bookstore years ago, I met and befriended Reb Moshe Ashbel, an elderly, white-bearded Jew from Russia, an ex-math teacher and Lubavitch Chassid who had just made aliyah. In contrast to the average Chassid's antipathy to secular culture, Reb Moshe was widely learned. He loved music, cantorial and classical; had learned Hebrew as a child; and even under communism, continued to study Hebrew from his siddur, which he had inherited from his great-grandfather. He loved grammar and meticulous vocalization. Mistakes in printed texts irritated him, and he was fond of showing how the Chabad (Lubavitch) prayer book accurately vocalized words, which other siddurim were careless about.

When the State of Israel was founded in May 1948, Reb Moshe, who worked at a public school, expressed his joy in the presence of his fellow teachers. Soon thereafter, he was arrested and sent away for 10 years to one of Josef Stalin's labour camps. (The old joke in the gulag was that when someone complained that he was sent away for 15 years and didn't do a thing – the response was: You must have done something, because for doing nothing you only get 10 years.)

Freed after Nikita Khruschev's rise to power, Reb Moshe waited some 27 years until he was finally permitted to come to Israel in 1980. But at the Kiev airport, two items were taken from him. One was the score to Erdenko's *Kol Nidrei* and the other was his great-grandfather's siddur. For the sheet music, he wasn't going to make a fuss; he thought he could easily replace it. But for his siddur, which he had even carried into the gulag, he staged a sit-down strike. He announced he would not budge until the siddur was returned. Incredibly, the airport's chief of customs returned it.

Reb Moshe and I became friends during the six months I spent in Jerusalem that year, and before I left, he asked me to find a copy of the Erdenko *Kol Nidrei* and send it to him. He also wanted an LP of the Max Bruch *Kol Nidrei for Cello and Orchestra*, the score for his *Hebraische Gesange*, based on Lord Byron's *Hebrew Melodies*, and the score for Bruch's *Kol Nidrei for Piano* (Bruch, by the way, was not a Jew), as well as books on algebra and geometry. I sent him everything he wanted – except the Erdenko *Kol Nidrei*.

Despite many letters and phone calls to various music academies here and in Russia, I was not successful in finding that music. Even after Reb Moshe died in the early 1990s, I continued my search, for a promise doesn't vanish with a person's demise.

When my article on "The Lost Kol Nidrei" was published in the fall of 2000, events that had moved like tar suddenly sped up double time.

The first person to call was Eric Fettman, a journalist for the *New York Post*. He said he did a search for "Erdenko, violin," on the computer and found that a man named Sergei Erdenko had given a concert with his trio called Loiko in a synagogue in Phoenix, Ariz., in 1999. Seeing the name Erdenko, how could one not feel a measure of joy and surprise, a sense that a door hitherto sealed was now opening to reveal some light?

The synagogue Web site contained a slew of fascinating information. The Loiko Trio was based in Ireland of all places, and – sound the trumpets – Sergei Erdenko was the great-grandson of Mikhail Erdenko, who had been a professor at the Moscow Conservatory and a friend of Tolstoy. At that moment, I felt I was part of a great drama.

The Web site also listed a woman named Luba in Phoenix who was involved in ticket sales; the phone number was printed too. I called her and told her my story. She immediately gave me two addresses: the Loiko's Ireland address and Erdenko's private address in Paris.

Since the trio performed in a synagogue and was listed as playing Russian, Gypsy and Jewish music, I asked Luba about the concert's Jewish component. For I remembered that another Luba – Luba Dubinsky, the widow of the Russian violinist who had founded the Borodin Quartet – had told me that Erdenko was Jewish. If so, I mused, wouldn't he have known about the *Kol Nidrei*? When Tolstoy told him about the beautiful melody that the Jews have, wouldn't Erdenko, had he been a Jew, have responded, "Yes, I know it"? Moreover, why was he referred to as a "Gypsy violinist"? But a Russian Jewish musician now living in Philadelphia wrote me confirming that he may indeed have been a Jew since the chances were good that Erdenko was an assumed name.

That is why the Jewish component of the Loiko Trio's concert at the synagogue intrigued me. For if there was a Jewish substance to the trio's music, passed on from father to son over four generations, then the Jewishness of Erdenko would be confirmed. But Luba laughed. No, she said, they just played *Hava Nagila* and one other old Jewish chestnut from ages ago.

That night, I wrote two letters: one to the Loiko Trio in Ireland and one to Erdenko in Paris. Two years later, I am still waiting for an answer from Dublin. The letter to Sergei Erdenko was returned stamped *inconnu*, unknown, some seven weeks after I mailed it.

The light shining through the door, my hoped-for opening to resolve the mystery, was suddenly extinguished.

But then I got a call from a Russian named Oleg. He left me a message telling me that his former professor at Duke University had read the article and passed the information on to him. Oleg was at the University of Iowa, teaching Russian literature. He told me he had done something simple, again with a computer: In a search engine he had merely typed, "Erdenko, Kol Nidrei." He quickly learned that the library at the University of California had a copy of the score, which he would order for me.

I waited patiently. I can't say I dreamt about the score, but I did visualize it, reading the notes, in C major of course, to make it easy for myself. (In fantasies, you have a choice of key signatures.) But I knew it was in a minor mode, so there would be sharps and flats.

A couple of weeks later, Oleg called me.

"I have bad news and good news," he said.

I figured it's better to end with the good news, so I said, "Tell me the bad news first."

"The bad news is that the University of California cannot locate the score to the Erdenko *Kol Nidrei*. They have a listing for it but they can't find it."

"And the good news?"

"The good news is that I have a friend who works at the Moscow Conservatory and I'm going to call him and ask him to see if perhaps the score is there."

Again the wait began.

Meanwhile, someone else called to say that he had seen a composition by Erdenko on a CD but didn't recall its name. I called a record store and was told that a CD by Erdenko indeed existed – of a performance by Nikolai Erdenko. Now there was a new name. Who was he? In typical Russian fashion, the enigma was wrapped in a mystery.

Then, another man told me that the Loiko Trio had performed in Maryland (evidently, the information had been obtained from another Web site) and that by following it, I might be able – in the man's poetically formulated but factually incorrect words – "be able to fulfil Moshe Ashbel's dying wish."

But I was still waiting for Oleg's call, which came soon enough.

"Good news." His voice glowed all the way from Iowa City. "My friend phoned and told me that the Erdenko *Kol Nidrei* is in the Moscow Conservatory archives. After all, Erdenko had taught there. My friend will try to get it xeroxed and will mail it to me. By now, I'm as interested in seeing it as you are."

But two, three weeks passed. The mailbox remained empty. Nothing, day after day. I called Oleg again.

"It's on its way," he promised. "As we speak, it's flying over the Atlantic."

And right he was. It flew directly from Moscow to Iowa City via registered mail. And then a photocopy of the photocopy was on its way to me.

The other day, two packets came, one from Iowa, the other from Phoenix. I opened the one from Phoenix first. It contained a casette and a CD of music made by the Loiko Trio. The liner notes gave me a bit more information about Sergei Erdenko, including the fact that his colleague on the trio was his first cousin. The bio continued by saying that both cousins' families were musical and that –

The cover of Mikhail Erdenko's long lost score *Kol Nidrei*.

Bingo! Now the circle was closed and the mystery unravelled – another cousin of Sergei Erdenko, Nikolai Erdenko, was also a musician.

Then I opened the other packet and found the sheet music to Mikhail Erdenko's arrangement of the traditional *Kol Nidrei*, for piano and violin. The music has all the haunting qualities of the Yom Kippur melody that Ashkenazi Jews have been chanting for more than 500 years.

The score is faithful to the melody we all know, with all its grace notes and chazzanic ornamentation. The score had two covers, one with the Hebrew words *Kol Nidrei* and beneath it *Kol Nidrei* in Cyrillic letters. The other cover had the title in Latin letters. The music was published in 1912 jointly in Kiev and Warsaw. The *Kol Nidrei* is Erdenko's Opus 3, which means that it is one of his earliest compositions, and also that he wrote it and found a publisher in a relatively short time after his 1910 visit to Tolstoy.

Dear Reb Moshe! When I played the melody on the piano for the first time (not in C, but in F), I thought of you. I thought of sending you this melody that comes from the depths of the Jewish heart, a melody that binds you and me in love and friendship. Yes, it comes 10 years too late, but I know with what joy I would have mailed you the score that was wrenched from your hands by the Soviet authorities when you left for Israel, and with what joy you would have received it. But a happy conclusion to a search is always a simchah, no matter how long it takes, and it is thanks to so many people who were involved in helping me and helping you these past few months. Yes, I see your eyes smiling, dear, gentle, wise Reb Moshe, I hear your Russian-accented Hebrew even now, as you say in your signature double expression of gratitude, "Todah rabah, todah rabah."

Curt Leviant's most recent novel is the critically acclaimed Diary of an Adulterous Woman. *A two-novella book,* Ladies & Gentlemen, The Original Music of the Hebrew Alphabet *and* Weekend in Mustara *will appear this fall.*

Opinions

What happened to us?

This article was written on Aug. 22, and my readers are invited to update it for themselves, if changes in the current situation should make it necessary.

Two recent trips I have taken south of the border were in some ways an eye opener. On the personal level, everything was great, for my hosts created a wonderful atmosphere for me.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Naturally, I read the local press and turned on the TV, and thus I was exposed to a great variety of reactions to the happenings in state and nation.

I thought I could detect a common thread, which I identified as a subconscious sense of insecurity. To someone who lives in Canada, it was unusual.

Here I was in a country that in many ways may be the greatest in the world, whose people have every reason to be grateful for the good fortune that is theirs. But something was missing. The 9/11 syndrome, that is the memory of last year's World Trade Center catastrophe, has had a fundamental impact.

The old sense of American security – political, social and economic – has diminished, and a large amount of newspaper space is now devoted to reports about Al Qaeda operations and the impact they have had on Western society in general and the United States in particular.

Not surprisingly, Jews are affected by this change in a special way, as they usually are under such circumstances.

Their basic insecurity, I was told, has become more evident, though the brevity of my sojourns made it impossible for me to form an opinion on the matter. In any case, I was wondering whether this change (if indeed it has occurred) will make a difference when it comes to support for, and identification with, Israel.

The end result may be two-sided: it may both increase and decrease support for Eretz Yisrael. This will, of course, depend on the situation. If the Jewish State is threatened in a very serious way, Diaspora Jewry, and American Jews especially, will rise up as one and come to the aid of Israel.

In a variety of ways, our history in Canada has been somewhat different from that of the American Jewish community. We are fewer in number, and perhaps because of that have always had a keener and more vibrant sense of peoplehood, though I did not sense this difference on my particular visits, which were spent in an atmosphere that made me feel at home in every way.

Once again I was confirmed in my conviction that, when the chips are down, Jews both north and south of the border will come through as they always have.

Days of reckoning for Israel

As the new year dawns, Israelis are debating much more than the status of contacts with the Palestinians or technical aspects of security arrangements on the ground.

The events of the last two years have challenged prevailing assumptions about identity and security more than at any other time since 1948. Almost in spite of themselves, Israelis are confronted with excruciating, existential questions about the ever-present dilemma of the balance among security, morality, democracy and the Jewish character of the state.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

Some examples: Last month, in its first report on the country's "security index," Israel's National Security Council proposed a far-reaching definition of "security" that included demography and the country's Jewish majority as key components. The council's outgoing head, Gen. Uzi Dayan, recommended a unilateral decision on the country's borders, since the Jewish majority could be lost within 10 years if the current status quo does not change.

At the Israel Democracy Institute's annual Caesarea Economic Conference, several senior economists emphasized the connection between economic stability and security. They noted that weaker socio-economic groups are more vulnerable not just to the economic downturn caused by global developments and the intifadah, but also to the nature of terrorist attacks by suicide bombers. Less affluent Israelis are less able to alter their lifestyle to protect themselves and their families against terror in the streets. The implications for social and political stability are serious.

The arrest of seven Israeli Arabs suspected of collusion in the recent bloody terrorist attack at the Meron Junction has further exacerbated the already raging debate over the status of Israel's Arab citizens. Two years ago, when 13 Israeli Arabs demonstrators were killed by police, the Israeli Arab community lashed out at what it viewed as ultimate rejection and discrimination by the Jewish majority. Now, the growing acknowledgement by both sides of this divide of active support for the intifadah by a minority in the Israeli-Arab community is forcing them to confront the seriousness of the crisis. In an unprecedented statement, the National Security Council report also emphasized the need to better integrate Israel's Arabs in order to marginalize radical elements in that community.

Over the last several months, parents' voices have emerged in the debate over the moral dilemmas inherent in the army's continued presence in the West Bank and Gaza. Moving statements by two fathers throw this painful debate into sharp relief.

In an open public letter to his son, Avinoam Rekhess lamented the difficulty of applying humane principles to a conflict in which the "enemy chooses to establish itself in the holiest of churches in Bethlehem with nuns and priests as virtual hostages," and in which "it is possible that the smiling, young Palestinian woman approaching the checkpost is a ticking bomb."

In a moving *cri de coeur*, Rekhess said that for the first time in his life, he felt he "did not have the answers" and was "unable to protect" his soldier son. "Unlike war," he said sadly, "terrorism has no morals, ethics or limits. One second of futile faith in the deceptive loftiness of moral values may cost you your young life."

Yitzak Frankenthal, whose soldier son, Arik, was kidnapped and murdered several years ago, provided a different perspective in an anguished speech at a protest rally several weeks ago.

"If, in order to apprehend Arik's killers, innocent Palestinian children and other civilians had to be killed, I would ask the security forces to wait for another opportunity. If the security forces were to kill innocent Palestinians as well, I would tell them they were no better than my son's killers," he said.

"I would rather have the finger that pushes the trigger or the button than drops the bomb tremble before it kills my son's murderer than for innocent civilians to be killed."

While seemingly unrelated, this tapestry of voices reflects not just the openness of Israel but a sober realization of the complexity of the challenges and risks facing the country. After all, any resolution or containment of the conflict with the Palestinians is a means to a more important end – a stable, secure, democratic Jewish state. Slowly but discernably, some of these deeper questions are re-emerging from the daily preoccupation with security. These are important days of reckoning, not just for individuals but for the nation.

From bicycle helmets to circumcision

The opposition by some Alberta Sikhs to a provincial law requiring that children wear helmets while riding their bikes raises interesting question for Jews, and indeed all other religious minorities. These questions are all the more timely given the recent death of an infant in British Columbia, perhaps due to a botched circumcision. The death led to renewed media commentary and reports of opposition to routine non-religious circumcision of male infants.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

First, the helmet issue. As a recent *Globe and Mail* op-ed article by jurist Kathleen Mahoney suggested, safety concerns, especially relating to children, may well trump religious and other rights. Already Canadian courts have decided that mandatory seat belt laws are constitutional, despite their curtailment of individual freedom.

Some Sikh parents are claiming that requiring their sons to replace their turbans with a helmet while riding their bikes would represent an infringement of their religious freedom. But it is certainly possible the courts may decide that such an infringement, under Section 1 of the Charter, might be a reasonable limit that could be justified by the paramount concern of child safety.

Jews looking at the facts of this case might wonder about this strict interpretation by some Sikhs of their religious faith. After all, Judaism allows Jews to violate basic religious laws for reasons of health or risk to life. Why do Sikh religious scholars or leaders not make similar provisions? But to even raise the question undermines one of the tenets of religious freedom – the right of religious minorities to interpret their own religion. And yet, as we have seen for decades over many different court cases, there are complex cases when the state must intervene on precisely that subject.

In fact, the Sikh parents involved have argued turbans do indeed offer a high degree of protection. Indeed if scientific evidence could be adduced to support that view, the Sikh case could be strengthened. Wearing a turban might be construed as a form of reasonable accommodation. This would not be the case regarding a religion that prohibited any head covering.

But without such evidence, it is likely the view that child safety can trump religion would be strengthened. What has this to do with circumcision? Quite a bit.

Opponents of circumcision generally argue the practice is, on balance, medically harmful. But in fact the overall epidemiological evidence is unclear. There are short-term risks and longer term benefits. Both are calculated using probability statistics, and the positive and negative numbers seem to cancel each other out. The consensus seems to be that since there is no clear medical gain, and since the practice is invasive and done without the child's consent, it should not be performed for purely medical reasons.

But publicity given to rare episodes when a circumcision goes bad may tilt public opinion toward the view that the procedure is, on balance, counterproductive, even harmful. One of the claims being asserted is that circumcision is painful and traumatic for eight-day-old babies, and that this is by definition a "serious" harm that must be stopped. (The degree of pain is often lessened with ointments and freezing techniques.)

I cannot review the many sides of the debate here. But one often finds opponents of circumcision who seem to make allowances for procedures that are mandated for religious reasons. That is, opposition is directed only at circumcisions performed for so-called medical reasons.

This cultural sensitivity is praiseworthy. And it might seem to allow for exceptions to any eventual policy. But if it were ever established scientifically – or claimed falsely, yet successfully – that circumcision causes serious harm to an infant, safety would likely trump religious freedom every time. If something is harmful, it's harmful for everyone.

And if, even without new scientific evidence, politicians or policy-makers were to outlaw circumcision for non-religious reasons, it would stack the deck against all groups for whom the ritual is of key religious significance.

Implicit comparisons often cloud the debate. The harm caused by children failing to wear bicycle helmets is enormous, as are the horrific medical consequences of female genital operations. Well-meaning defenders of women's rights may (wrongly) see the failure to oppose male circumcision as a double standard.

One hopes that these and other distinctions are not lost on Canadian politicians and jurists as the circumcision debate unfolds.

Shanah Tovah Umetukah, a year of health, happiness, and peace.

The Kirshner File

A year after Sept. 11, Al Qaeda regroups

The first anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, unprecedented in their scope, ferocity and impact, has been observed in sombre ceremonies across the United States. But a year after Islamic fundamentalist Arab terrorists crashed commercial airliners into the World Trade Center in Manhattan, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and rural Pennsylvania, killing about 3,000 American and foreign civilians in the greatest tragedy on U.S. soil since Pearl Harbour, the war on international terrorism, grandly proclaimed by U.S. President George W. Bush, has yet to be won.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

According to the Central Intelligence Agency and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan, a stinging riposte to Sept. 11, has produced uneven results.

The war, launched last October, virtually wiped out Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda terrorist network in Afghanistan, which planned and implemented Sept. 11, and destroyed Mullah Mohammed Omar's Taliban regime, which harboured and supported the terrorists.

But in chalking up these successes, the CIA and FBI contend, the United States dispersed the Al Qaeda network across a much wider geographic area. As a result, Al Qaeda is now working with extremists around the Islamic world. In other words, Al Qaeda has regrouped. This newly constituted, loosely knit alliance, seething with historic grievances, is as capable of launching assaults against the United States and its allies as Al Qaeda was prior to last September.

Since Sept. 11, Muslim fundamentalists loyal to, or part of, Al Qaeda have carried out a series of far-flung attacks, while Western, Asian and Arab security forces have foiled a number of terrorist plots.

In Pakistan, where Al Qaeda's centre of gravity appears to have shifted, Muslim militants have firebombed a Christian church and a Christian hospital, attacked a group of French naval engineers and the U.S. consulate in Karachi and murdered Daniel Pearl, a Jewish reporter on the staff of the *Wall Street Journal*. Thousands of kilometres away in Tunisia, an Al Qaeda operative detonated a truck bomb next to a venerable synagogue in Djerba. Twenty one people, including 12 German tourists, were killed by the blast.

Last December, 13 Al Qaeda agents were arrested in Singapore, accused of plotting to blow up the U.S. and Israeli embassies there. Shortly afterward, Richard Reid, a Briton who converted to Islam and who allegedly had ties to Al Qaeda, tried to bring down an American Airlines flight bound from Paris to Miami. In January, U.S. and Bosnian intelligence agencies captured an Al Qaeda suspect who had planned to attack American bases in and around Sarajevo.

A month later, Italian police arrested four Moroccans intent on destroying the American embassy in Rome. In May, Jose Padilla, an American who converted to Islam and who trained in Al Qaeda camps in Afghanistan, was charged with plotting to set off a "dirty" radioactive bomb in the United States. Then, in June, the Moroccan government broke up an Al Qaeda cell that had targeted NATO ships in the Strait of Gibraltar. Throughout this period, Jordan foiled several Al Qaeda plots to bomb hotels, tourist attractions and border crossings with Israel.

Washington, in a bid to combat global terrorism, has blocked the financial assets of individuals and organizations thought to be affiliated with Al Qaeda, but Al Qaeda still has access to millions of dollars worth of funds. The United States also placed Hamas and Islamic Jihad, among others, on its list of terrorist groups, and elicited a pledge from several nations, including Yemen, to disrupt and fight terrorism. Even Iran, which is usually hostile to the United States, seems to be co-operating. Last month, Tehran handed over to Saudi Arabia 16 Al Qaeda members who sought refuge in Iran after escaping from Afghanistan. But recent reports suggest that two senior Al Qaeda officials are still in Iran.

U.S. officials have expressed concerns over Saudi foot-dragging on sharing intelligence information. Syria, a charter member of the U.S. State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism, has offered to co-operate with the United States. But Damascus' self-serving definition of terrorism clashes with that of the United States.

The Palestinian Authority, led by Yasser Arafat, quickly attached itself to the anti-terrorist camp and tried to curry favour with the United States after some Palestinians praised the Sept. 11 attacks. Bush, in response, endorsed Palestinian statehood. But in the face of Arafat's unwillingness or inability to stop terrorism, and following the news that Israel had intercepted a ship carrying Iranian arms to the Palestinians, Bush called for new Palestinian leadership, thereby aligning himself with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's position.

The announcement pleased Sharon, who had repeatedly accused Arafat of tolerating terrorism and who had not taken kindly to American critiques of Israeli armed incursions into Palestinian autonomous areas.

In Afghanistan, the hub of Al Qaeda's activities before Sept. 11, the fighting continues. The commander of U.S. forces there, Gen. Dan McNeill, said recently that one more year will be required to complete his mission: to crush the remnants of Al Qaeda and the Taliban and to build a viable Afghan national army that can keep the peace in a country that has known only turbulence and instability for much of its history.

Approximately 1,000 Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters still operate in Afghanistan and in Pakistan's lawless tribal areas. Much to the Americans' embarrassment, bin Laden and Omar, as well as bin Laden's second-in-command, Ayman al-Zawahiri, remain at large. They have eluded mopping up operations mounted by U.S., British, Canadian and Australian troops since last December.

Pakistan's president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, claims that bin Laden – who has issued a series of defiant anti-Western and anti-Israel videotapes – died in southeast Afghanistan in December. But according to other sources, bin Laden is alive and well.

Abu Zubaydah, Bin Laden's Palestinian chief of operations, was apprehended in March. His capture, a blow to Al Qaeda, came on the heels of back-to-back U.S. and allied raids against Al Qaeda bands in Afghanistan.

These ongoing raids, which coincide with joint American/Pakistani operations in Pakistan, have resulted in scattered skirmishes and discoveries of arms caches in areas ranging from the Shah-i-Kot Valley to the mountains of Tora Tora. By last week, 38 American soldiers had been killed and 340 wounded in Afghanistan.

Despite its efforts to stabilize the country, the United States is a long way from transforming Afghanistan into a normal civil society. On July 6, Afghanistan's vice-president, Hajii Abdul Qadir, was assassinated in Kabul – patrolled round the clock by a multinational force – and on Aug. 8, Afghan soldiers killed 12 Al Qaeda gunmen, believed to be Pakistanis, in a fierce firefight in the heart of the capital.

Qadir's death raised the fear that Afghan President Hamid Karzai may not be able to impose order on Afghanistan – which is riven by ethnic tensions and torn by bitter warlord rivalries – or eradicate Afghanistan's culture of war and perpetual conflict.

His aversion to "nation-building" notwithstanding, Bush has promised to rebuild Afghanistan. His secretary of defence, Ronald Rumsfeld, has expressed misgivings at the slow pace of reviving government institutions.

The Bush administration is also worried by challenges to Musharraf's authority. Radical Islamic critics have accused him of trading away Pakistan's sovereignty to the United States. But Musharraf retains control of the army, Pakistan's most powerful institution, and its influential intelligence services. For now, Musharraf, who seized power in a bloodless coup in 1999, is in little danger of being overthrown.

Washington, despite its best efforts, has not detected a direct link between Sept. 11 and its arch enemy, Iraq. There is simply no evidence that Iraq's president-for-life, Saddam Hussein, had anything to do with these events, though he certainly welcomed terrorists such as Sabri al-Banna (Abu Nidal), who died, or was murdered, in Baghdad last month. Bush, nonetheless, seems committed to a regime change in Iraq, mainly on the grounds that Saddam seeks weapons of mass destruction.

Brent Scowcroft – a former national security advisor under U.S. presidents Gerald Ford and George Bush – has warned that a war in Iraq would be counter-productive. Writing in the *Wall Street Journal*, he observed: "Any campaign against Iraq, whatever the strategy, cost and risks, is certain to divert us for some indefinite period from our war on terrorism." Arab and European countries have seized upon Scowcroft's argument to urge caution on Bush.

A year after the World Trade Center crumbled into ruins, the threat from international terrorism – and rogue regimes – is still very much of an issue.

And the memory and pain of Sept. 11 burn brightly.

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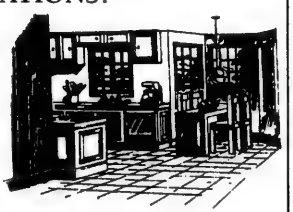

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A CRITICAL CAMPAIGN COUNTDOWN

Eight weeks and a few thousand donors to go. That's what lies ahead for UJA Federation's historic **Israel Emergency Campaign 2003**, which is currently calling all those who have yet to make a gift and asked us to contact them at this time. We've raised more than $54 million since April, when the campaign began four months ahead of schedule. Over $18 million in new and additional gifts have been designated to help Israelis rebuild their shattered lives. Every single Israeli family has been affected by more than 600 deaths, 4,200 injuries and a shaky economy, related to terror.

Israel's crisis is far from over, but together, we're helping Israel in exceptional ways. Our Jewish community belongs to an extraordinary North American fundraising drive, which has already raised $310 million U.S. on Israel's behalf.

"As a community, we should be proud of our strong contribution to a remarkable campaign," says Ronnie Appleby, the chair with Howard Sokolowski of **UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003**. "When Israel suffers, we all suffer. If everyone gives a gift, no matter how small, we can ease Israel's painful burden and demonstrate that we're truly stronger together," adds Sokolowski.

UJA Federation is sending all additional and new gifts directly to Israel to assist terror victims and their families, increase security for Israeli school children and provide a wide variety of human services for Israel's most vulnerable. Please read these pages for additional details on where these crucial campaign dollars are going.

RELIEVING TERROR

Since the wave of violence against Israel began two years ago, a common phrase has, unfortunately, crept into our vocabulary - Victims of Terror.

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 is allocating millions of dollars to help Israelis deal with the physical and psychological effects of terror and support those who treat terror victims. The funds, directed through the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), UJA Federation's overseas partner, will provide much-needed assistance for:

- Selah: Israel Crisis Management Center - to develop programs geared specifically for Victims of Terror
- A fund established by the Jewish Agency for children orphaned by terror
- Trauma units at hospitals across the country for new programs and emergency equipment

PROTECTING KIDS

For most Canadian students, staying safe at school means avoiding the schoolyard bully. But for Israeli students, it's about keeping terrorists at bay.

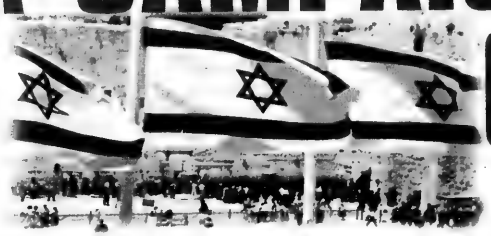
UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 is helping to keep students safe by directing funds to a new JAFI program which will provide security protection for small schools and kindergartens in high-risk areas. The Israeli Police Force is providing guidance and training for this important protection initiative.

REMEMBERING THE VULNERABLE

With terror and a weak economy unfortunate facts of life in Israel today, and with government social assistance budgets redirected to security, Israel's vulnerable need more help than ever before. That's why **UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003** is allocating funds for:

- Afternoon after-school programs to keep children safe
- Adolescent treatment centres
- Immigrant youth programs in among other locations, Kiryat Moshe, with which UJA Federation has developed a special relationship to assist newly arrived Ethiopians
- Parent and child centres and day care centres in underdeveloped communities

A CAMPAIGN OF HOPE



As Israelis reflect on two troubled years, they are remarkably focused on the future, despite the painful loss of lives, the physical and emotional wounds and the financial suffering they face.

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 is helping the people of Israel look ahead with hope.

These families, benefiting from UJA Federation donor generosity, represent thousands for whom we are there during days of distress.

A MOTHER'S COURAGE

On a typical February afternoon last year, Shoshana Gottlieb hopped on a van with a group of her co-workers from Jerusalem's Atarot industrial zone for her regular journey home. As usual, she expected to be the first one in the van since she was always the last one to get out.

But that day proved anything but typical. Curiously, Shoshana's colleagues didn't wait for her to get in first. And as the van made its way toward suburban Givat Ze'ev, it was ambushed by terrorists.

Three of her colleagues died in a hail of bullets. Shoshana, a mother of four, was left a paraplegic.

The bullet that entered Shoshana's spine that afternoon severed her spinal cord, went through her lungs, just missed the aorta, and stopped at her shoulder blade, leaving fragments throughout her body. She remained in intensive care for four days after the attack, undergoing an operation to remove the bullet and repair her lung. Shoshana stayed in hospital for many months during rehabilitation.

Yet despite her suffering, Shoshana's spirit is unwavering. Her harrowing experience, she says, has made her much more relaxed and more patient with her family and with life in general. She continues to work part-time as the import/export manager of a local chemical company. The mother of a 15-year-old son with Down's Syndrome, Shoshana counsels other parents on how to integrate their Down's Syndrome children into everyday life. She even passed a driving test for a special vehicle.

Photo Credit: Israel Sun

The Jewish Agency, **UJA Federation's** overseas partner, assisted Shoshana and her family to purchase a portable electrical device that allows wheelchairs to climb stairs. The device enables Shoshana to leave her apartment in case of emergency without having to be carried down four flights, and will allow her to visit her married daughter who lives in a building without an elevator.

A WIDOW'S PRIDE

Israeli border policeman Yoel Binenfeld and his partner were conducting a routine prisoner transfer when a car stopped them at an intersection. The driver had heard shots being fired on the road to Emmanuel and suggested the officers investigate.

Yoel immediately turned the jeep around. They were the first army personnel on the scene of a bus attack, in which three terrorists had assaulted the bus and several passenger cars with roadside bombs, anti-tank grenades and light arms fire. Ten people were killed and 30 injured.

When they saw the jeep, all of the terrorists but one fled. The lone gunman took aim at the officers. Yoel was killed instantly. His partner was critically injured and remains paralyzed today.

For Yoel's wife, Dorit, her husband's death is bittersweet. On the one hand, the IDF has told her that Yoel's intervention undoubtedly saved the lives of many others. On the other hand, she's now a widow and her seven-year-old son Dean – who is autistic – has lost his beloved father.

Dean needs highly intensive Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy, which requires some 30 to 40 hours per week of potential learning opportunities - the majority conducted on a one-on- one basis with a trained therapist.

To ease the financial burden, the Jewish Agency, through funds from **UJA Federation** campaigns, is providing Dorit with financial assistance so Dean can benefit from his therapy.

His father would be proud.

Gift increases to UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 will be designated for the following needs:

- Assistance to victims of terror and their families
- Increased security for children in day cares, kindergartens and other facilities for children
- Increased medical and psychological support plus other human services for those most affected by Israel's situation - the poor, the elderly and new immigrants

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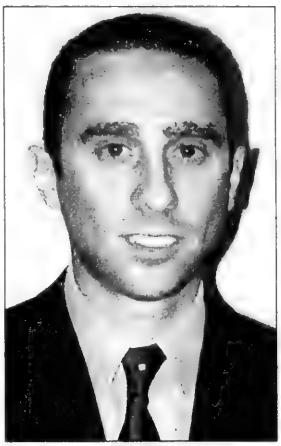
Jewish lifestyle becomes harder to maintain in Argentina

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter



Guillermo Burman

Among the changes Argentines have had to cope with in recent years is a new type of crime, said Guillermo Burman during a recent lunch at a downtown Toronto law firm.

The 31-year-old lawyer, who works for a private company in Buenos Aires, told members of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's young lawyers division that one of the consequences of social, political and economic upheaval in Argentina is decreased personal safety, an example of which is known as "express kidnapping."

The new breed of kidnapper demands a relatively small sum of money for the return of the kidnapped person within a few hours, Burman explained.

Political and economic instability have taken a toll on Argentines in general and on the country's Jewish community in particular. Burman's talk addressed the economic and social crisis in Argentina and offered an overview of life there today.

The Jewish community, the majority of whom live in Buenos Aires, has shrunk to 197,00 from 310,000 Jews in 1970.

At that time, there were more than 60 Jewish schools, 70 synagogues, three teacher training institutes and 10 clubs and social institutions. Now there are only 30 schools serving 15,000 students – 6,000 less than in 1990, said Burman.

The 1990s were a sad time for Argentina's Jewish community, he said, noting the 1992 bombing of Israel's embassy, when 27 people were killed and 220 injured, and the 1994 bombing of the Jewish community building, in which 87 people were killed and 200 injured.

Today, middle class Jews have been most affected, said Burman.

"It's really difficult to support a Jewish lifestyle... It's not cheap to send children to a Jewish school, a Jewish club. If you don't have enough money for rent, mortgage or food, you will not be able to afford that Jewish style of life."

Because of that, he said, Argentina's Jews are facing assimilation.

Burman said there has been no "extraordinary" anti-Semitic reaction to the situation in Argentina. "It's a Catholic country, and Jews are a minority. The minorities have problems, but so far not extraordinary."

The response of the Jewish community, said Burman, is focused on tzedakah, including the running of a soup kitchen for the Jewish community; aliyah, with a total of 5,500 people expected to move to Israel in 2002; and trying to strengthen the Jewish education system through mergers and scholarships.

Ironically, said Burman, Argentina has the natural resources – minerals and vast, fertile lands – to be a wealthy country.

But the country began to lack political stability in 1930, the beginning of a decades-long series of coups d'état and economic crises that lasted until 1983.

Even after democracy returned to Argentina, the economy remained unstable. In 1989, said Burman, Argentina suffered hyperinflation with the consumer price index running above 1,300 per cent annually.

There was steady economic growth in the 1990s, in part due to foreign investments, Burman noted. Other changes included widespread privatization of public utilities.

But corruption, fiscal deficit and a crisis in international markets were among the factors that precipitated a social, political and economic crisis in the late 1990s. Elections are scheduled for next March, but no one knows what the outcome will be, said Burman. The country's public debt amounts to $140 billion (US).

Currently, 34.2 per cent of the population is unemployed or underemployed. Almost 5 million people do not have jobs and 53 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line, he said.

Lawyers, he noted, do have work – a lot of it – because there have been many changes in law.

Sisters collect change for Israel

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Siblings Naomi, Orli and Yael Matlow are trying to put a positive spin on the recent terrorist attacks in Israel.

Since visiting Israel last spring when several bombings occurred, the three United Synagogue Day School, Bathurst branch students have raised almost $5,000 for Magen David Adom toward the purchase of an ambulance.

Naomi, 12, said that she, Orli, 8, and Yael, 6, were in Israel with their family for the bat mitzvah of their twin cousins.

Money to go towards purchase of ambulance

"You could see soldiers, police and security guards all over," she said. "They were out there protecting us and everybody else. Unfortunately, some terrorists still got through.

"After each terror attack, we would watch television and see all of the doctors and ambulances racing to the scene. That's when we decided we should try to help, too," said Naomi.

When they arrived home, she said, they decided to ask people for the loose change that they toss into bowls, jars or draws.

"We asked them to go to where they keep their pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters and empty it out. We would also take loonies, toonies and bills if they had them," said Orli.

"People really liked the idea, and were happy to help. Some lawyers at Goodmans, where my dad [David] works, had been collecting their coins for five years. They gave them all to us. They weighed a ton," Orli said.

She said that friends were moving to a new house and found coins all over as they packed. "They must have given us 100 pounds of coins, including some from Kenya. One friend, Brenna Singer, contributed her bat mitzvah money."

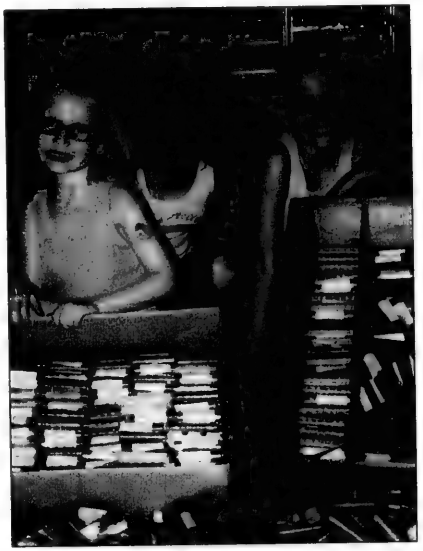
The coins collected so far, she said, include more than 41,000 pennies, 5,400 nickels, 8,500 dimes and 3,600 quarters.

"Our grandparents, Jack and Rochelle Singer, and our nanny, Pilar, helped us roll change for several days to prepare the money for deposit into Magen David Adom's bank account," she said.

The girls hope that other children pick up on their idea. "We would love to see a picture of an ambulance which says that it has been donated by the children of Toronto or the kids of Canada," they said.

Naomi said that she and her sisters have learned a lot from their project. "We learned that people are really concerned about what is happening in Israel and are happy to help. All you need to do is ask.

"We also learned that small bags of coins can quickly add up to real money, and that most of all, change can help change a life," she said.



From left: Yael, Naomi and Orli.

legacy of life

Ralph Snow 1921 - 2000

Ralph Snow grew up in a brutal world full of pain and suffering. When he was finally set free, the quiet and unassuming man committed himself to making the world a much safer and happier place for his family, his friends, and his community.

"Having lived through the Holocaust, there's a certain commitment to the survival of the Jewish people," says **Michael Rosenberg**, a survivor who shared a 40-year friendship with Mr. Snow. "Ralph was a man of extreme sensitivity and depth, and I respected a great deal his wisdom, his approach to issues, and his total commitment to his people."

Ralph Snow was born Raphael Schneebaum in Przemysl, Poland, the only child of loving and cultured parents. He longed to be a lawyer like his father, but it wasn't to be. His father was shot by the Nazis, his mother went into hiding, and young Raphael took a factory job so he could continue to pay a local Pole to keep his mother safe. It was only when he was shipped off to a concentration camp that Raphael learned an agonizing truth: his mother had been killed rather than hidden, with the Pole still taking his hard-earned cash.

With the war over, the ever-capable Mr. Snow continued to help others. He and his new wife Bella – also a Holocaust survivor – were living in a British-zone Displaced Persons (DP) camp when Ralph heard there were bread, sardines and soap available in the American zone. With the borders closed, 50 couples pooled their resources – a loaf of bread, a package of cigarettes – and "paid" a guide to take Ralph over the Austrian mountains to find a path to the American zone. When Ralph returned, he guided everyone back.

Ralph and Bella Snow

Although they had dreams of moving to Israel, circumstance found the Snows in Canada, where determination paid off once again. Ralph quickly moved from milkman to partner in the dairy. Soon he was owner of the Nag's Head restaurant chain and would joke that he had gone "from milk to beer." He worked hard to support his family, but once his two children were grown he retired from the business world and turned instead to full-time community work.

Devoting himself to his people was, perhaps, Ralph's way of healing his war wounds, his chance to personally better a world that was so cruel to those he loved. He started as a member of B'nai Brith's Yorkdale Lodge, comprised mainly of Holocaust survivors, and moved through the ranks to become president of B'nai Brith Canada. Ralph was instrumental in creating the Societies Division of UJA Federation and worked tirelessly as a UJA campaigner. He was president of Beit Halochem Canada, vice-president of Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University, and president of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Congregation in Toronto. He was active with the Jewish National Fund, the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), the Reena Foundation, and a host of other organizations.

"Ralph was a very able and willing person and somehow everybody learned of his abilities," says Bella. "Everybody loved him. He just couldn't say no to anyone, and he was never too lazy or too tired to help. If we would have gone to Israel instead of coming to Canada, Ralph might have been Prime Minister."

The Snows commitment also inspired their children. Daughter Margot Feferman is a Toronto social worker and son Alan is a prominent scientist living in Seattle. Grandchildren Jay, Sari and Noah all attend university.

When Ralph died of cancer in March 2000, an entire community grieved. Even illness didn't slow him down, says Bella. It was simply his nature to help.

If you have a suggestion for future Legacy of Life profiles, please call Perri at 416.631.5728.

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Going that extra mile

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

As we evaluate the past year, with Yom Kippur approaching, most of us feel it was a particularly difficult one. Disasters occurred on a global scale and Jews faced trying challenges both at home and abroad. Many people responded in whatever way they could but still felt frustrated and disillusioned. Yom Kippur always demands honest self-assessment, but perhaps this year we should broaden our perspectives.

It is customary for everyone to ask forgiveness from their fellow human beings in preparation for Yom Kippur. The rabbis of the Talmud clearly state several times that although Yom Kippur can serve to correct our relationship with God, it does nothing to reconcile human relationships. In order to atone for human misdeeds, we must apologize to those we have wronged. Often pride can stand in our way.

Usually, one manages to ask forgiveness from those close to us who we know share our understanding of the day. We make a general sweeping apology that includes "anything I might have done to offend you." With time and attention, I'm sure one could actually identify an instance of offence, whether intended or accidental. Yet we do not want to humble ourselves by admitting the particulars of our misdeed, so we make sweeping generalizations.

We teach our children to ask forgiveness from their parents, their friends and their teachers. We hope they can overcome their awkwardness in speaking to both peers and authority figures, but do we likewise show them the same courtesy?

Maybe this is the year when teachers should take a moment and approach their students privately and individually to ask for forgiveness for those occasions when the casual remark inflicted shame. Maybe this is the year that parents should take each child separately and identify moments of unintended hurt and apologize. Maybe this is the year that employers should apologize to their employees.

If it is pride standing in our way, then Yom Kippur becomes an empty shell. Humility is one of the most central values in Judaism, and the one day of the year when we should truly understand that we are all equal is certainly Yom Kippur.

When we have overcome our pride and gone that extra distance, we can turn to God more honestly and share our sorrows, anger and disillusionment about the past year.

The midrash states that God's vessel is the human heart. It continues to explain that when a heart is full of pride, divine communication is blocked. Yet when God senses a broken heart, God says: "This one is mine."

Canadian academics and Israel

Guest Voice

By MICHAEL BROWN

It was quite disappointing to read the Aug. 22 *CJN* article by David Goldberg and Tilly Shames, "Canadian pro-Israeli academics must challenge Mideast distortion." While the article attempts to be balanced, in effect, it stigmatizes Canadian academics as inactive in defence of Israel. The judgement is misleading and unhelpful. Personally, I should like to conserve my energies for challenging my opponents, not for protecting my flanks from friends.

Let me offer a counter-reading of the present situation and an elaboration of the positive suggestions of Goldberg and Shames.

The past year has been a difficult one at campuses around the world, including in Canada. Israel has been one issue; anti-Semitism, not always obviously related to Israel, has been another. And then there are local issues of Jewish concern at many universities, issues not directly related to either of the above, but which need attention if Jewish life on campus is to continue to flourish.

Certainly at York, but elsewhere, too, many academics, Jewish and gentile, have been working overtime to meet the challenges appropriately. Very often, public activities are not the most likely to succeed, however well they might be regarded by those outside the university.

Canadian campuses have been rather more peaceful than those elsewhere, partly because of the successful behind-the-scenes work of faculty, students and administrators, Jewish Campus Services and community organizations. The academic boycott of Israeli academics, for example, has been vigorously (and, I think, successfully, at least so far) opposed by academics around the country, although not necessarily in ways apparent to the general public.

That said, I do agree that more will need to be done in the coming months. Goldberg and Shames suggest the creation of chairs of Israel Studies. That is a good idea, but it is a long-term and expensive solution to immediate problems.

Interestingly, just a few years ago, there existed on Canadian campuses three effective instruments for the defence of Israel's cause: the Canada-Israel Academic Exchange; the Academic Study Circles, founded by Professor Emil Fackenheim and the late Hebrew University Prof. Moshe Davis; and the Canadian Professors for Peace in the Middle East (CPPME), in which the late Prof. Harry Crowe of York University played a significant role.

The exchange brought Israeli academics to Canada for year-long teaching stints. While here, the professors devoted much time to media appearances that enabled them to present Israel's case knowledgeably to a wide public. In their courses, they ensured a fair treatment of both sides to the Arab-Israeli conflict, as course evaluations at York by partisans of both sides showed year after year.

The study circles, which I chaired for a time, gathered together academics from different disciplines to study Israel-related themes and issues. They helped to create an informed cadre of Canadian academics prepared to engage in dialogue on the history, politics, and economics of Israel and on Zionist thought.

The CPPME provided a friendly, although essentially neutral, forum for the discussion of Middle East affairs. It published a journal and sponsored low-cost study trips to Israel and other countries in the region.

All three programs worked. All three were low-cost and required minimal financial subvention by the Jewish community. In the case of the academic exchange, the host universities paid a large portion of the expenses, since the visitors offered courses as part of the regular curriculum.

That modest support, however, was withdrawn a few years ago. The three initiatives were deemed by the community leadership to no longer be necessary. As a result, three established, effective programs disappeared just at the moment when they were most needed, when they could have provided a credible, knowledgeable presentation of Israel's case.

Whether the exchange, the study circles or the CPPME can be revived, I do not know. Putting them back together or creating some new groups to do their work will certainly be much more difficult – and likely more expensive – than maintaining the existing structures would have been.

In any case, what we as a community need to learn is the importance to us of campus life and activities. Most Jews of university age are to be found on campus, where they will form life-long attitudes. (So, too, will young gentiles.)

We are blessed in Canada with many Jewish faculty members and students who are active, involved and outspoken, and are willing to devote time and energy to Jewish affairs. We are also blessed with many non-Jewish faculty members and administrators eager to ensure that issues of concern to the Jewish community will be treated fairly on-campus and off.

To do their job in times of crisis, however, students and faculty of good will need support on an ongoing basis, not criticism in times of crisis. If their voices are to be heard above the din, and if their activities are to have an impact on campus and off, the community must assist their efforts. Programs such as the Canada-Israel Academic Exchange can accomplish a great deal with modest support, but they cannot survive without any funding at all.

And in the long term, the outcomes desired by Goldberg and Shames and so many others of us in the community can only be achieved by the commitment of substantial resources to campus activities.

Prof. Michael Brown teaches at York University and is the former director of its Centre for Jewish Studies.

UN still no friend of Israel

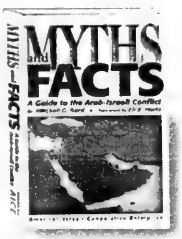
MYTH:

The 1991 repeal of the resolution equating Zionism with racism proves that the United Nations is no longer biased against Israel.

FACT:

The vote did not signal an end to the UN's bias against Israel. The same month, the UN General Assembly approved four new one-sided resolutions on the Middle East.

On Dec. 9, 1991, Israel's handling of the first Palestinian intifadah was condemned by a vote of 150-2. On the Dec. 11, it voted 104-2 for a resolution calling for a UN-sponsored peace conference that would include the PLO and voted 142-2 to condemn Israeli behaviour toward Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza.



On Dec. 16 — the very day it repealed the Zionism measure — the UN voted 152-1, with the United States abstaining, to call on Israel to rescind a Knesset resolution declaring Jerusalem its capital, to demand Israel's withdrawal from "occupied territories," including Jerusalem, and to denounce Israeli administration of the Golan Heights. Another resolution expressed support for Palestinian self-determination and the right of return for Palestinian refugees.

The repeal vote was marred by the fact that 13 of the 19 Arab countries, including those engaged in negotiations with Israel — Syria, Lebanon and Jordan — voted to retain the resolution, as did Saudi Arabia. Six, including Egypt — which lobbied against repeal — were absent.

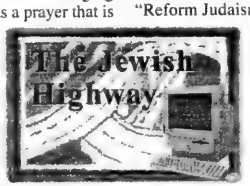
The Arabs "voted once again to impugn the very birthright of the Jewish State," the *New York Times* noted (Dec. 17, 1991). "That even now most Arab states cling to a demeaning and vicious doctrine mars an otherwise belated triumph for sense and conscience."

Source: Myths and Facts – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict *by Mitchell G. Bard, http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org.*

Kol Nidrei and the Internet

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It's one of the pivotal moments of the Jewish calendar. Worshippers flock to their synagogues, many dressed in white, and wait for the cantor to start singing *Kol Nidrei*. But why has a prayer that is concerned with annulling vows and oaths become so famous? Some insights from the Web.



The prayer so associated with Yom Kippur has actually been the source of controversy for centuries. Eliezer Segal explains that although the annulment of vows dates back to the Mishnah, its association "with Yom Kippur probably reflects a popular feeling that unfulfilled obligations would impede the atonement process." However, many rabbinic authorities opposed *Kol Nidrei*. The prayer didn't conform to normal requirements of annulment of vows, which include individual interrogation and the expression of regret. But in the end "the rabbis were compelled to make a difficult choice between insistence on respect for one's word, and compassion for those real people who urgently needed such a procedure for easing their consciences and permitting their forgiveness." **[http://www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Shokel/910906_Kol_Nidre.html]**

I was surprised to find that *Kol Nidrei* has also generated controversy beyond the Jewish community. There are many non-Jewish Web sites that are alarmed by the existence of this prayer and what they feel is a license to lie and deceive year after year. The "Explaining *Kol Nidrei*" Web site goes through the prayer line by line and clarifies that it applies only to vows made by an individual to God and not between individuals. **[http://www.angelfire.com/mt/talmud/kolnidre.html]**

Stephen Butterfass of Temple Israel of Northern Westchester writes that "Reform Judaism initially banned *Kol Nidrei* from the High Holy Day prayer books as an embarrassment and as a symbol of all that Jews represented to the modern gentile world."

It was not officially reinstated into the liturgy until the 1978 edition of the *Gates of Repentance*, in use today. Bufferfass adds: "If some of the ancient rabbis were correct, that ethical and legal objections are outweighed by the need to forgive ourselves for unfulfilled promises in order to attain the necessary state of atonement during Yom Kippur, then *Kol Nidrei* will be with us for a long time." **[http://www.uahc.org/ny/tinw/ReligiousLiving/kolnidrei.htm]**

It is not known when *Kol Nidrei* was first sung. The *Kol Nidrei* melody was first notated in 18th century Berlin. The Protestant German composer Max Bruch (1838-1920) arranged *Kol Nidrei* into the cello concerto that is familiar today. **[http://www.xs4all.nl/~danlo/irwin/music/bruch.html]** You can listen to a beautiful version at Temple Sholom of West Essex, N.J. **[http://sholom.net/rosh_hashana_music-5761.htm]** Hebrew University's Jewish National and University Library has Ashkenazi and Sephardi melodies in addition to a rendition recorded in Tangiers in the early 1960s. **[http://www.jewish.com/download/music/high_holiday_music/]** You can listen to more renditions at the Jewish.com Web site. **[http://jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/music/holidays/holidays_eng.htm]**

A few years ago, American pianist Ben Zebelman turned *Kol Nidrei* into a four-movement arrangement that lasts nearly 40 minutes, possibly the longest version of *Kol Nidrei* to date. You can listen to an interview with Zebelman on National Public Radio's Web site **[http://www.npr.org/programs/atc/books_music/1999/sep/]** and excerpts of the *Kol Nidrei* Variations on Zebelman's Web site. **[http://www.benzebelman.com/KolNidreVariations.html]**

Whatever the melody, *Kol Nidrei* has the ability to touch our soul. Judy (Weissenberg) Cohen will never forget the Kol Nidre that "happened in a place where, we felt, it was appropriate that instead of we asking forgiveness from God, God should be asking for forgiveness from us." In 1944, Judy Weissenberg was 15 years old and a prisoner with 800 other women at Auschwitz-Birkenau. On Yom Kippur, some of the older women asked their kapos for permission to do something for *Kol Nidrei*. They received a candle, a siddur and 10 minutes to pray. **[http://www.interlog.com/~mighty/fragments/fragment2.htm]** But instead of praying, the women burst into tears.

"It was almost as if our hearts burst. I never heard either before or since then such a heart rendering sound. Even though no one really believed the prayer would change our situation, that God would suddenly intervene – we weren't that naive – but the opportunity to cry and remember together helped us feel better. It reminded us of our former, normal lives; alleviated our utter misery, even for a littlest while, in some inexplicable way… That is the *Kol Nidrei* I always remember."

Mark Mietkiewicz writes, lectures and teaches about the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Couple study the then and now of Israeli society

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In intellectual circles back home in Jerusalem, Amiram and Rivka Gonen are no doubt an academic power couple.

Amiram serves as director of the Floersheimer Institute for Policy Studies (www.fips.org.il) and he has recently researched and written a book about the relationship between secular Israeli society and the haredim.

Rivka served as curator of the department of Jewish ethnography at the Israel Museum for 15 years until she retired two months ago. She has studied the lifestyles and origins of Jewish communities around the world, including those in remote corners of the globe. A trained archeologist, she's also an expert on ancient Israelite history as well as excavations in Jerusalem.

The two professors were in Toronto recently for the wedding of their son, Uri, to Julia Castor. Prior to returning to their home in Jerusalem, they sat down with *The CJN* and described some of their latest work.

Rivka is a prolific author who's latest work is *The Quest for the 10 Lost Tribes of Israel; To the Ends of the Earth.*

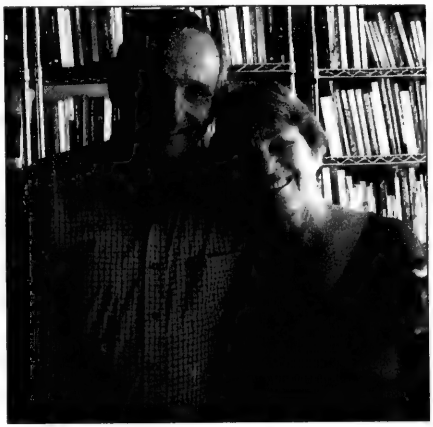
A fan of suspense stories, Rivka said the fate of the 10 Israelite tribes is one of history's greatest mysteries. It has captured the imagination of people around the world, with the result that groups with no concrete connection to ancient Israel now claim they are descendants of the lost tribes.

Claims of descent have been advanced by such varied groups as British Christians, the Maori tribesmen of New Zealand and the Zuni people of southwest United States.

Usually, if you dig deep enough, you can find these claims were influenced by Christian missionaries who were fascinated with the story of the lost tribes and attributed ancient Judaic practices to people they encountered. These claims were internalized by the visited groups and many came to believe that they too were among God's chosen people – a very enticing proposition, Rivka said.

"Most of the world reads the Bible and the prophets' promise that those Israelites and Judeans who were deported will come back and be united under God and be successful and multiply," she said.

For Christian missionaries, finding the lost tribes was an especially attractive proposition, since it would lead to the fulfillment of biblical prophecy, she added.



Amiram and Rivka Gonen

During the 19th century, she continued, a "British Israelite" movement sprang up. It was in part an attempt by devout people to discern a reason for the British people's tremendous worldly success. "In the Victorian age, the British decided… that the promise of Israel had been transferred to them," Rivka said.

Furthermore, the name "British" was taken to reflect the two Hebrew words, "brit" and "ish," or the covenant of the people, she said.

Meanwhile, in Denmark some came to believe the Danes were descendants of the biblical tribe of Dan while in remote Myanmar (Burma). the Shinlung people now claim to be descendants of the tribe of Menashe. The Shinlung, Rivka said, are the lowest group on the local social ladder and "like the idea of being chosen by God."

In Japan, a small group believe the natural calamities that often befall their homeland are parallels of the divine retribution often seen in the Bible. Furthermore, the ancient migration to the Japanese heartland around Kyoto mirrors the exile of the ancient Israelites, she said.

If you look beneath the surface, however, you can often find the influence of 19th century Scottish missionaries, who passed along their beliefs to the local Japanese, Rivka said.

The Maoris of New Zealand were also influenced by Christian missionaries, but they could not identify with the New Testament story of Jesus. A warrior people, they found Jesus too "feeble" while the "fighting God" of the Hebrew Bible "appealed to their own character. They saw themselves [like the] persecuted Israelites fighting oppressors… and they came to believe they were Israelite tribes."

Other suggestions that the Pashtuns of Afghanistan and even groups in Zimbabwe are the lost tribes are simply *"bubbe maises"* (old wives' tales) with no basis in fact, she asserted.

Rivka has written a new book that addresses another fascinating issue – the archeology of the Temple Mount. Titled *Contested Holiness: Jewish, Christian and Muslim Perspectives on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem*, it is slated for release in 2003.

Reinforcing her view that ancient mysteries can grab hold of the contemporary imagination, she notes how British Israelites believe the Ark of the Covenant now resides in Ireland at a site that was once holy to the island's early Celtic residents.

Amiram's work is grounded in the here and now. His latest book, published by the institute, is *From Yeshiva to Work: The American Experience and Lessons for Israel.*

The institute, in pursuing its mandate to present policymakers with strategies and approaches to key social issues, has studied the role of the Orthodox in Israeli society, Amiram said.

Continued on page 19

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Networking club brings young people together

By STACEY STEIN
Special to The CJN

Jori Gertner was thinking about her next career move after leaving her job at an interactive marketing firm in May.

While considering potential employment options, the 23-year-old communications graduate contemplated going back to school.

"I felt confused. I felt like everyone else has it figured out and I don't," said Gertner.

It was then that she realized she probably wasn't alone.

"I thought that if I feel this way then other people must feel this way," she said. "Then I thought maybe not everyone has it all figured out and maybe it would be neat for us to get together and have an opportunity to network and meet."

This led Gertner to the idea of forming a club for young people to meet in a professional context to share personal stories and learn from one another.

To gauge interest in her idea, Gertner e-mailed her friends and encouraged them to pass her message on to others. It wasn't long before she was getting responses from strangers who were enthusiastic about joining a networking club for young people.

"I got e-mails from people I didn't know who said they felt the same way as I did," said Gertner.

With this strong show of interest, Gertner set about organizing the club's first event, which took place Aug. 27 at Temple Sinai.

The theme was "the pressure to succeed" and featured guest speaker Sharyn Salsberg Ezrin, an organizational psychologist and executive coach. The event was sponsored by Temple Sinai's Next Generation program, which organizes social and educational programs for Jews aged 25 to 39.

The event attracted about 30 people in their 20s and early 30s who shmoozed over a pizza dinner before the presentation. Later, they lingered to discuss the issues raised by Salsberg Ezrin and to make new connections.

Afterward, many agreed on the value of Gertner's idea.

"I think Jori stumbled upon a gold mine," said Ida Gold, who viewed the first event as an opportunity to learn about others. "I got insight from other attendees. I want to be better informed about what other people are doing because maybe that will help me in my future choices."

The club also lets members network with people from a wide range of backgrounds and professions.

"I don't think there's enough things where people get together from different industries and different backgrounds," said attendee Amanda Kelman.

Tracey Starr, another participant, echoed this sentiment.

"Sometimes people get so involved in their work that they forget what's going on in other professional circles," she said. "It's an effective tool for bringing people together to share ideas and bounce things off each other."

Gertner hopes to hold the club's next meeting in October. Plans for future events include bringing in a public relations professional to discuss the advantages of networking and a speaker-led discussion on the importance of having a mentor.

Gertner said one of her goals is to hear success stories that originated in the club.

"If one person tells me they met someone at the networking club that they wouldn't have met otherwise, then I'm happy," she said.

For more information, contact Gertner at gertnerj@hotmail.com.

Amiram examines lives of haredi Jews in book

Continued from page 18

In a book on the topic edited by Shlomo Hasson, Amiram wrote "a scenario" in which the secular population departs Jerusalem and leaves control of the city to the haredim.

In his own book, Amiram examines the way the haredi Jews have adjusted to modernity in the United States and compared it to the Israeli experience.

Amiram attributes the communities' different coping mechanisms to several factors:

In the United States, consumerism is very powerful and the opportunity for individuals to improve their status is greater than in Israel. "The Orthodox in the United States make big money in computers, stocks, property. Lots of Orthodox serve as role models. They're very successful – empire builders."

That level of success is hard for Israeli haredim to accept, so to avoid disappointment they instead say, "God will provide."

In the United States, Gonen continued, many aspects of secular lifestyles are considered by the haredim to be non-Jewish and can, therefore, be dismissed as being foreign.

In Israel, on the other hand, the secular way of life is enjoyed by fellow Jews and is seen as a competing lifestyle that poses a unique danger. As a result, Israeli ultra-Orthodoxy is "harsher perhaps, more aggressive in its membership and more combative with the rest of society."

In Israel, he continued, haredim avoid army service by claiming a student exemption. Once they embark on a life of study, they may soon find themselves with several children and without a trade. In earlier generations, the haredim were forced by necessity to find a line of work to support themselves, Amiram noted.

American haredim have established schools to ready their students for work in a trade or for a university education.

Amiram believes the continuing migration of religious American Jews to Israel will benefit the local haredim by providing role models – examples of people who have accepted modernity without abandoning their traditions.

"Modernity need not mean secularism," he said. "Within the modern world, they can live quite integrative instrumentally without succumbing to secular views."

Subscribe to *The CJN*

Correction

In the story "JCC-Maccabi Games hailed as Montreal triumph" (*CJN*, Sept. 5), we gave an incorrect photo credit for the four pictures that accompanied the story. The photos were taken by Jeff Dennis. We regret the error.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Tuesday, Sept. 17, is deadline for Sept. 26 issue and Monday, Sept. 23 is deadline for Oct. 3. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Saturday, Sept. 14

CONSERVATIVE IMPACT

Beth Tzedec Congregation presents **Rabbi Jim Lebeau**, director of the Shirley & Jacob Fuchsberg Centre for Conservative Judaism in Jerusalem (Israeli representative, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism) speaking from the pulpit on Good News! The Positive Impact of the Conservative/Masorti Movement in Israel. Services 8:45 a.m. 416-781-3514, ext. 14.

SHABBAT SHUVAH

Rabbi Moshe Stern of Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue delivers the annual Shabbat Shuvah drashah at 6 p.m. at the synagogue. The drashah is dedicated in memory of **David Rosensweig** and all those who have been killed in Israel by acts of terrorism. The topic is How Can We Bring Meaning to Their Death? Men and women invited. 416-787-1613.

Sunday, Sept. 15

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Canadian Society for Yad Vashem Memorial Service at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, Earl Bales Park, 10 a.m. For information, 416-785-1333.

Tuesday, Sept. 17

CHUG HATANACH

Chug Hatanach meets at 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue to study the Book of Ezekiel, chapters 19 and 20. Led by **Aaron Nussbaum**.

Wednesday, Sept. 18

BACK TO OUR ROOTS

Golda Meir chapter of Jewish Women International opening meeting, 7:30 p.m., features **Prof. Michael Chazan** speaking on Back to Our Roots – how archeological finds in Israel affect our understanding of our origins and our life, then and now. **Eleanor** 416-665-3984.

Thursday, Sept. 19

THE LIZZIES OLDTIMERS

The Lizzies Oldtimers Association rescheduled annual reunion dinner honours **Dr. Joe Greenberg**. Guest speaker is **George Chuvalo**. Hospitality 4:30-6:30 p.m., dinner 7 p.m. sharp at the North York Memorial Centre, 200 Eglinton Ave. W. Tickets and information **Norm Cornack** 416-749-6735 or **Harvey Bronstine** 905-886-6580.

VEGETARIAN DINNER

The L'Chaim Vegetarian Group Dinner, 7 p.m. at Kama Restaurant (buffet optional) 214 King St. W. RSVP **Howard Koch** by Sept. 15 at 416-663-4076.

INFORMATION MEETING

Adath Sholom Sisterhood information meeting regarding the 7th trip to Atlantic City (Nov. 4-7) at 7:30 p.m. at the synagogue, 864 Sheppard Ave. W. Contact **Bunnie Gross** 416-633-9691 or the synagogue 416-635-0131.

And What Else Is New

SHARING THE PAST

Sharing the Past and Celebrating Life: the International Child Survivors and Second Generation Conference is being held in Toronto Friday, Oct. 11, to Monday, Oct. 14, at the Regal Constellation Hotel. Conference is for child survivors, their spouses and children and all descendants of the Holocaust. Explore the meaning of survival through workshops, seminars and speakers. A one-day registration for

Continued on Page 21

Israel's advocates should focus on the right targets

By ED MORGAN

Guest Voice

Ed Morgan

In a recent *CJN* article ("Canadian pro-Israeli academics must challenge Mideast distortion," Aug. 22), the anti-Israel rhetoric prevalent on Canadian campuses today was said to be the fault of, wouldn't you know it, the pro-Israel academics on campus. This approach to Israel advocacy reflects a discernible trend.

Popular columnist Charles Krauthammer wrote an article several months ago about the end of the peace process that has been circulated on the Internet by Jewish advocates as "perhaps the finest speech on the Middle East in the last ten years." Krauthammer's piece, which was adapted from a speech given at Bar Ilan University, declares that Israel has at long last recovered the inner strength to vanquish its primary enemy. That enemy, Krauthammer argues, is neither Hamas, nor Islamic Jihad, nor Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, nor Iraqi President Saddam Hussein; it is none other than Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and the ideology that he represents.

Community leadership of past generations seems to relish in reciting, Monty Python-style, how they rose to much tougher challenges in their day. Community members who have rarely, if ever, attended a rally or demonstration consistently ask why the Jewish community can't produce evidence of mass public support for its causes. People who never read the Jewish press to find out what community organizations are doing rail at the fact no one knows what community organizations are doing. E-mail discussions circulate about how no one engages in any activism for Israel anymore except to circulate e-mails.

Several months ago the director general of Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs testified before the Knesset on the failings of the country's *hasbarah* efforts. When grilled on why Israel's image has become so tarnished in world public opinion, he responded that it's not the salesmen who are at fault, it's the product. Give us better policies, he told Israeli lawmakers, and we'll give the world better explanations.

In Israel's time of crisis, the most popular sport in the Jewish world is finger-pointing.

But it's not only that it's always someone else's fault. Rather, as if there are not enough real opponents out there, in the world of Israel advocacy, the fault always seems to lie with one of our own.

> 'We should aim our barbs at our foes, not our friends'

Of course, there are and always have been Jewish spokespeople who take anti-Israel or anti-Jewish-community positions on matters of public affairs. But that is not the issue of the moment. The problem we now encounter is that of people on the same side of the coin casting blame on each other. One is reminded of Woody Allen's monologue about relationships in the movie *Sleeper*, where he comes to one overriding conclusion: "We all get on each other's nerves sooner or later."

There is nothing wrong with Jewish groups taking different approaches to policy issues, or coming at Israeli politics from differing ideological perspectives. The Jewish community is intellectually well endowed, and thinking people need not always agree on every contentious point. The Knesset itself more than demonstrates this fact. We will never master the political equivalent of Riverdance, which Jackie Mason describes as "87 gentiles doing one step."

However, the trend of faulting our allies instead of our adversaries eventually leads to paralysis rather than an improvement of ideas. Indeed, one can say of community advocates what Mordecai Richler once said of his life as an author: "Coming from Canada, being a writer and Jewish as well, I have impeccable paranoia credentials." Knowing this about ourselves, the least we can do is aim our barbs at our foes, not our friends.

Ed Morgan is a law professor at the University of Toronto and chair of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

Continued from page 20

2nd generation programs Sunday, Oct. 13. All conference meals COR kosher. **Anita Ekstein** 905-770-4923 or **Marilyn Maierovitz** 416-635-2883, ext. 272.

JEWISH HEALING PROJECT

The Toronto Jewish Healing Project is offering a 6-week healing group starting Oct. 16. Leaders are **Rabbi Dow Marmur** and **Michelle Katz.** For information and registration, call **Etta** 416-944-3359.

2ND GENERATION GROUP

Adult Children of Holocaust Survivors. The Holocaust Resource Centre invites 2nd generation adults to join each other in an ongoing group. Contact **Paula David** 416-785-2500, ext. 2271 or **Judi Cohen** ext. 2322.

HRT DURING MENOPAUSE

Concerned about taking HRT during menopause? Join My Women's Group of Jewish Women International of Canada Monday, Sept. 23, for the program, The Natural Approach to Menopause. Registered nutritional consulting practitioner **Dorie Hanson** leads the discussion. Dinner will be served prior to the program. Reservations required. 416-630-9313.

DANCE TEACHER COURSE

Folk Dance Teacher Training Course, presented by Performing Arts Educators of Canada – Folk Dance Division in co-operation with the Koffler Centre of the Arts. Instructor **Teme Kernerman**. A 10-week introductory course. Sessions include Israeli repertoire, teaching techniques, opportunities to apply these techniques in class, programming and applied discussions. Classes run on Sundays 6:30-9 p.m. Oct. 20 to Dec. 22 at Leah Posluns Theatre (studio theatre), Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. **Teme** 416-636-1880, ext 364 or 416-630-5871 (evenings).

KADIMA CENTRE

A social, recreational centre for adults with developmental disabilities, 18 years and over. Programs run September to June. Group meets every Sunday 2-4p.m. at the Ruth Kelman Centre and on Tuesdays 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the Inwentash Youth Centre for Supper Club at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. Come and join in the Open House Registration Welcome Back Dance Sunday, Oct. 6, 2-4 p.m. and bring a friend, For information, **Suzanne Agasee** 416-635-6800.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family and Child Service groups. For information/registration, **Shawna** 416-638-7800, ext. 213.

When You're About To Separate: What To Tell The Kids, a workshop focusing on children's needs just prior to and in the early stages of separation. Tuesday, Sept. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

Adolescent Social Skills – Introductory Night, for adolescents wishing to participate in the Social Skills group starting in October. Experience what the 8 sessions will look like and meet the group leader. Thursday, Sept. 26 7 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St. Lipa Green Building, 6th floor.

YIDDISH CLASSES

To learn conversational Yiddish, 10-lesson seminar, beginners and intermediate classes at Adath Israel Synagogue. All classes completely modified. Phone **Louis Gula** 416-495-0919.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Sunday dances Oct, 6, 20, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday dances Oct. 12, 26, at 7:30 p.m.; Casino Niagara Oct. 17; trip to Atlantic City Nov. 3-6. $50 cash US in casino bonuses; Bingo every Tuesday 1p.m. 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Get ready for Simchat Torah dance party. Sept. 12, video movie; Sept. 19, bingo; Sept. 26, video movie; Sunday, Sept. 29, Simchat Torah dance party 7 p.m. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

New Horizons Simchat Torah party Sunday, Sept. 29, 6 p.m. Guests welcome. 3565 Bathurst St. 416-256-1892. **Edith Lazar**.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the board room at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Young at Heart Seniors Florida vacation at glatt kosher Saxony Hotel. Free breakfast and cocktail bar every day. Register after the holidays and have a choice of rooms and floor. Efficiency or with meals, **Helen** 416-635-6343. No Shabbat calls.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Relevant Topics of the Day with **Doug Haddow**, Tuesdays Sept. 17 and 24, 10-11:30 a.m.

Sleep/Wake Disorders Interest Group, Tuesday, Sept. 17, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Dr. Jill Ray**, neurologist, discusses The Role of Acupuncture in the Management of Sleep Disorders.

Wellness Education Program, Arthritis Series, Everyday Living With Arthritis Thursday, Sept. 19, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Share your thoughts and concerns in a discussion with a volunteer from the Arthritis Society.

Intermediate Hebrew Classes with instructor **Kolya Shimrat**, Tuesdays 9:30-11:30 a.m. through to Nov. 12. Bible Study with Kolya Shimrat Mondays 9:30-11:30 a.m. through to Nov. 25. For information, **Barbara Zigler** ext. 134.

Israeli Club Etrog meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. **Anna** ext. 110. Sept. 17, picnic; Sept. 24, concert; Oct. 1, Etrog anniversary party.

WAGMAN CENTRE

At 55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Lunch and Learn, Tuesday, Sept. 24, at the Gathering Place. Reserve in person at the Service Desk. For information, **Mara Swartz** ext. 2275.

Sukkot Celebration, Thursday, Sept. 26, 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the Fireplace Lounge. Entertainment, light refreshments. Register early in person at Wagman Service Desk. Any questions, call **Mara**.

Apple picking and picnic Monday, Sept. 30. Register in person at Wagman Service Desk. For further information, call **Mara**.

Bereavement Group, meeting the needs of spouses aged 55 and older living in the community, offers understanding about the issues of loss, loneliness, pain and healing. For details, **Shawn Fremeth** ext. 2986.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Registration is now under way for fall programs.

Beginning Jewish Meditation, a 6-week program beginning Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 7:30 p.m. with **Chashi Skobac**. Presented by the Downtown Jewish Learning Council. Register.

Two-Day Hebrew Marathon Sundays, Oct. 20 and 27, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Instructor **Nirit Gruber**.

Hebrew 1 (beginner) Tuesdays Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26, Dec. 3, 10, 8, 9:30 p.m. Instructor **Nirit Gruber.**

Hebrew 3 Thursdays Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 8-9:30 p.m. Instructor **Esther Benari-Altman**, principal of Beth Sholom Hebrew School.

Women's Chorus, conductor **Harriet Wichin**, every 2nd Monday, 8-9:30 p.m. 6-week session.

Carlebach & Beyond Choir with composer/conductor **Ken Rabow**, 8 sessions, Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Oct. 15-Dec. 3. Register.

JCC Teen Band, specializing in rock, jazz and original compositions and arrangements by Ken Rabow. Fall session (8 weeks) begins Oct. 20. Sundays 3:15-5 p.m. For more information, call **Ken Rabow** at 416-633-43333 or the JCC.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Learning Experience Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1-2:30 p.m. Bunka Japanese punch needlecraft demonstration and exhibit. Room 211.

Fun With Yiddish, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 1-2:30 p.m. Room 115.

Senior Jewish Bowling Group at Pro-Bowl, Tuesdays 1 p.m. Ask for **Milty**.

Yoga-Fit led by **Dr. Estelle Altman** starts Monday, Oct. 7, 1-2:30 p.m. Room 211B.

Music of Israel – Hava Nashira with **Rita Sue Fisher** starts Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Room 115.

Big Bands Revisited with **Al Baslan** starts Thursday, Oct. 10, 1:30-3 p.m. Room 115.

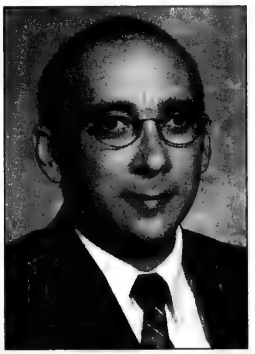
Fall courses – register in class: Bridge with instructor Joel Shapiro; Ballroom Dancing; Chai Dancers; Current Events; Drama, Habima Players; Painting; Needlecrafts; Folkdancing; Choir, Shalom Singers; Yoga; Line Dancing. Plus luncheons, arts, outings.

ABOUT PEOPLE

CONGRESS APPOINTMENT

Bruce Kurta has been appointed director of public affairs and communications for Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region. He will be responsible for liaising with media and ensuring a free flow of information to Ontario's Jewish community pertaining to issues and public affairs matters for the organization.

In addition to previous experience within the Jewish community, Kurta has most recently been a freelance corporate writer and has written for and edited several publications in Canada and the United States.



Bruce Kurta

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 23

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For further information about the above Service call 416-785-1333
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Holiday Features

Call to attend special *Slichot* service

We, the rabbanim of our community, have come together to issue an urgent call to all community members to attend a special *Slichot* prayer on Sept. 14, motza'ei Shabbat (erev Yom Kippur) at the Sephardic Kehilla Centre, beginning at 12:30 a.m. The evening will be preceded by a special address by Haham Amram Assayag and Haham Eliyahu Attias.

With the end of the fast approaching and Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur only a few days away, it is imperative for us to take a moment to reflect on the current state of Jews everywhere.

The events of the past year have been a painful reminder that we are still in exile and not in our true homeland, Israel. The ongoing intifadah, the Sept. 11 attacks and the burning and desecration of synagogues around the world are just a few of the events of the past year that have highlighted the ever-growing need for Am Yisrael to set our individual differences aside and unite as an *am echad, keish echad, belev echad*.

When Jews in France can no longer walk the streets without the fear of being spit upon or when Israeli families live in fear that their next trip to the shuk may be their last, we must identify with their pain and anguish as if it was our own.

During these trying times, the need for us to come together to unite and pray to God as a community has never been stronger. We will read in the *Amidah* of Rosh Hashanah, "*Vya'asu kulam agudah achat la'asot retzoncha belevav shalem*" – "and they will join one group to do Your will wholeheartedly."

Our sages tell us that the sanctity of a community praying together exceeds the sum of its individual parts. A community's prayers have the ability to transcend to places in heaven where an individual's prayer alone cannot.

May it be the will of God that in the merit of this great gathering, we will see these trying times come to an end, that we be judged favourably in the year to come, that all our hopes and prayers are answered and that we bear witness to the coming of the Messiah.

We urge you to come and experience *Slichot* the Sephardi way.

Haham Amram Assayag, Rabbi Eliyahu Attias, Rabbi Y. Ozic, Rabbi O. Haboucha, Rabbi Shalom Revah, Rabbi Mordechai Sevy, Moshe Ben Yair, Jack Azriel, Rabbi Asher Abitbol and Victor Pinto.

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Apples and honey make tasty treats

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America has sent along the following recipes from Devorah Buhr, a recent graduate of JTS's H.L. Miller Cantorial School.

Buhr, ritual service director and chazzan sheni of Kehillath Israel in Brookline, Mass., is an award-winning, certified pastry chef with a specialty in chocolate and candy production.

HONEY ALMOND CRUNCH

1 cup unsalted butter
1½ cups sugar
½ cup water
⅓ cup honey
2 cups almond (raw)

In a saucepan, melt butter. Add sugar, water, honey, and cook to 220 degrees on a candy thermometer. Add nuts and stir while you cook it to hard crack or 300 degrees. Meanwhile, spray a baking sheet with non-stick spray. When the toffee is up to temperature, pour it out onto the pan. When cooled, break into pieces and store in an airtight container.

APPLE FRUIT LEATHER

4 cups applesauce
1 cup sugar

Place a piece of foil on a baking sheet and spray with non-stick pan spray. Spread the applesauce-sugar mixture evenly about ⅛-inch thick. Place in a very slow oven (175 degrees) overnight or until dehydrated. When cooled, peel off foil and place on plastic film. Roll up into rolls ready to eat.

On Campus

Waterloo U professor heads Cairo Genizah project

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The University of Waterloo has become the administrative centre of one of the world's most important Jewish studies research projects.

A team of scholars from a consortium of universities, ranging from Cambridge and Princeton to Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University, is working on the project to study the contents of the Cairo Genizah.

The project's director, James Diamond, holds the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Chair of Jewish Studies at the University of Waterloo. He also directs the university's Jewish studies program.

The Cairo Genizah is a treasure trove of more than one million documents and texts from the Middle Ages about Jewish life and thought.

It was was found by British scholar Solomon Schechter at the turn of the last century in the dusty attic of the Ben Ezra synagogue in old Cairo.

In Hebrew, the word genizah refers to a room attached to a synagogue where books and ritual objects, inscribed with the name of God, are stored.

Illuminated page of a child's alphabet primer, circa 11th century.

The genizah in Cairo – once home to a thriving Jewish community – was originally found by a European scholar in the mid-18th century.

For superstitious reasons, he was barred from examining its contents.

In 1896, Schechter, having examined the genizah, took about 100,000 pages back to Britain.

The genizah's contents, in languages from Hebrew and Aramaic to Arabic and Judaic Persian, are today scattered among various libraries in the world, said Diamond.

Illuminated Haggadah with zoomorphic figures, circa 14th century.

To this day, 40 per cent of it remains uncatalogued and unpublished.

The material in the genizah includes biblical texts and commentaries, biblical and rabbinic dictionaries, as well as poetry, liturgy, philosophical treatises, polemical tracts, autographs of great Jewish thinkers such as Maimonides, public and private correspondence, commercial documents and deeds.

Diamond said the genizah, the subject of a five-volume analysis by Israeli orientalist S.D. Goitein, contains the largest collection of texts bearing on the Jewish encounter with Islam during the Middle Ages.

"This provides an opportunity for Jewish and Muslim scholars to interact and exchange ideas and research, since there is so much shared history in the genizah.

"A beautiful image of co-operation between Judaism and Islam is the language in which a large proportion of these documents are written – Judeo-Arabic."

Working with microfilm copies, the University of Waterloo's genizah project seeks to meet several objectives:

- to transcribe as many fragments as possible;
- to translate texts and make them available in a variety of formats;
- to digitize the entire collection;
- to produce a catalogue of all the genizah's fragments;

Continued on page 24

IF IT'S MADE IN ISRAEL MAKE IT YOURS

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IsraelNOW

The Israel Now consortium is made up of more than 100 community organizations united in solidarity with Israel, under the auspices of UJA Federation and The Consulate General of Israel.

Jewish Campus Services responds to anti-Israel bias

By JEFF BERCUSON
Special to The CJN

In response to a growing anti-Israel bias on campuses throughout Canada, Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS) is significantly expanding its role in Toronto student life.

"Campus has become a major forum for anti-Israel propaganda," says JCS assistant executive director Pearl Gropper Berman. "The anti-Israel sentiment is getting much stronger and much more overt. We have a big issue on campus."

Gropper Berman cites two recent incidents that have attracted attention and prompted JCS to increase its campus role.

The first incident involves the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) Centre for Integrative Anti-Racism Studies (at U of T) director Sherene Razack, who distributed a petition among her colleagues, with an accompanying cover letter denouncing Israel for "the current atrocities perpetrated against the Palestinians." Prof. Razack signed the letter using her position as the OISE centre's director and she signed the petition noting her affiliation with the University of Toronto.

The second incident, also at U of T, involves the Arts and Science Students Union's recently published Anti-Calendar that was dedicated to the "memory of the Innocents, Afghanistan and Palestine murdered," with no mention of Israeli victims.

Armed with a substantial increase in funding from UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, JCS plans to provide U of T students, as well as students of York University, Ryerson University and Seneca College with more Israel-oriented programming and programs to increase awareness of important Jewish issues.

"JCS is going to be much more visible this year, and will help Jewish students feel more comfortable on campus," says Gropper Berman. "We want students to know that they can turn to JCS for the tools and information they need to support and defend Israel.

"The federation was very responsive to the needs of students in Toronto," she adds. "We are very grateful that the community has shown a vested interest in Jewish campus life."

JCS is also planning a number of seminars, shabbatonim, trips and community service events through Tzedek Hillel, its branch dedicated to social action and justice, she says. While each of these programs are aimed at providing students with fun, enriching social opportunities, JCS remains focused on its goal of "enhancing the profile of Jewish organizations and instilling pride in Jewish students across Toronto."

But its most importantly purpose this year is to quell the anti-Israel sentiment slowly pervading campus life.

"This year, Israel is our official number-one priority," says Gropper Berman.

She cites education, understanding and awareness as the keys to reducing anti-Semitism on campus, noting that in the past, Palestinian students have been more outspoken than Jewish students in support of their Mideast counterparts.

"Our biggest concern is the fact that many Jewish students simply don't have the tools or information they need to fight back," she says. "Many feel intimidated or scared to debate the issues with Palestinian students or professors. That is what we're trying to change."

Gropper Berman says she and her staff are planning a number of conferences in Toronto, Ottawa and Israel this year that are aimed at promoting campus advocacy and providing students with a forum to discuss different issues and gather information.

"These conferences promote a more pro-active approach to representing Jewish feelings," she says. "There really is strength in numbers, and these conferences show that Jewish students across Toronto and Canada are a united entity and are not fragmented."

According to JCS director of Israel Advocacy Jordana Ballas, it is especially important for the academic Jewish community to respond to criticism of Israel.

"We look at a university campus as a microcosm for society," says Ballas. "Community strength should be reflected on campus and vice versa."

Both Gropper Berman and Ballas are optimistic about the upcoming school year.

"It's been a tough time," Gropper Berman admits. "But thanks to UJA, we've been provided with a wonderful opportunity to give back to the community that has been so generous. We're really excited about this year."

"Everyone is really encouraged about the upcoming year," Ballas adds. "Jewish campus life is truly going to thrive."

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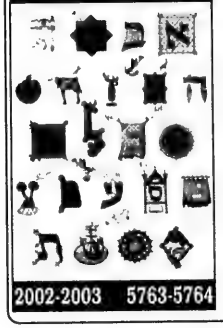
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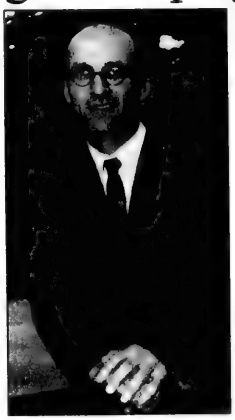
Shaarei Tefillah Congregation
— CORRECTION —
Shaarei Tefillah Congregation regrets to inform you that the ad dated August 28th with respect to free membership was in error and it should have read Half price membership fees for new members. Please call the Synagogue office at 416-787-1631 for details.

Waterloo prof heads genizah project

Continued from page 23


Jim Diamond

• to encourage and stimulate genizah scholarship.
• to develop a better understanding of the contacts between Islam and Judaism from the eighth century to the 15th century CE.

Diamond said the project is expected to be finished within four years.

Sixty five people, divided into 12 teams, will scour the genizah contents.

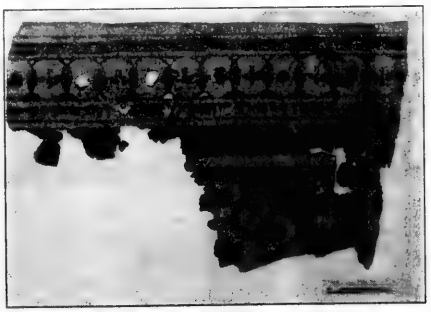
They will deal with topics ranging from language and philosophy to social and cultural history.

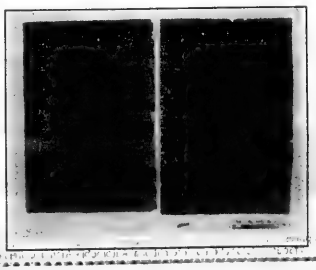
Diamond will be in charge of such functions as quality control and database hosting.

He will also check the scholarly productivity of the teams, co-ordinate their work and edit a journal of genizah studies.

The project was made possible by the sponsorship of Albert Friedberg, a Toronto businessman originally from Uruguay who donated rare Jewish manuscripts to the University of Toronto.

David Johnston, president of the University of Waterloo, and Robert Kerton, the university's dean, have been fully behind the project, Diamond said.


Part of a decorated ketubah, circa 12th century.


Draft of Maimonides' *Guide for the Perplexed*, in his own handwriting circa late 12th century.

Coast to Coast

Fewer births blamed for school enrolment decline

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Board of Jewish Education business manager Jack Cipilinsky cites lower birth rates in the community for the continuing decline in enrolment at Grey Academy, Winnipeg's principal Jewish day school.

Grey Academy – consisting of the JK to Grade 6 Shore Elementary School and Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate, the city's only Jewish high school – has a total enrolment this year of 590, compared to 637 last September and 660 the year before.

"We budgeted for the decrease in enrolment," Cipilinsky said.

This year, Grey Academy's overall enrolment decline is due to a smaller number of students registering for kindergarten and the early grades, which Cipilinsky attributes to a declining number of births in Winnipeg's Jewish community over the last few years.

In the past, the high school has experienced larger enrolment drops from year to year, as students opted for the University of Winnipeg High School program after Grade 10 or St. John's-Ravenscourt School, Winnipeg's top private school, after Grade 7.

He said Grey Academy, which charges tuition, was looking forward to more new students arriving this year from Argentina. Twenty to 25 Jewish families from Argentina have immigrated to Winnipeg in the past few years and more are en route.

But due to delays in the immigration process, some who were expected to arrive for September aren't scheduled to arrive until January, Cipilinsky said.

"Maybe some are waiting to see if the economy in Argentina improves," he suggested.

Laurie Tighe, principal of Brock Corydon Elementary School, said three of the Argentine families have enrolled their children in the public school's free half-day Hebrew bilingual program.

Winnipeg's principal Jewish school examined

The program is the Shore Elementary School's principal competition for Jewish students in south Winnipeg. Tighe said there are 169 students in the bilingual program, a number that hasn't changed much for several years.

The third and newest south Winnipeg Jewish day school is the more Orthodox Ohr HaTorah, which holds classes at the Herzlia Synagogue. This year, the growing school has more than 60 students, about twice as many as last year, and, as of last week, up to 10 more were still considering enrolling.

The nursery to Grade 5 school, which is affiliated with the Torah Mesorah movement, has 22 children in its nursery program and 14 in kindergarten.

Rabbi Yacov Benamou, Ohr Hatorah's principal, said the school has attracted students from Brock Corydon and Grey Academy, as well as from families new to the city.

"We offer a warm, welcoming environment and teachers who live what they teach," he said.

Margaret Park Elementary School's Hebrew bilingual program, the main Jewish day school in north Winnipeg, has an enrolment of 91 students this year, a drop of about 10 from last year.

Kindergarten registration was considerably less than expected but principal Pat Stefanchuk is optimistic that the numbers will be higher next year according to current projections. Like Brock Corydon, Margaret Park is a public school that offers a free half-day Hebrew program.

Chabad also has a north Winnipeg day school, but its very small number of students are drawn mainly from Chabad-affiliated families.

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Happy New Year to our Valued Customers

Jewish Education... on the Move

From the BJE

*No, we're not moving, but we are on the move. As you will learn from this exciting supplement, the **UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE)** services every aspect of Jewish education in the GTA. We provide tuition subsidies to deserving families, consult to schools, work with principals and school administrators, train teachers, offer media and high-tech support and fund curricular innovation. But our lay leaders and professionals also have their eyes on the future through strategic planning for unmet needs.*

To meet our objectives, we're asking many crucial questions. With some 17,000 children enrolled in our day and supplementary schools, can we not find a Jewish educational setting for every Jewish child? Why are some parents not enrolling their children in Jewish schools? Are children with special needs properly cared for in our schools and youth programs? How do we ensure that Jewish education is a life-long activity?

We want to work with our community to find suitable answers to these urgent questions and to instill in everyone a love of Jewish learning.

May the New Year be a year of Jewish exploration, of closer attachment to Jewish values. May the High Holidays bring you, your loved ones and all the Jewish people, peace, health and happiness.

By:

Marshall Kesten,
Chair,
Board of Jewish Education

Seymour Epstein,
Vice-President
for Jewish Education
UJA Federation
of Greater Toronto

Tishrei, 5763

School Solidarity With Israel

In all grades and at all levels, Israel is at the forefront for Jewish school students. So how are our children expressing their close connections to Israel?

✦ Thousands of Toronto students signed a special Declaration of Solidarity scroll which was presented to their Israeli counterparts.

✦ Several schools raised funds to purchase ambulances for Magen David Adom. **Associated Hebrew Schools** students collected $98,000 by joining the *Read-for-a-Need Drive*. **United Synagogue Day Schools** undertook an initiative that allowed parents to honour their childrens' teachers with a contribution to Magen David Adom and **CHAT (Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto)** students raised ambulance funds as well.

✦ **Associated Hebrew Schools** Art Program students designed postcards that were distributed to 8,000 Toronto Jewish school students for mailing to soldiers and children in Israel.

✦ Each branch of **United Synagogue Day Schools** adopted families in Israel and raised funds to provide for their needs.

✦ Building on its *Shavua Yisrael* program, **Netivot HaTorah** is introducing a new Israel Studies Curriculum throughout all grades. Two B'not Sherut (young Israeli women performing National Service) will add to the school's Israeli atmosphere.

✦ To commemorate *Yom Ha'Atzmaut*, students at **CHAT Richmond Hill** immersed themselves in all-day seminars on a wide range of issues related to Israel today.

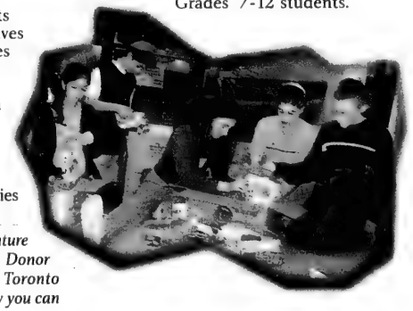
✦ Students at **Ahavat Yisrael Supplementary School** created their own Kids' Kosher Cookbook, sold copies and sent the proceeds to victims of terror.

✦ **Leo Baeck Day School** created a wonderful connection with another school in UJA Federation's Partnership 2000 twin communities of Eilat-Elot.

✦ Four grade 8 students at **Bialik Hebrew Day School** organized a raffle that raised more than $2000 for *Kids for Kids* which assists child victims of terror.

✦ Students at **Temple Sinai Supplementary School,** along with numerous other schools, assembled and shipped boxes of toiletries and treats to IDF soldiers.

The BJE's website (www.bjetoronto.org) includes ideas on how to help Israel in these difficult times, and a web lesson,
The Situation in Israel, geared to
Grades 7-12 students.



Facing Forward

The Toronto Jewish community, which leads the way in its devotion to Jewish education, has illustrated its zeal by investing heavily in teacher education, innovative teaching techniques and tuition subsidies. "Our future is in the hands of our children. We need to make sure that they are connected to their Jewish heritage and develop both an interest and desire to pass that on to future generations," says Shirley Worth, Director Donor Development for UJA Federation's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative. To find out more about how you can help fund the future of Jewish education, call Shirley Worth at 416.631.5837.

Conferences Benefit Both Teachers and Families

It was a busy summer for BJE-sponsored conferences, benefiting both teachers and families:

✦ **Mishpacha Institute of Toronto (MIT), August 18-21** - A four-day intensive course for 50 Jewish family educators from supplementary and day schools. It was an exploration of family education and pluralistic text study on the theme of *Ahavat Tzion* (the love of Zion). Jewish Family Educators strive to transmit Jewish heritage to the whole family, through participation in a variety of specially designed learning opportunities. "We hope that MIT will continue to draw upon the talents in our Jewish Family Educators' Network and will serve as an ongoing resource in our community," said Co-Directors Anne Glickman and Ruth Rohn.

✦ **Opening the Doors Conference, July 14-16, co-sponsored by Camp Ramah** - Thirty participants came from diverse sectors of the community, including professionals, people with disabilities and the parents of people with disabilities. "One of the goals of the conference was to devise means to tackle the barriers that prevent inclusion of Jewish people with disabilities," said Debbie Gladstone, Director of *Tikkun Chaim*. The participants also looked at an inventory of community services for those with disabilities.

✦ **Bet Midrash Elul, Jerusalem** - Twelve Toronto educators spent two weeks immersed in outstanding textual study through which shared values and ideas emerged.

✦ **August Teacher Workshops** - More than 140 teachers attended a variety of end-of-summer workshops held at BJE, ranging from special needs to teaching Jewish history and literacy.

Serving Jewish Education Needs

Excellence in education doesn't just happen. It takes the commitment of dedicated schools, devoted teachers and a supportive community to make sure we are equipping our children with the tools to grow into the best adults they can be. Together with our community's educational institutions, BJE's initiatives have opened the doors for children to explore their Jewish heritage. Here are some facts to consider:

- BJE invested over **$10 million** from the **UJA Federation Campaign** in Jewish education last year.
- BJE allocated some $7 million in tuition subsidies so that Jewish families could provide a day school education for 2500 children.
- BJE also invested $500,000 in a variety of services and grants for supplementary schools.
- BJE established *Tikun Chaim* to better serve gifted children and children with special needs.

UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education is deeply grateful to the **Berman Fund,** the **Ab & Phyllis Flatt Family Endowment Fund,** the **Goldberg Family,** the **Goodman-Gross Family,** the **Shiff Family,** the **Saul S. Wagman Fund** and the **Max & Beatrice Wolfe Charitable Foundation** for making many of our programs possible.

A Portrait of Toronto's Jewish Education Network

17,000 Students		72 Schools	
1,800	In Preschool	20	Elementary Day Schools
7,000	In Elementary Day Schools	14	Secondary Day Schools
2,500	In Secondary Day Schools	38	Supplementary Schools
5,700	In Supplementary Schools		

For more information about day and supplementary school Jewish education in Toronto, visit our website at www.bjetoronto.org, call us at 416.633.7770 or email to bje@ujafed.org

CORRECTION

In the August 29, 2002 Jewish Community Focus Issue, there inadvertently was an error in the address for Temple Kol Ami.

The correct address is -

8777 Dufferin St., Vaughan
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Israel, the Diaspora and the Jewish Past: Continuity or Rupture?

An international conference sponsored by the Halbert Exchange Committee at the University of Toronto

October 7 and 8, 2002

Vivian and David Campbell Conference Facility
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University of Toronto
1 Devonshire Place, Toronto

Zionism was a revolutionary movement, yet it has preserved as well as transformed traditional Jewish culture. This conference, drawing upon scholars in the fields of History, Political Science, Sociology, Communication, Literature, and Philosophy will explore areas of continuity and rupture between contemporary Israel and previous forms of Jewish life.

Speakers include: **•Dan Avnon**, Dept. of Political Science, Hebrew University **•Israel Bartal**, Dept. of Jewish History, Hebrew University **•Menachem Brinker**, Depts. of Hebrew Literature and Philosophy, Hebrew University **•Michal Bodemann**, Dept. of Sociology, University of Toronto **•Jonathan Frankel**, Dept. of Russian Studies and the Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University **•Anat Helman**, Institute of Contemporary Jewry, Hebrew University **•Hagit Lavsky**, Institute of Contemporary Jewry and the Dept. of Jewish History, Hebrew University **•Tamar Liebes**, Dept. of Communication, Hebrew University **•David Novak**, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of Toronto **•Derek Penslar**, Dept. of History, University of Toronto **•Aviezer Ravitzky**, Dept. of Jewish Thought, Hebrew University **•Michael Silber**, Dept. of Jewish History, Hebrew University **•Oren Soffer**, Dept. of Political Science, Hebrew University, and Munk Centre, University of Toronto.

The conference's convenors are: **•Derek J. Penslar**, Zacks Professor of History and Director of Jewish Studies, University of Toronto **•Israel Bartal**, Professor of Jewish History and Academic Chair of the Chais Centre for Jewish Studies in the Russian Language, Hebrew University.

The conference is free and open to the public, but pre-registration is required. Please telephone 416-946-8194 or email: events.munk@utoronto.ca

Coast to Coast

Drug abuse in Jewish community

Continued from page 3

When the disease isn't discussed, it becomes an embarrassment that isn't understood. Holidays such as Simchat Torah can trigger week-long binges and despair.

In addition, having an addict in the family in a tight-knit, observant community can stand in the way of successful *shiduchim* (arranged marriages), increasing the tendencies for those affected to deny the problem.

Rotenberg points out that some yeshivot have initiated addiction education programs, such as Ohr Samayach's Kesher project.

With their new teen program, JACS is hoping to further increase awareness and provide encouragement for adolescents and young adults in recovery.

Jewish holidays can trigger week-long binges

"We want to provide a place for kids where the doors are open and they can come in whenever they want. Some of the younger kids just need somewhere they can feel accepted," Goldman said.

Some schools and yeshivot impose zero tolerance policies and expel students for all drug-related incidents, but this is exactly when these kids and their families desperately need education and help, she said.

"Parents have this misconception that if their kids aren't doing well, they can fix them by writing a cheque and making everything OK. Unfortunately, when it comes to drugs, parents can't fix their kids. The children need to want to be helped so that they can fix themselves," Goldman said.

JACS offers addicts and their families a place to come to some understanding about what is happening to them by "connecting with each another, exploring their Jewish roots and discovering resources within Judaism to enhance their recovery."

The 12-step program used is based on Torah principles and a strong emphasis is placed on spirituality and the belief in God, Goldman said. The second step points out that "a power greater than ourselves can restore us to sanity."

JACS' focus on the fundamental principle of anonymity allows for anyone to come into the building at 858 Sheppard Ave. E. and feel secure that their problems won't leave its four walls.

And sometimes a cup of coffee and a few friendly faces waiting to speak to you at the end of the day about a problem that may be consuming your life can help. Even if it's just to see that you're not alone.

For further information on JACS, see their Web site at www.jacsweb.org or call 416-410-5227. All calls are strictly confidential.

Israeli consulate spared – again

Continued from page 1

Avital said the Israeli government was not preparing any official announcement about Montreal or the two other diplomatic missions staying open.

"This is the official announcement," he said.

But there appeared little doubt that intensive lobbying by the Jewish community and politicians played a decisive role in Israel's Foreign Ministry reconsidering its July 22 closure announcement.

Those said to have intervened included FEDERATION CJA president Steven Cummings, Rabbi Reuben Poupko, Senator Leo Kolber and Charles Bronfman, a longtime friend of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Shlomo Avital

The campaign also included Jewish community petitions, and requests to reconsider by figures such as Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay, Quebec's International Relations Minister Louise Beaudoin and Quebec Liberal leader Jean Charest.

Graham said he was urged by Kolber and local MP Irwin Cotler to intercede. After hearing "why the consulate was of particular importance to the Jewish community," he said he contacted Peres personally. His Israeli counterpart described the severe cost constraints the Foreign Ministry was experiencing, but Graham said he was left with the impression Peres was doing all he could to save the consulate.

Those lobbying for the consulate underscored the distinct role the institution plays in Montreal and Quebec in catering to the province's six million francophones.

Graham said Quebec is "a francophone jurisdiction that has particular ties to Israel... There's a francophone community in Israel itself and there's a real interest between Quebec and the Montreal Jewish community and Israel that goes back in time.

"I think it's important to maintain those links," he said. "There's a consulate in Toronto. It's important that Montreal also have a consulate."

According to Rabbi Poupko, the Israeli government finally "understood the absolute need to keep the consulate open at a time when the perception of Israel in not what it should be.

"It shows that our support for Israel is valued and appreciated, that when we speak with a united voice, we are listened to."

In 1998, the consulate faced a similar threat of closure, but stayed open after Bronfman and the Jewish community intervened. Unlike 1998, however, this time it came right down to the wire.

According to one source, the decision to spare the consulate was made over the objections of Israel's Finance Ministry, now under intense pressure to pare the government budget across the board.

As reported last month in *The CJN*, Peres and Sharon asked the ministry to try to find the money necessary to keep the Montreal consulate open – about $1.2 million (US) annually.

But according to the source, Peres held little sway with the Finance Ministry, particularly its high-ranking bureaucrats who make the decisions.

It was Sharon who "finally banged on the table" and ordered the ministry to come up with the money, the source said.

"Peres didn't win the battle. Sharon had to do it."

Avital said that with the consulate staying open, it was unclear whether he would be taking on the post of ambassador to Senegal. News of his appointment coincided with the closure announcement.

One possibility was that Avital, who arrived in Montreal in 1999, would stay on for another year. Another was that he would depart for Senegal, and be temporarily replaced by Israeli consul Nina Ben-Ami.

Whatever the case, Avital said there seemed little doubt that the Israeli government came to realize the importance of the Israeli consulate to the Jewish community in Montreal and for maintaining important ties with Quebec.

– With files from Paul Lungen and JTA

Where is the balance on CBC television?

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

CBC's commitment to balance was thrown into relief through some revealing comments last month by Paul Workman, a former Mideast correspondent now based in Paris who still reports occasionally from the Middle East for *The National* and other CBC news programs.

Interviewed by Ian Hanomansing about the focus and nature of his journalism for *Foreign Assignment* (Aug. 4), Workman first described his experiences covering the plight of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. ("The poorest among the Afghan refugees here beg or scavenge just to survive. I've seen camps in the Gaza Strip that seem luxurious compared to this neighbourhood," he said.) Attention then turned to excerpts from his report in Bethlehem, done surreptitiously during Israel's closure of the city in the spring. His story graphically detailed the devastation of a Palestinian family – the mistaken killing by the Israel Defence Forces of a mother and her son and the destruction of their dwelling.

Hanomansing remarked: "Paul, in your years as a foreign correspondent, you've obviously been to Bethlehem many times, but never a Bethlehem like this."

Workman: "... it wasn't the Bethlehem I remember... blackened buildings, bombed-out buildings, lots of garbage all over the streets. The European Union had spent millions of dollars redoing the old city of Bethlehem for the millennium, and in a matter of a week, all of that has been undone."

Interestingly, there is no Israeli context about why all this happened, no reference to the spate of suicide attacks, some launched from Bethlehem itself, that were inflicted on Israelis. Where was the balance? On this vital subject Hanomansing asked: "How do you try to achieve balance when you do a story like this one, when you're talking to people who are trapped on one side of this conflict, trapped in their homes?"

With rare exception, Israeli suffering is not covered

Workman's blunt reply is illuminating: "I didn't try at all to achieve balance in this story. That wasn't our intention. Balance, I think, is a larger picture. Our coverage, I'm sure, balances out very well when you add in all of the material that comes out of the Middle East."

Last week's column dealt with a glaring imbalance in Neil Macdonald's reports during August. It's hard to imagine how CBC reporters can feel so assured about the achievement of balance when "the story" they pursue is basically one about Israel's alleged oppression of the Palestinians, an oppression often made to seem wilful, deliberate, insensitive and carried out in the absence of alternative remedies against a largely innocent people.

Workman defended his one-sided account as "an effective piece of journalism, because people really wanted to know from the Palestinians what they'd suffered, what they'd gone through – really through no cause of their own."

And what about Israeli suffering – the hundreds killed and thousands maimed in suicide bombings after the Israeli government offered statehood to the Palestinians?

With rare exception, this is not covered by the CBC. There is, in effect, no true balance over time – let alone at any one time.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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ALL THAT JAZZ: Rachel Gerber, a competitive dancer at All That Dance in North York, was named America's Young Dancer of the Year 2002 at the American Dance Awards' North American Championships in Boston in July. Rachel takes tap, jazz, ballet, acrobatics and hip hop. She is pictured with Jesse LeProtto, from the For Dancers Only dance club in Dallas, Tex., who was named America's Young Male Dancer of the Year 2002.

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רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

סעפּטעמבער 11 — אַ יאָר שפּעטער

פון אַלעק סילווער

סעפּטעמבער 11, 2002, ווערט אָפּגעצייכנט דער ערשטער יאָרטאָג פון מערדערישן אָנפאַל פון איסלאַמישע טעראָריסטן קעגן דער ציוויליזירטער וועלט. איך ווייס, אַז דער אָנפאַל איז פאַרגעקומען אין אַמעריקע, אין ניו־יאָרק, ווו טויזנטער קרבנות זיינען אומגעבראַכט געוואָרן. אָבער באַלד איז געוואָרן קלאָר, אַז דאָס גרויסע פאַרברעכן איז געווען געצילט קעגן דער גאַנצער וועלט, קעגן דער ציוויליזירטער מענטשהייט. די מערדערס האָבן געוואָלט אַריינברענגען אַ פּאַניק צווישן מענטשן פון אַלע נאַציאָנאַליטעטן. זייער ציל איז געווען צו זיין מורא און אומזיכערקייט צווישן מלוכות פון אַלע שאַטירונגען. אין דער הינזיכט זיינען זיי געווען ביז באַר דערפאָלגרייך.

בלויז די פאַקטן: אין דעם טאָג האָבן איסלאַמישע טעראָריסטן אַריינגעקראַכט צוויי עראָפּלאַנען פול מיט פּאַסאַזשירן אין די העכסטע צוויי בנינים פון ניו־יאָרק. זיי האָבן אויך אין דער זעלבער צייט אַריינגעקראַכט אַן עראָפּלאַן מיט פּאַסאַזשירן אין „פּענטאַגאָן", ווו עס געפינט זיך דער העכסטער אַמעריקאַנער מיליטער־שטאַב. אַ פערטער עראָפּלאַן מיט פּאַסאַזשירן האָט צוליב דער העלדישקייט פון אַ צאָל פּאַסאַזשירן נישט באַוויזן צו דערגרייכן דעם אָנגעצייכנטן ציל פון די טעראָריסטן, נאָר איז געפאַלן צו דער ערד. צוזאַמען זיינען אין יענע שעהען אומגעקומען טויזנטער און טויזנטער מענטשן פון אַלע נאַציאָנאַליטעטן, ראַסן און גלויבנס.

אין משך פון צענדליקער יאָרן האָבן פּאַסירט טעראָריסטישע אַטאַקן איבער דער וועלט. זיי האָבן איינגעשלאָסן דאָס פאַרכאַפּן און קראַכן פון עראָפּלאַנען, אויפרייסן מלוכהשע אינסטיטוציעס, דערהרגענען פּערזענלעכקייטן, כדי צו באַשעדיקן דעם טעגלעכן לעבנסגאַנג פון מענטשן און לענדער. הונדערטער מענטשן זיינען אומגעקומען אין די דאָזיקע אַטאַקן. אָבער דאָס איז געווען די ערשטע טעראָריסטישע קאַטאַסטראָפע פון אַזאַ גרייס קעגן דער וועלט. ווי עס איז שפּעטער באַשטעטיקט געוואָרן איז דער אָנפאַל געווען פּלאַנירט דורך דער טעראָריסטן־גרופּע „על קאַידאַ" מיט זייער פירער אָסאַמאַ בין לאַדען, אַ געשווידענער שונא פון דער נישט־איסלאַמישער וועלט בכלל, און פון אַמעריקע בפרט. די דאָזיקע מערדערס האָבן באַקומען באַשיצונג פון דער טאַליבאַן רעגירונג, וואָס האָט געהערשט אין אַפגאַניסטאַן.

באַלד נאָכן טעראָר־אַטאַק האָט די וועלט זיך פאַראייניקט צו באַקעמפן טעראָריזם פון יעדן מין. דער אַמעריקאַנער פּרעזידענט האָט דערקלערט מלחמה די טעראָריסטן. ער האָט זיך געוואָנדן צו דער גאַנצער דעמאָקראַטישער און ליבעראַלער וועלט צו שטיין זיט ביי זיט מיט אַמעריקע אין דעם קאַמף קעגן טעראָריזם. פאַר אַ שטיקל צייט האָט אויסגעזען, ווי די גאַנצע וועלט איז געוואָרן פאַראייניקט. בלויז אַ צאָל דיקטאַטאָרישע אַראַבישע רעזשימען האָבן זיך נישט אָנגעשלאָסן, כאָטש עפּנטלעך האָבן זיי אויסגעדריקט זייער מיטגעפיל צו דעם אַמעריקאַנער פאָלק.

די גאַנצע וועלט האָט געקראָגן אַן אָפענע איינלאַדונג צו קעמפן קעגן טעראָריזם. די גאַנצע וועלט אַחוץ — מדינת ישראל. ישראל, וואָס ליידט אַממייסטנס פון טעראָר, איז געוואָרן צוריקגעהאַלטן פון קעמפן קעגן דעם אינערלעכן שונא, וואָס מערדערט כמעט טעגלעך אומשולדיקע ישראל בירגערס, מענער, פרויען און קינדער. יעדעס מאָל, ווען די ישראל רעגירונג האָט געוואָלט נקמה נעמען פאַר אירע קרבנות, איז די וועלט אַרויסגעקומען מיט עצות און פּראָטעסטן. ביז. . . ביז אריאל שרון האָט געזאָגט: „גענוג איז גענוג" און זיך קעגנגעשטעלט דער וועלט. ער האָט באַוויזן צו ברענגען דעם אַמעריקאַנער פּרעזידענט בוש אויף דער זייט פון מדינת ישראל, וועלכער האָט איינגעזען, אַז עס איז פּשוט לעכערלעך, ווען דאָס לאַנד ישראל, וואָס גיט דעם גרעסטן צאָל קרבנות צום טעראָריזם, זאָל נישט האָבן די רעכט צו קעמפן קעגן דעם.

עס איז געוואָרן אַ יאָר זינט דעם גרויסן טעראָריסטישן אַטאַק אין אַמעריקע. צי האָט די וועלט זיך געענדערט? נישט קיין סך. דער אַנטיסעמיטיזם האָט זיך פאַרשטאַרקט און די שונאה קעגן ישראל איז נישט פאַרמינערט געוואָרן. דער טעראָר איז ישראל גייט אָן און די וועלט שווייגט. וואָס וועט זיין ווייטער? . . . צי וועט קומען צו אַ שלום אין מיטל־מזרח ראַיאָן? . . . בלויז איין גאָט ווייס.

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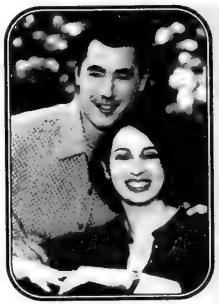

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Mazel tov to Beatrice & Jack Kuretzky who celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Aug. 8. Lots of love from your children and grandchildren.

Mazel tov Deborah & David on the wonderful occasion of their engagement. Parents: Roy & Maureen Arluck and Terry and the late Carol Naken.

Congratulations to Marla & Daniel Nagel who were married on June 16.

Happy first birthday to Jordana and Benjamin Duke from adoring parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts and uncles, and friends of Polyak and Duke families.

To Ashley: Happy seventh birthday on June 1 from Dad, brothers Tobias, Michael and C.J., cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents.

Mazel tov to Henry Melnick on your 80th birthday from the Dantowitz, Melnick, Shumak, Tator, Twena and Warfe families, with all our love.

Mazel tov to Mindy Salamon on graduating from McGill University's education program. Love, Mom, Lisa, Rob and Jessica.

Annette & Harvey Gerlock are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter Lisa to David, son of Myriam & Pinhas Beldeb. Excited grandmother is Mamie Silverman.

Happy second birthday Joshuah Forberg. Love, Mom & Dad, Sue & Steve, Bubbie & Zaide, Gail & Joe Forberg, Grandma & Grandpa Rina & Matt Ivanski.

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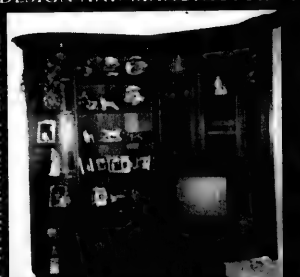

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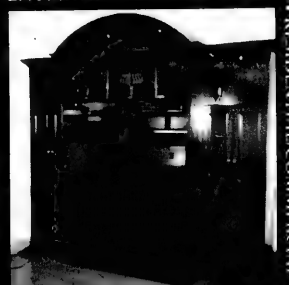

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Muslim group apologizes for anti-Semitism on Web

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

A Concordia University Muslim student group has apologized for its Web site's links to anti-Semitic material, including blatant Holocaust denial and Henry Ford's 1922 treatise *The International Jew*.

But the group defends the link to a pro-Hezbollah site on which a Muslim scholar condones, on religious grounds, suicidal attacks against civilians.

The Student Association for Muslim Awareness (SAMA) issued the apology to the Concordia Student Union (CSU) council of representatives and the students of Concordia on Aug. 29 after the council passed a resolution condemning SAMA for its Web site's anti-Semitic content.

SAMA stated it "unequivocally condemn[s] anti-Semitism along with all other forms of discrimination. Indeed, we feel that the Jewish people have undergone unimaginable persecution and suffering, which culminated in the evil Nazi Holocaust that claimed the lives of over six million Jews.

"We think that there is no excuse for minimizing or denying this historic tragedy."

It continues: "SAMA holds holy and dear the belief that racism, oppression and the exploitation of all people around the world must be fought against with tenacity and courage, and one example of this resolve is the courage of the Jewish resistance in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1943."

Link to pro-Hezbollah site defended

Its explanation for the presence of the material was that the Web site was "inherited" from the group's previous executive and its full content had not been reviewed by the new leaders.

"We regret the fact that we have waited this long to examine the Web site and all its links."

The SAMA site is now "under construction" and no longer accessible.

Although the SAMA site was hosted by Concordia's server, it is not a registered student group this year, nor was it last year, but it was two years ago, a spokesperson for the dean of students office confirmed.

SAMA did not apologize for the site's link to www.bayynat.org, which contains musings by Sayyed Mohammed Hussein Fadlullah, a Muslim religious authority based in Lebanon with ties to the Hezbollah, that "martyr operations" can be rationalized under Islamic law and those who oppose suicidal bombings are violating that law.

SAMA argued that this site "deals with all the imaginable issues that have come up in Muslim debates and controversies between Muslim jurisprudence.

"These range from the most correct posture during prayers to suicide bombings, which is an issue of debate between Muslim scholars both in the Islamic world and in North America."

The apology ended defiantly: "We denounce any attempt at portraying SAMA as racist or other such rhetoric that certain fear-mongers have adopted of late."

Raphael Lallouz, regional community relations director of B'nai Brith Canada, which brought to public attention the SAMA site, said he finds that remark "perplexing.

"I find it a little out of place. I'm not sure who they are referring to," he said.

In general, Lallouz said the apology is "very welcome" and its overall content positive. "It's a big step forward... I think they realized they had no choice but to apologize," he said.

But Lallouz is disappointed with SAMA's refusal to acknowledge that it was wrong to proliferate material that sanctions terrorism.

Lallouz is also leery about the apology's reference to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising.

"Are they trying to draw a parallel between the ghetto fighters and the Palestinian terrorists or, worse, between Israel and the Nazis? It's troubling."

He also finds the excuse that the new SAMA executive "inherited" the site unconvincing. "Even if none of them were involved with the former executive, the new president had the whole summer to review the content of the site."

At the same council meeting that SAMA presented the apology, the CSU council earlier unanimously adopted a resolution demanding that SAMA issue a "formal and public apology."

The council condemned the site's linked material for being anti-Semitic and for denying the Holocaust. The resolution did not make any reference to the Muslim scholar's opinions on suicide attacks.

Concordia student Noah Joseph, co-president of Hillel and a CSU council member, was not critical of the apology.

He hopes that SAMA's and the CSU council's response to the controversy bodes well for relations between Muslim and Jewish students at Concordia this year.

"After the president of SAMA read the apology and sat down, I crossed the room and extended my hand, which he shook. Hopefully, this is a sign of things to come. Also the CSU motion, which I seconded, passed unanimously.

"It's rare for the council to pass anything without dissension."

Joseph also noted that Samer Elatrash, an activist with Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights, a student group which has led the pro-Palestinian activity on campus, made a speech that commended the apparently improved climate.

Concordia Rector Frederick Lowy wrote to B'nai Brith that the university is "satisfied that SAMA and the CSU council have acted appropriately in this matter and that no further action is required."

Lowy's letter reprints the SAMA apology but excludes the last paragraph in which SAMA defends the disseminating of the Muslim scholar's defence of suicide attacks.

Lallouz said it is unclear whether Lowy received the full statement SAMA made to the CSU, or if Lowy or SAMA edited the original apology.

He said B'nai Brith will likely pursue the matter further.

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Israel a factor in Iraq debate, but Jewish state keeps quiet

By MATTHEW E. BERGER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

WASHINGTON — Israel is trying to keep a low profile in the American debate over whether to attack Iraq, but the Jewish State figures prominently in both sides' arguments.

Those in favour of action say Iraqi President Saddam Hussein may have weapons of mass destruction and might be willing to use them to exert power in the Middle East.

Those arguing against an attack say it would be too costly and is tangential to the U.S. war on terrorism – and that, in any case, there is little evidence that Saddam is an imminent threat.

Analysis

On each side, there is debate about the effect an attack on Iraq would have on U.S. "allies in the region," an implicit reference to Israel.

It's unclear what weapons of mass destruction Saddam may hold and whether he has the technical capacity to unleash them on Israel.

But Israel is taking no chances. Fearing that Iraq will again lash out at Israel if attacked – as it did in the 1991 Gulf War – Israel already is purchasing gas masks and has considered inoculating its entire population against smallpox.

Israel also asked its security and emergency services to complete preparations by Nov. 1 for a possible Iraqi retaliatory strike to a U.S. attack.

The United States has not told Israel if or when it will attack Iraq, but Nov. 1 seemed a "reasonable" deadline for preparations, a senior U.S. official told the Associated Press.

While neither side in the American debate is publicly discussing the Israeli angle at length, "people on both sides" are using "the implications for Israel to support their arguments," said David Makovsky, senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Those who favour an attack highlight the threat Saddam poses to the Middle East.

The most senior members of the Bush administration, including vice-president Dick Cheney, have addressed various media outlets in the past few weeks about the need to deal imminently with the increasing danger posed by the Iraqi dictator to the United States and the West.

In a speech Cheney also suggested that after Saddam was defeated, the "Israeli-Palestinian peace process would be enhanced, just as it was following the liberation of Kuwait in 1991."

Yet those opposed to an attack say it would destabilize the Middle East and cause increased Arab frustration to boil over onto Israel.

Those opposed to action note that, if attacked, Saddam is likely to attack Israel and that the United States, in effect, would be sacrificing Israel's welfare by attacking Iraq, some say.

"Israel would have to expect to be the first casualty, as in 1991 when [Saddam] sought to bring Israel into the Gulf conflict," former U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft wrote in the *Wall Street Journal* on Aug. 15.

"This time, using weapons of mass destruction, he might succeed, provoking Israel to respond, perhaps with nuclear weapons, unleashing an Armageddon in the Middle East."

Some even warn that U.S. support for Israel could be viewed as the reason for an attack against Iraq.

"Sadly, in international politics, as in domestic politics, perception is sometimes more important than reality," former U.S. secretary of state James Baker wrote in the *New York Times* on Aug. 25. "We cannot allow our policy toward Iraq to be linked to the Arab-Israeli dispute, as Hussein will cynically demand, just as he did in 1990 and 1991."

Analysts say both sides have a point: Israel most likely will be profoundly affected by U.S. action against Iraq; it's just not clear exactly how.

Michael Rubin, a visiting scholar with the American Enterprise Institute, says the threat Saddam poses to Israel will only increase if the United States does not act.

"Many people say 'Don't put Hussein's back against the wall, he might lash out,'" Rubin said. "But if Hussein feels there is no consequence for consistent flouting of ceasefire resolutions, it can get much more dangerous for Israel."

Iraq poses an imminent threat to Israel because of Saddam's financial support for terrorist organizations that target Israel and the growing concern that he could give groups chemical or biological weapons to one of the those, Rubin said.

For now, Israel and Jewish groups have largely remained on the sidelines of the American debate, even when it relates to the effect an attack would have on Israel.

Survey: Anti-Semitism is on rise in Germany

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

BERLIN — A new survey showing that anti-Semitism is on the rise in Germany has been released as the country witnessed its third anti-Semitic attack in seven days. The vandalizing of a Jewish cemetery in the town of Buetzow in northeastern Germany was apparently carried out by neo-Nazis, police said last week.

The survey of 1,001 people in eastern Germany and 1,050 in the West also found that more than a quarter of people said they believe Jewish influence is too great and 17 per cent of Germans believe Hitler would be viewed as a great statesman if it weren't for the Holocaust causing the death of six million Jews.

In one finding that contradicts popular opinion, researchers at the University of Leipzig and Berlin's Free University said the increase in anti-Semitic feelings was greater in western Germany than in the former communist east.

"The question is: Why is there such a rise in the west?" said Elmar Braehler of Leipzig University. "One could say that the West Germans always thought this, but it was taboo – we don't know for sure."

Increased tensions in the Middle East and open criticism of Israel could be behind the loosening of inhibitions in expressing anti-Semitic sentiment, he said.

The number of respondents who agreed with that view in the West was 19 per cent – up five per cent from 1994. Eastern respondents remained steady at eight per cent. The survey had a margin of error of less than two percentage points.

Diedre Berger, Berlin director of the American Jewish Committee, said the survey backs up statistically what Jewish organizations have observed anecdotally for several years.

"The problem of right-wing extremism and anti-Semitism in western Germany has sometimes been given less attention due to the continuing acute violence in eastern Germany, but just because there is less violence in western Germany doesn't mean that there is not a problem with anti-Semitic and right- wing extremist attitudes," Berger said.

Despite Germany's efforts to confront the Holocaust, Berger said anti-Semitism in society has been overlooked.

"I think it's time to start confronting the fact that anti-Semitic clichés and metaphors have been ingrained in German and European society and should be addressed," Berger said.

In findings that support that, some 28 per cent said Jewish influence is too great, while another 32 per cent partially agreed. Overall, 53 per cent of the respondents either agreed or partially agreed with the statement that "more than others, Jews cheat and use tricks in their work in order to get what they want."

German authorities have posted a 10,000 euro reward for clues leading to an arrest in the worst anti-Semitic attack on a Holocaust memorial in a decade, the fire-bombing of a museum honouring the victims of a Nazi death march.

The attack last Thursday night destroyed the main exhibition of the death march museum in the Belower Woods, which detailed how the Nazis drove concentration camp inmates deeper into Germany as the Soviet Army advanced at the end of World War II.

Outside the museum, vandals painted a big red swastika and two SS symbols on a memorial, and an anti-Semitic slogan one metre high and six metres long along the base of a large memorial column.

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Notice of Special General Meeting
Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel

Take notice that the **Special General Meeting of CANADIAN MAGEN DAVID ADOM FOR ISRAEL** will be held on **Monday, October 7, 2002, 6:00 p.m. at CMDA Headquarters, 6900 Decarie Blvd., Suite 218, Montreal, Quebec.**

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate for election as the Directors:

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Dated at Montreal this 16th day of September, 2002.
Arnold Rosner, National President. 8

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon

'We refuse to surrender our hope'

Dear Friends, From Jerusalem, the eternal and undivided capital of the Jewish people, I send you my warmest greetings for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

The past year has been one of many challenges for the State of Israel. Though we are fighting a war imposed upon us, we refuse to surrender our hope for eventual peace with our neighbors, thus insisting that terrorism and incitement be stopped before negotiations can ultimately commence. And yet, as we enter the year 5763, I am certain that your unwavering solidarity with the people of Israel will enable us to overcome all obstacles that lie ahead.

This is the time for all Jews to unite. As we defend our home, our birthright and our very existence, this is the time for you to come to Israel. We share a mutual responsibility to stand together, and Israel needs your support now. In our common struggle for democracy and freedom, the terrorists who threaten our way of life must be defeated. Still, we must never forget that Israel is the only place in the world where Jews have the right and the capability to defend themselves by themselves. This right and capability must be preserved to guarantee the survival, security and birthright of Jews everywhere.

On this Rosh Hashanah, I pray that the coming year will bring the blessing of peace with security. I am confident that, in unity, we can realize all our hopes and dreams.

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'Israel is our dream'

It is impossible to look back on the year 5762 without feeling pain for the hundreds of Israelis who were murdered or maimed during the Palestinian terror campaign that is about to enter its third year. The outgoing year has been a difficult one.

Let us make a *cheshbon nefesh*, as Jews always do before Rosh Hashanah.... ...The intifadah appeared in three main forms these past twelve months, each with a special significance. The first form was the attacks in youth clubs, discotheques, schools and schoolbuses. In other words: the murder of our children. The second form was typified by the scores murdered last Pesach on the seder night. The third was the murder of foreign students, most notably at the Hebrew University just a few weeks ago.

The first attacks, on our children, signify our enemies' attempt to murder our future.

The second attacks, at the Pesach seder, signify an attempt to destroy our freedom, which all Jews celebrate at Passover.

The third type of attack, on students who came from abroad to study in Jerusalem, signified an attempt to sever the bonds that connect Israel with Jews all over the world.

We recall that the intifadah erupted around Rosh Hashanah two years ago – only a few weeks after our great hopes at Camp David. Indeed, the enemies of peace always strike when peace seems nearest. The plotters of the intifadah struck in the wake of our disappointment after Camp David, in a clear attempt to kill all that remained of our hopes to live with them in peace. If they succeed, if our enemies – God forbid – were ever to destroy our future, destroy our freedom, destroy our bond with the Jewish people and destroy our hopes to live in peace with our neighbours, they would attain their ultimate goal: the destruction of the promise of Israel, free, safe and a centre of peace for all Jews.

What, then, must be our response to the intifadah (in addition, of course, to the military response we all understand to be necessary)? How can we foil our enemies' plans? We can do so by redoubling our determination to build a strong and safe Israel that all Jews will be proud of. We can do so by refusing to give up our hope to live in peace with our neighbours. Though we bleed, though we hurt, though we have gone to more funerals this year than we ever imagined we would have, we do not despair. We do not lock ourselves in our homes. We continue to build. We go to work, we go to theatres, we go to concerts, football games and shul. We visit the sick and wounded and care for our poor. In brief, we continue to work to make our Jewish state a model, moral and modern one. What do we ask of you, our brothers and sisters in the Diaspora? That you, too, redouble your efforts to make Israel strong, safe and free. We applaud your efforts to correct the disinformation spread by many of the foreign media about what is going on here. Please keep them up.

Rabbi Michael Melchior
Deputy Foreign Minister

We are overwhelmed and greatly heartened when we hear of volunteers such as Jewish doctors who spend their vacation time relieving their overworked Israeli counterparts in our emergency rooms and burn wards. Please continue to help.

Sadly, when we look towards the Diaspora for your help, we also see disturbing things. We see the frightening face of a new kind of anti-Semitism that is raising its ugly head even in the most enlightened, democratic countries. We see a new breed of anti-Semite who paints a false, villainous picture of Israel, and uses it to dehumanize all Jews by association. We are determined to mobilize moral people of all nations – Jews and non-Jews – to combat anti-Semitism, so that not a single anti-Semitic incident is tolerated or ignored. More than at any time since 1945, world Jewry must be aware of the danger. But now, unlike in 1945, there is a Jewish state, and Israel will not shirk its responsibility to help co-ordinate the fight against anti-Semitism, wherever it appears.

The year 5762 was, as I said, a difficult one. But its difficulties must not deter us. The dreams of the Jewish people are no less important and no less exciting because the outgoing year presented us with obstacles to attaining them. Here in Israel, we continue to live our dream. If our dream were not so great, perhaps we could be deterred.

That, I believe, is the essence of our enemies' mistake, and the reason they will not succeed. They cannot understand: Israel is not just a military/political entity, subject to terrorist pressure. Israel is our dream. Only we can understand the greatness of that dream, and the determination of all Jews to make it come true.

May the coming year, 5763, be a year in which we continue to meet and overcome the challenges inherent in Jewish life. May Jewish life in Israel and in every Jewish community abroad be fortified and enriched, and may we be privileged to finally witness Isaiah's prophecy: "How beautiful it is to hear from upon the mountains, the steps of him who brings good tidings, who speaks of peace; who brings good."

Sept. 2

• Israeli defence minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer instructed the army to probe Palestinian civilian deaths during operations the previous week and to report the findings as quickly as possible.

Sept. 3

• Palestinian terror groups, including the military wing of Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat's Fatah, rejected a call by the PA's interior minister to end attacks on Israel.

Sept. 4

• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he sees the possibility of reaching a deal with the Palestinians. "It will be very difficult... but for the first time, I see the hope of a breakthrough with the Palestinians because they see the intifadah is failing," he said.

• A soldier was killed and three others wounded when a bomb exploded under their tank near the Kissufim crossing between Israel and Gaza.

• Security officials thwarted a mega-attack when police intercepted a car near Hadera packed with some 1,300 pounds of explosives.

Sept. 5

• A soldier was killed and another wounded in a shooting attack in the Gaza Strip.

• The trial of alleged terror mastermind Marwan Barghouti opened in Tel Aviv. Barghouti refused legal representation, saying Israel did not have the right to try him.

Sept. 6

• The Israeli Air Force has mobilized reservists on emergency orders to man Patriot missile batteries at various locations around the country in the event of an airborne strike on Israel. The decision to deploy the Patriots was taken a few days earlier in anticipation of the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Arafat condemns all terror acts against Israeli civilians

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat told his parliament Monday that he condemns "every act of terror against Israeli civilians," but he did not say explicitly that the attacks must be halted.

In a speech closely watched for shifts in official Palestinian policy and to assess the extent of power he wields, Arafat also said the world expects a clear message from the Palestinian people that they are ready to negotiate peace with Israel and carry out internal reforms.

In the hour-long address to the Palestinian legislative council, Arafat said – in a joking aside apparently mocking his critics – that he was willing to give up executive powers if asked.

The appearance before the legislature, his first in 18 months, was considered a key test of his standing, sapped by growing external and internal criticism in recent months. He was seeking approval for a new cabinet and for reform plans sought by the United States and Israel.

Arafat said presidential, parliamentary and municipal elections would be held at the beginning of January. The United States has been seeking a delay in presidential elections in the hope of winning Palestinian agreement to install a prime minister who would take over the day-to-day affairs of government and turn Arafat into a figurehead. Arafat has resisted the idea of appointing a prime minister.

Addressing the Israeli public, Arafat called for new peace negotiations and said, "I would like to say that we want to achieve peace with you. We want security and stability for us and for you… This peace is still ahead of us."

Arafat's popularity has plummeted in recent months. Shunned by the United States, he has largely been confined to his headquarters in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

He said Palestinian attacks on civilians serve Israel's interest by drawing attention away from the suffering of the Palestinians under occupation. He also asked legislators to uphold the national interest, but did not specify what this would mean.

He opened the speech with references to 14 Gaza-based legislators whom Israel had barred from attending. Israel had accused the men of links to terror. Arafat mocked the Israeli move by noting that one of the lawmakers had died well before the order was given.

An advance draft version of the speech obtained by the Associated Press contained several paragraphs in which Arafat called for a ban on suicide bombings in Israel, but the speech he delivered did not include such a call.

Arafat said the world expects from the Palestinians a "clear stance and firm answers regarding peace with Israel and the Israeli peace, as well as with regard to democracy and reforms in our society.

"Our national interest is to preserve international support for our legitimate right to resist the military and settlement occupation," Arafat said. "We have to reiterate our condemnation of attacks against Israeli civilians and at the same time to any attacks against Palestinian civilians," he said.

Many Palestinian legislators, criticizing alleged widespread corruption in the Arafat-led Authority, have called for the longtime Palestinian leader to appoint a prime minister, who would take over many of Arafat's spheres of power.

The lawmakers were expected to vote on Arafat's proposed cabinet changes after hearing a speech by the Palestinian leader on "national, political and security matters."

U.S. worried by Libya's ambitions

Continued from page 1

Libya is considered to be in Egypt's "backyard," and it's doubtful Egypt could miss spotting extensive nuclear efforts. Egyptian leaders know that the U.S. administration suspects Libya is making efforts in that direction, and in light of this, the question becomes to what extent Egypt is aware of the efforts and what Cairo plans to do about them. Will it regard them as a threat to be prevented, will it ignore them, or will Cairo try to make indirect use of them?

The Libyan efforts came up in talks between Israeli and U.S. officials six months ago, when it became apparent to the Israelis that the Americans had acquired similar information to what Israel knows about Libya's nuclear ambitions.

U.S. Undersecretary for Arms Control and International Security John Bolton said in Washington, D.C., on May 5 that the United States "has no doubt" that Libya is continuing its efforts to acquire a nuclear weapon. He said the administration believes that after the sanctions lifted in 1999, Libya's access to nuclear technology increased.

But he added that while Libya needs foreign assistance to achieve its nuclear goals, there is reason to be concerned about the strengthening of Libya's nuclear infrastructure.

Bolton noted that on March 25, Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi told Al Jazeera TV that "we demanded the dismantling of Israel's weapons of mass destruction, otherwise the Arabs have the right to be equipped with the same weaponry."

Bolton described Libyan chemical weapons development, and spoke about the country's purchases of chemical materials in the Middle East, Asia and Western Europe, and noted that the Libyans had developed a ground-to-ground missile with the help of Serbia, India, North Korea and China.

But he also noted that Libya condemned the Sept. 11 terror attacks and that there had been great progress in its reduction of support for terror.

Bolton was recently in Israel, meeting with various people including Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, the outgoing head of Israel's National Security Council.

Libya has been prominently listed on the U.S. State Department's list of states that support terrorism, but there was talk about removing it from the list this year to prove that the United States has a carrot-and-stick policy and that those countries that stop supporting terror will benefit.

But with discussions of Libya now including its nuclear ambitions, the State Department was forced to note in its annual report on terror that while Libya "apparently" has ceased support for international terror, there are still pockets of support for links with some groups.

Libya's agreement to a compensation program for families of the victims of the 1988 Pan Am bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, has also helped its image in the United States in recent years. Nonetheless, the nuclear issue has now begun to overshadow that progress.

Israel's concern is that Libya, which doesn't have long-distance missiles capable of reaching Israel, could use a plane, ship – or perhaps most dangerously – a terrorist group to deliver a nuclear weapon, if it does acquire one.

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Israelis, Jews relieved as conference ends

By MICHAEL BELLING
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JOHANNESBURG — As participants at the World Summit on Sustainable Development prepared to return home, Jewish and Israeli participants could breathe a sigh of relief.

The overall impression was that the summit, which ended last week on Wednesday, was generally positive for Israel – certainly nothing like last year's disastrous World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, when the atmosphere was so polluted by anti-Israeli and anti-Semitic attacks that the Israeli delegation eventually walked out.

This year, most Israeli and Jewish participants said, the Palestinians failed in their efforts to turn a conference on environmental issues into another Israel-bashing circus.

Analysis

"We feel very satisfied," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mark Sofer said. "The conference went well both from the point of view of sustainable development and from a purely Israeli point of view.

"Despite the atmosphere in one or two arenas, such as [last] Saturday's anti-globalization march, people didn't even know that the Israel-Palestinian issue was on the agenda," he added.

The summit, which was intended as a follow-up to an earth summit 10 years ago in Brazil, drew some 50,000 participants. They included a 42-member Israeli delegation and a 130-person Jewish caucus.

Israel's actual accomplishments were modest – it announced a joint project with Jordan to replenish the Dead Sea with water from the Red Sea – but the fact that a UN conference passed without withering attacks on Israel was taken as a victory.

While accusations of Israeli apartheid struck a chord with participants at last year's anti-racism conference, it's more of a stretch to tie Israeli policy toward the Palestinians to environmental degradation.

In addition, embarrassed by its handling of the Durban conference, South Africa this year restrained pro-Palestinian demonstrators, removing them by force when they tried to disrupt Israeli events in the conference's first days and blasting them with water cannons when they tried to prevent a speech by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

In stark contrast to the Palestinians' efforts, Israeli officials took a calculatedly mild line, stressing the need to turn away from conflict and toward co-operation. When Palestinian groups sought to shout them down, Israeli officials spoke of resuming the peace process.

The only reference to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the conference's final declaration was in paragraph 58, and it was oblique: "We reaffirm our opposition to foreign occupation and assert the right of all peoples to sovereignty and the control of their natural resources."

In fact, Sofer said, Israel was not mentioned explicitly in any of the official conference documents.

Sofer reflected the view of his boss, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who said Israel had come to deliver a message of environmental co-operation and had succeeded.

Yet not everyone agreed.

"What was begun in Durban has not ended here," said Shimon Samuels, director for international liaison at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Paris. "The undercurrents, despite all the important themes of the conference, the thrusts of foreign policy, are the same."

Samuels said South Africa seemed to be pandering to the radical nations of the Third World.

"What happened in Durban made the United Nations central to the new human rights theology, in which Israel is the anti-Christ," Samuels said.

Israel then becomes the villain in every story, whether the issue at hand is sustainable development, health or human rights, Samuels said.

"You are the enemy of mankind," Samuels said. "What is happening here on the" level of nongovernmental organizations "is exactly that continuation."

He was referring to several instances in which Palestinians and their supporters disrupted presentations by Israeli groups at a parallel NGO conference some 15 miles from the main conference site.

Unlike the situation in Durban, however, South African police swiftly broke up this year's anti-Israel protests.

On the official governmental level, Egypt, Algeria, Sudan and the Palestinians tried to place the issue of Israel's "occupation" of parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip at the forefront of the conference agenda, but without much success.

Overall, Samuels said, the conference had created opportunities and new relationships that should be followed up.

"I hope South Africa is able to celebrate this conference as an achievement in its post-apartheid period, despite the little clouds that went over the scene when [President Thabo] Mbeki had to bash one country and one country alone" at an anti-globalization march, Samuels said.

He was referring to pro-Palestinian comments Mbeki made at a rally that included demonstrators blasting Israel and praising suicide bombers.

But Russell Gaddin, national chairman of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, was upbeat. The Board of Deputies played a major role on behalf of the community before the summit, lobbying the government and participating in preparatory NGO meetings.

"We can sense the frustration of the Palestinians because they could not hijack the summit," Gaddin said.

He was grateful to South African authorities for the steps they took to ensure that the Palestinians would not dominate the agenda and to make sure the conference was peaceful, both inside the venues and on the street.

Yehiel Leket, world chairman of the Jewish National Fund, agreed that dire predictions of Palestinian interference – which some said would force Israel to spend all its time defending itself rather than discussing sustainable development – failed to materialize.

Bernard & Edie Nayman
Best wishes to our children, grandchildren, relatives and friends for a happy, healthy & peaceful New Year.

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.
Susie & Murray Klein
David, Robbie & Jamie

Wishing all our family and friends a happy and healthy New Year.
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98 Brookview Drive.

Best wishes for a ***HAPPY & HEALTHY NEW YEAR*** *to our dear friends and to those who have touched our lives during difficult times.*
SHANA TOVA
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Wish our children, grandchildren, relatives & friends a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year, and thank you for all your love and support during the past year.

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Children & Grandchildren
Wish all their relatives, friends a peaceful, happy and healthy New Year.

During the High Holy days, we extend to our community the blessings of strength, well-being and happiness in the coming New Year.
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How the Betel Centre gave Helen a new lease on her life

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Reggie Delovitch with her mother Helen Wierbski af the Bernard Betel Centre

Two years after her beloved husband, Leon, passed away in 1992, Helen Wierbski moved to Toronto to be closer to her only daughter, Reggie, and her family. Helen had approached the move with a great deal of trepidation. As a Holocaust survivor who had lost all her immediate family members yet managed to develop strong bonds of friendship and community in Montreal, she was fearful about what lay ahead.

These concerns, however, were soon put to rest. Her daughter directed her to the Bernard Betel Centre and for the past 10 years, Helen has been an active participant in many of the programs the centre provides.

She attends fitness classes three times a week and Shabbat services on Saturday morning. She enjoys the Fun with Yiddish meetings, the Tuesday morning lectures which cover a variety of topics, and the special events and trips that the centre sponsors -- such as the Mother's Day luncheon, the Canada Day celebration, day trips to have fun at Casino Rama, and see plays in Stratford and Orillia.

Helen acknowledges that she would not have done many of these things if she had not been a member of the centre. She is thankful to the centre staff for doing such a great job in organizing all these activities and being so helpful to her whenever she has any questions or concerns.

The centre has given her a new lease on life, providing the opportunity to meet new friends and gain exposure to new ideas and activities, making the move to Toronto a seamless transition to new surroundings and friends.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Knowing how much her mother benefits from the centre, Reggie Delovitch, is delighted that she was asked to join the Board of Directors in 2002-3. Any contributions she can make will be a way of saying thank you to the centre and its staff for everything they have done and continue to do to enrich her mother's daily life.

Reggie is a valuable addition to the centre's active, committed board. She has an MBA from York University and has been working in human resource management for the past 18 years. She has also volunteered in several not for profit organizations, offering human resources advice as needed.

In London, Ont., where she lived for several years, she became President of the Board of Directors of the London Association for Disabled Adults. She was also part of the team that interviewed Holocaust survivors for the Survivors of the Shoah Foundation, founded by Steven Spielberg, to use the videotaped accounts as a way to teach the horrors that racism can bring.

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Hezbollah termed 'A-team of terrorists'

By URI ASH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — A top U.S. diplomat took aim at Hezbollah last week, saying the United States would go after the group he called "the A-team of terrorists."

"Hezbollah made the A-team of terrorists, maybe Al Qaeda is actually the B-team," Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said in answer to a questions after a luncheon speech.

"We're going to go after them just like a high school wrestler goes after opponents. We're going to take them down one at a time," Armitage said.

Hezbollah is 'known or suspected to have been involved in numerous anti-U.S. terrorist attacks'

Like Al Qaeda, blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, Hezbollah is on the State Department's 2001 list of "designated foreign terrorist organizations."

Hezbollah is "known or suspected to have been involved in numerous anti-U.S. terrorist attacks, including the suicide truck bombings of the U.S. embassy in Beirut in April 1983 and the U.S. Marine barracks in Beirut in October 1983," according to the State Department.

Three Hezbollah members are on the FBI's list of 22 most wanted "terrorists" for the 1985 hijacking of TWA Flight 847, during which a U.S. Navy diver was killed, the State Department said in its 2001 report *Patterns of Global Terrorism*.

Hezbollah operates in southern Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley, and has established cells in Europe, Africa, South America, North America and Asia, the report said.

Hezbollah recently resumed firing at Israeli targets on the northern border, following a four-month lull. An Israeli soldier died Aug. 31 of wounds sustained the day before when the group's guerrillas fired about 80 anti-tank missiles at two Israeli outposts in Har Dov.

Last Thursday, Syria's official press lashed out at a proposed U.S. law that would punish Damascus for supporting Hezbollah and radical Palestinian groups, calling the idea the work of Israeli pawns in the U.S. Congress.

The remarks reflect rising tension in ties between Washington and Syria, which warns that the United States wants to fill the region with puppet states subordinated to Israel and that it could be a U.S. military target along with Iraq.

A draft law called the Syria Accountability Act before Congress threatens sanctions against Syria for backing Hezbollah and the Palestinian groups, which Washington deems "terrorist" but Syria defends as legitimate resistance to Israel.

"Extremist Congressmen known for their clear Zionist inclinations have proposed this law in full co-ordination with the racist government of [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon," Syria's *Tishreen* daily said in a commentary.

Washington has thanked Syria for co-operating against the Al Qaeda network, blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks on U.S. cities that sparked the anti-terror war, but warns Syria that its backing for militant groups contradicts that effort.

The paper said Lebanese Christians who sided with Israel during Lebanon's civil war and want Syria out of Lebanon were also behind the bill, which demands Syria end the "occupation" of Lebanon, where it has 20,000 troops and effective control.

"They are using some weak-willed individuals who conspire against Lebanon and its Arab identity, and collaborators with the Zionist entity for this purpose," it said, referring to pressure on the issue of "terrorism."

"Syria fought terrorism alone and with skill, and co-operated with the United States believing that terrorism threatens the region and the world, but sees the difference between terrorism and legitimate national resistance to occupation," it said.

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If you've read this space before, you're familiar with the steady growth of Sutton Group Admiral Realty. "Steady" will now have to be replaced by **"SPECTACULAR"**. In less than six months since Passover, the "little company that grew" has seen its sales force swell by more than 20%, to 120+ agents and counting!

Murray Goldkind

Toronto real estate Brokers Sol & Murray Goldkind now spend much of their time interviewing top agents interested in joining their team.

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According to the Goldkinds, top agents are now looking for service-oriented environments without the rigid structure of yesteryear — exactly the kind of productive atmosphere the Goldkinds see themselves providing.

Many agents like the idea of being productive without having to be in the office every day. When they *are* in the office, agents with Sutton Group Admiral all have access to the latest computer facilities, and enjoy full use of the latest in personal marketing and career management software. Sutton Group looking just as strongly at their bottom line," says Murray.

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Admiral uses a "fee-for-service" concept, which lets agents pick and choose the services they want. In this way there are never any hidden costs passed on to an agent, nor are agents ever penalized by waste generated by others. In other words, each agent, acting as his or her own businessperson, enjoys the benefit of controlling their income *and* their expenses. "In the old days, top agents concentrated nearly exclusively on their income, but today the smart agents are

The Sutton Group Admiral advantage offers a serious real estate agent the best of all worlds. More money in their pocket, freedom to operate at their own level, flexibility in business planning, and access to tools and services. Says Sol, "timing isn't everything, it's just 98%, and as timing goes we are comfortable that we have the concept agents are looking for both now and in the future."

Sol Goldkind

The agents and brokers of Sutton Group Admiral Realty wish you a very Happy, Healthy, and Peaceful New Year

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Yiddish culture reigned supreme at Ashkenaz Festival

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

"I wish they would start so I can leave," said an exasperated woman, fanning herself with an official Ashkenaz program as the late summer heat rose at the Lakeside Terrace.

Beyond the Pale, a klezmer band that combines East European folk styles with bluegrass and reggae, was clearly late, and tempers were flaring.

But once the musicians got started, belting out their infectious sounds, the woman calmed down and beamed with satisfaction.

On a bright, sunny Labour Day weekend, with temperatures climbing into the high 20s, the fourth Ashkenaz Festival of New Yiddish Culture unfolded at Harbourfront.

A heady melange of music, dance, theatre, film and lectures, the festival attracted the young, the old, the middle-aged, the secular and the religious, cutting across barriers.

For three joyous days on the edge of Lake Ontario, Yiddish – mixed with English, Hebrew, a bit of Ladino and a babel of other languages – reigned supreme.

The mood of the festival seemed to be summed up by a sign nailed to a tree.

"Farshteit Yiddish?" a cartoon-like spaceman asked, standing on a planet that resembled the moon.

In truth, an understanding of Yiddish was not really necessary to appreciate the multifaceted wonders of Ashkenaz.

Amid the fragrance of barbecue chicken, tehina and fresh salad in the air, all you needed was a dollop of curiosity, an attachment to Jewish culture and the energy to take it all in.

If the heartfelt rhythms of klezmer animated you, you were in luck.

Ashkenaz was a showcase for the best and the brightest on the current scene, from Hungary's Di Naye Kapelye, which wafted in on the sounds of Transylvania, to Poland's Cracow Klezmer Band, which blended postmodern Jewish and Balkan melodies.

There was even a klezmer band for kids, Oy Vey!

And if you liked your music with a soulful, Ladino or Turkish touch, the Sons of Sepharad gave it to you in spades.

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir presented a tribute to Mordechai Gerbitig, the poet and songwriter who perished during the Holocaust.

Ashkenaz was a showcase for the best and brightest. **[Jacob El-Baz photo]**

And at the Studio Theatre, Mitch Smolkin, Ashkenaz's artistic director, put on a one-man show, *The White Challah*, adapted from Lamed Shapiro's Yiddish short story. The play, directed by Jennifer Capraru and turning on the history of pogroms, revolved around the bedraggled figure of a Russian peasant-soldier during World War I.

Camp Naivelt, an Ontario institution since the mid-1920s, was the subject of a photographic exhibit.

"I went to this camp," said a man in his late 30s, scanning nostalgic photos.

"Yeah," said his teenage daughter, trying to summon up a modicum of interest.

Sylwia Szymanska, a 26-year-old Polish scholar, delivered a lecture entitled Yiddish: Alive and Well in 21st Century Poland?

A Catholic who has taught at Warsaw University, she gave her talk in Yiddish, no less.

Anna Shternshis, a young scholar from Moscow who teaches at the University of Toronto, talked fervently about Yiddish folksongs in the Soviet Union in the 1930s.

Hal Niedzviecki, a Toronto writer, read from a story-in-progress set in Camp Gesher.

Movie fans, meanwhile, had their pick of *The Last Klezmer*, the story of a seasoned musician, and *Jewish Luck*, a classic Soviet silent film enlivened by the music of Anthony Coleman.

From the Yukon, of all places, dancer and choreographer Gail Lotenberg, a transplanted New Yorker who sought a deeper connection to nature, performed a piece based on a Passover seder.

Ashkenaz, in short, offered something for everybody. Bring it back.

Film is a terrific comedy

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

Once in a while a special little film comes around that gives you a good, warm feeling all over. And sometimes, one of these films will have a "Jewish" connection.

This is the case of *Kissing Jessica Stein*, which is scheduled to be released on video on Sept. 17.

The story is rather simple and straightforward. Jessica Stein (played by Jennifer Westfeldt) is a sensitive but neurotic Jewish woman living and working in New York. Although successful in her professional life as a journalist, her personal life is a mess.

Everyone around her is getting married or having babies, while she can't even find a boyfriend. And the harder she tries, and the more dates she goes out on, the worse it gets.

One day she comes across an intriguing personal ad, except it is in the "women seeking women" section. She decides to take a chance and answers the ad. As a result, she

Continued on page 42

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Arts & Travel

Former Bell Mobility girl takes her indy-film to Tinseltown

By ADAM GRACHNIK
CJN Intern

It's only been a year, but Toronto native Samantha Gutstadt has amassed enough professional credits to turn many other young actresses green with envy.

Gutstadt, who looks a lot like *Friends* star Courtney Cox, recently returned from Los Angeles, where her independent film *Given Notice* was shown at the L.A. screening of the New York Independent International Film Festival.

"It was amazing," said Gutstadt, 21, about her three-week trip to L.A. with co-producer Danielle Shamash. "I learned a lot about acting and producing."

The film is about three people on a road trip who are coming of age after high school. Along the way, they pick up a hitchhiker, and a love triangle involving Gutstadt's character ensues.

Gutstadt co-wrote, produced and stars as Carmen, the only female in the film.

The success of this film sums up a year of career of highlights for Gutstadt, whose eyes are an unusual mixture of green, grey and blue.

"I've been doing this since I was little, so I am seeing some of the rewards this year," she said at a coffee shop in Yorkville.

Gutstadt said she started modelling and acting when she was five, doing little fashion shows and some print work. At 14, she signed with her first agent, who placed her in some music videos and print ads.

Throughout high school she kept auditioning for roles and completed an internship at Citytv, but said it was difficult to get jobs.

"You have to have really thick skin. It's never a personal thing; sometimes it's just stupid things," she said.

After high school, Gutstadt entered the Ryerson film school and said she really enjoys the well-roundedness it affords her.

She wanted to catch on with a larger agency this past year. She was accepted by Characters Talent Agency after four auditions and a phone call from her former intern boss at MuchMusic, Bill Welychka, now a MuchMoreMusic producer.

Once she was represented by Characters, more opportunities came her way. She landed two nationally televised commercials, with Bell Mobility and Sprite. On the Sprite set, she got to work with the Toronto Raptors' Jerome Williams, whom she described as "so cool and very unspoiled."

She said that after the Bell commercial began airing, she was suddenly recognized by strangers, who she said would stop her and say, "Hey, it's the Bell Mobility girl!"

"It's weird seeing your work on TV," she said.

Gutstadt was also a guest star on *Leap Years*, an American show airing on Showtime in the United States and Bravo in Canada. In her episode, she played Amanda – a calculating, seductive student who has an affair with her teacher.

Her voice rose in excitement as she explained the thrill of having her own trailer on the set.

She also played Brenda, on an American movie series, *The War Next Door*.

But it hasn't always been successful, she said. She went to hundreds of auditions in the past year and didn't get one of the roles. "For every part I get, there are [many] rejections."

She says in her industry, confidence is important.

"Once you do one thing, your confidence just builds and producers see it."

Next fall, she will guest star on a new Comedy Network show called *Puppets Who Kill*, where – again – she plays a principal role as a bitchy, stuck-up girl.

"It's because I'm a brunette," she said, trying to explain why she seems to always get the same female role.

"I really just want to be the sweet girl next door," she added jokingly.

Recently Gutstadt entered the producing world, with her school friend and now business partner Shamash. The duo, which Gutstadt called a "power team," have opened up their own company called World Jungle Productions.

Samantha Gutstadt

They are currently working on several projects, but Gutstadt said, "Danielle and I want to have an empire. It is really hard to break in as a woman. We want to be a power team."

Gutstadt said she is very "stubborn. No, doesn't mean very much to me. I go for what I want.

"If I get one yes in 20 noes, it's worth it to me."

She wants to take this confidence to Los Angeles, where, she said, you are only one audition away from your career-breaking role.

After spending three weeks in Tinseltown this summer, she got a small taste of the strong Jewish connection that exists there. "The Canadian Jewish connection [in L.A.] is great. Everyone hangs out together. From Toronto, Montreal, from all over," she said, adding that every Jew has a connection to someone down there.

"Everything I want to do is there," she said

In the fall, Gutstadt will enter her final year at Ryerson. She wants to continue acting and producing, eventually "landing that one big role."

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Powerful film captures a wrenching moment in time

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

La Derniere Lettre (*The Last Letter*), by Frederick Wiseman, is an altogether different kind of Holocaust film.

Scheduled to be screened at the Toronto International Film Festival on Sept. 12 and 13, Wiseman's austere black-and-white one-hour movie captures a wrenching moment in time.

Described as a work of "fictional cinema," *La Derniere Lettre*, in form at least, is more like theatre than film.

On a bare stage, Catherine Samie, the doyenne of the Paris-based Comedie-Francaise, performs a monologue adapted from Vassili Grossman's Russian novel, *Life and Fate*. The setting is a town in the Ukraine shortly after Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941.

Contemplating her fate following the German occupation of her town, an elderly Jewish doctor pours out her heart in a letter to her beloved son, Vitya, who is somewhere far away. The woman, whose name goes unmentioned, has just been placed in a ghetto. These, surely, are her last days on earth.

Samie, her expressive face a map of conflicting emotions, is first seen as a silhouette on a gray screen. As the camera zooms in for a closeup, it reveals a person bereft of illusions.

The Germans, she observes forlornly, have disclosed their intentions. "Juden kaputt," they shouted in unison and with blood lust as they drove through the town.

She feels alone and forgotten, if only because her once kind and considerate Ukrainian neighbours have suddenly and without warning turned against her.

"You have no rights," they taunt, referring derogatively to Jews as Yids. "The air has been purified. It no longer smells of garlic."

And yet, as some of her neighbours argue over her worldly possessions on the eve of her transfer to the ghetto, they shed a tearful farewell. A former patient, normally a hard-hearted man, offers to carry her bags to the ghetto and to bring her a weekly ration of bread.

Clearly, the milk of human kindness flows amid these dark days.

The Germans impose draconian restrictions on the Jewish population, and issue a dire warning that Ukrainians will be shot if they are caught helping Jews.

As Samie casts long shadows, imparting a mood of menace, she tells of a neighbour who witnessed German soldiers or policemen shooting Jews in a field. Later, she hears that the Nazis have embarked on a systematic extermination campaign of Jews.

Catherine Samie in *La Derniere Lettre*:

Although the Germans are closing in on the ghetto, she feels a surprising sense of relief because others share her fate.

Yet, she confides to Vitya, conditions in the ghetto are miserable and growing still worse. And then, in anguished tones, she speaks of a Jewish traitor in their midst.

An assimilated Jew bound to Russian culture, the doctor admits she never felt Jewish. But now, in her hour of duress, she evinces a maternal tenderness toward, and admiration for, her fellow Jews.

Despite the crushing weight of oppression the Jews bear, there is hope in the air, albeit misplaced. There are rumors they will be traded for German prisoners of war.

And, as always, life goes on amid the deprivation and the suffering. There has been a wedding, and a maternity ward has been established in a clinic.

Above all, she reports, the will to survive is strong and unremitting.

Nevertheless, she has considered suicide. And at night, panic overtakes her.

In moments of calm, she thinks of Vitya and dreams of her mother. But ultimately, reality sets in with a thud. The Germans have just smashed an old man's skull, and the children of the ghetto, sensing their days are numbered, look ever so serious.

With her deportation drawing near, she reiterates her undying love for Vitya.

To its credit, *La Derniere Lettre,* a stark and powerful film, never strikes a false note. And Samie is simply terrific.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 51.

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A terrific comedy

Continued from page 40

meets a fascinating woman, Helen Cooper, (played by Heather Juergensen) and they click almost instantly. Slowly, Jessica and her new found friend begin a relationship and the results are funny and very poignant.

Add to all this a Jewish family that adores Jessica, but also has high expectations, and we have the basis of a terrific comedy with some curves and surprises in the story line.

This film was originally conceived as an off-Broadway show, which eventually evolved into an independent film. Jennifer Westfeldt and Heather Juergensen are the stars and the writers of *Kissing Jessica Stein*.

Their lively, personable performances bring these characters to life and give the film the charm and humour which allows this film to stand out from the scores of independent films produced each year.

Scott Cohen, Tovah Feldshuh and Jackie Hoffman are also featured and Tovah Feldshuh's performance is one of her best in years.

Kissing Jessica Stein is a film that leaves the audience wanting to see it again. This is now possible with its home video release on the Twentieth Century Fox label, which should mean that it will be easily available everywhere.

Eye on Arts

BY Bill Gladstone

NEW YORK CURATOR TO DISCUSS CONTROVERSIAL HOLOCAUST ART SHOW

Norman Kleeblatt, curator of New York's Jewish Museum, is coming to town to discuss the recent controversial exhibition, Mirroring Evil: Nazi Imagery/Recent Art. The show included 13 internationally recognized younger artists who have departed from traditional ways of addressing the Holocaust.

Kleeblatt will describe some of the works and the vociferous debate and protests they generated.

Presented by the Art Gallery of Ontario in partnership with the Goethe-Institut Toronto. AGO, Monday Nov. 4, 7 to 8:30 p.m. Members $8, general public $10. 416-979-6608.

* * *

Allan Sherman Musical: *Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah*, a musical based on the classic comic song by **Allan Sherman**, won numerous awards after it premiered a decade ago in New York. Written by **Rob Krausz** and **Douglas Bernstein**, the play opens next month in Toronto.

Tickets $42.75 to $55.75; preview performance $25. New Yorker Theatre, 651 Yonge St. Previews Oct. 11, runs Oct. 17 to Jan. 5, 2003. 416-872-1111; www.ticketmaster.ca

* * *

Medina Audition: The Medina Theatre Ensemble is holding auditions for a staged reading of the play *Hanna Senesh*, by **Aharon Meged**. Young adults to seniors are welcome; resume and recent photo required. Auditions involve a cold reading of the script; no monologues are required.

Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. (west end of Baycrest Hospital) Thursday Sept. 12. Members 7:30 to 9 p.m., non-members 9:05 to 10 p.m. Fran, 416-785-1074. E-mail, medinatheatre@ hotmail.com

* * *

Arts Briefs

• The Winchevsky Centre's secular community observance of Yom Kippur 5763 features readings, poetry and music, with klezmer artist **David Wall** singing *Kol Nidrei* and other holiday selections. Adults $15, children $12, family rate $35; reservations required. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Sunday Sept. 15, 7:30 p.m.

• **Salman Rushdie** reads from *Step Across This Line* and *Fury*, and is interviewed by **Bob Rae**, as part of the Harbourfront reading series. Ticket holders must present photo identification upon request. Ryerson Theatre, 43 Gerrard St. E. Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. 416-973-4000.

• The second annual benefit concert for the Moe Koffman Memorial Jazz Scholarship is Sept. 23 at the Montreal Bistro and Jazz Club. Tickets $65. 416-946-3580.

* * *

***Yentl* Returns to New York:** The Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre of New York, America's oldest and sole surviving professional Yiddish theatre, opens its 87th season this fall with **Isaac Bashevis Singer's** acclaimed play *Yentl*, presented in Yiddish.

"The choice of *Yentl* reflects Folksbiene's goal to bridge its traditional Yiddish-speaking audience with a younger, more mainstream audience," a press release explains. For those with an inadequate grasp of the *mamaloshen*, the theatre is providing a free simultaneous English translation via headset.

Previews begin Oct. 15; opens Oct. 27 for an 11-week run at 344 West 36th St.

* * *

Quotable Quote: When **Barbra Streisand** produced, directed and starred in the movie *Yentl* (1983), **Isaac Bashevis Singer**, author of the short story on which the movie was based, was far from pleased.

In a famous self-interview in the *New York Times* in which he vented his dissatisfaction, Singer explained that he was unhappy, first of all, because Streisand had attained an uncommon "bargain" when she had purchased rights to the story years before.

More significantly, the master storyteller said he was annoyed because Streisand had turned the film into a musical, had failed to understand Yentl's passion for learning, and had given her a gratuitous journey to the United States.

"Was going to America Miss Streisand's idea of a happy ending for Yentl?" he asked, with a flourish of the wry (some would even say caustic) wit he apparently possessed in abundance.

"What would Yentl have done in America? Worked in a sweatshop 12 hours a day where there is no time for learning? Would she try to marry a salesman in New York, move to the Bronx or to Brooklyn and rent an apartment with an ice box and a dumbwaiter?"

Somewhat comically, Singer then suggested how Hollywood might treat other books. Would Madame Bovary end up on the Riviera? Would Anna Karenina marry an American millionaire, Would Raskolnikov become a Wall Street banker?

Dr. Fleischman now a smuggler

By DAVE GORDON
Special to The CJN

Kevin Hunter is a lot like most of us. He struggles at work, juggles money problems and tries to spend time with his family. He also happens to be a drug smuggler.

Rob Morrow plays Hunter in the TV series *Street Time*, about a parolee just released from a five-year prison term for trafficking $1 million worth of marijuana. He is trying to distance himself from the elements that led him to jail but winds up taking over his drug-dealing brother's nightclub.

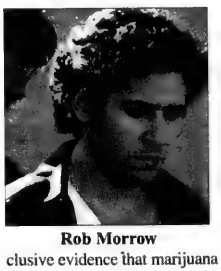
"I really like him," Morrow says of his alter ego. "He's an interesting character for the times in a post-modern sense of moral ambiguity. From what I can gather, everything about him is all positive. He's into his family. He'd put his life on the line for them. He's got rectitude about his life. It just so happens that he smuggles pot."

The 39-year-old New York actor is best known for his role as Joel Fleischman, the New York fish-out-of-water Jewish doctor in Alaska on the hit series *Northern Exposure*, which ran from 1990 to '94.

"I liked playing a Jewish character," Morrow said in an interview. "There was a part of me that wanted them to make Kevin Hunter Jewish. Then it seemed not appropriate because he's clearly not Jewish. My wife in the show is Jewish, which I like."

In addition to his role in *Northern Exposure*, Morrow also played a Jewish character, Richard Goodwin, in the movie *Quiz Show* (1994). In fact, many of *Street Time's* characters are Jewish: the show's chief of police, Hunter's wife and a fellow felon, played by Red Buttons.

Morrow is getting some exposure to the north once again, filming the new series in Toronto. "I love it here. It definitely is cleaner than New York."



Rob Morrow

But how does an actor mentally switch gears from playing a character who prescribes drugs to one who traffics them?

"The distinction is you always have to try to find a way to empathize with your character. The way the people in the 'hippie Mafia' are distancing themselves from the rest of the drug culture is by saying that there is no conclusive evidence that marijuana is any worse than, say, alcohol or cigarettes. They feel they're on a moral high ground, that they won't get caught in any of the 'karma" that comes with dealing with hard drugs. For me, then, he'd say, 'Maybe it's illegal, but it's not wrong.'"

In the real world, Morrow also remains optimistic despite 9/11 and the crisis in the Middle East.

"What gave me hope was when Russia joined NATO. I said if that could happen, they can figure it out over there [in Israel]." Morrow, who directed the film *Maze* and an episode of HBO's *Oz* will be directing future episodes of *Street Time*.

"Acting and directing are completely antithetical in their disciplines.

"As I get older, there's something that feels more mature about directing. Maybe it's the responsibility involved. If acting is a cultivation of narcissism, directing is about looking at the world and trying to reflect it. Instead of being a colour on the canvas, you're painting the entire canvas.

"Then again, acting is so much fun. It's so cathartic. I'll do it as long as they'll let me do it."

Street Time currently only runs on US channel Showtime.

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Health & Lifestyles

Israel seeking help from MDs in Diaspora

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

In its preparations for a worst-case scenario, Israel is asking doctors from abroad to rush there in the event of a war or mass-casualty attack. Israel has not called upon the assistance of foreign doctors since the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Three Canadians were among a group of 22 North American and South African Jewish doctors who took part in a week-long study tour last month of Israel's military and civilian emergency facilities, organized by the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Medical Corps.

"The IDF is preparing for two scenarios where outside help might be needed, both of which are very frightening and everyone hopes will never happen," said Rhoda Kagan, a pediatric allergist who was among the group.

"The first is a true war, in which lots of physicians, interns and residents would be called up for reserve duty, which would leave the hospital short.

"The other is a non-conventional attack, such as biological or chemical warfare, where there would be mass casualties, and the Israeli facilities would run out of hands."

The other Canadians were Kagan's colleague at the Montreal Children's Hospital, Barry Love, a cardiologist, and Brian Klar, a family physician from Toronto with experience in emergency medicine. The rest of the group, except for a South African, were American.

In its report of the trip, the Global Jewish Agenda, the Jewish Agency's newsletter, wrote, "Many Jewish doctors around the world have expressed interest in volunteering for Israel during this time of continuing terror attacks.

"This solidarity mission focused on learning about the co-operation between the civilian and military services during an emergency and in creating a co-operative network between medical professionals in Israel and the rest of the world."

Israel is looking to establish a roster of doctors available to come to Israel on short notice and serve as volunteers. Ideally, their numbers would be great enough to allow them to rotate quickly – perhaps for periods of two to four weeks – so they would not be away from their own practices for too long.

The Israelis asked the doctors on the trip if they would be interested, in the interim, in returning to work at an assigned hospital for a two-week stint each year or, perhaps, every six months, Kagan said.

They visited the IDF central command and homefront command medical branches, the IDF School of Military Medicine at Tsrifin, the Hadassah Medical Centre's burn and trauma care units, the Tel Hashomer Sheba Medical Centre and the Magen David Adom overseas volunteers program. They also met with Health Minister Nissim Dahan and senior staff at the health ministry.

They watched emergency medical exercises and learned about the defences Israel has in place in the event of biological or chemical warfare, including measures that would enable hospitals to set themselves up in temporary premises.

Kagan, 38, said she went on rounds in the hospitals' pediatric wards, getting a sense of whether she could on short notice "jump in and do general pediatrics."

Many logistics need to be worked out, such as issues regarding licensing, malpractice and medication names, Kagan said. Another problem is language: could she practise without being fluent in Hebrew?

Moreover, she said, Israel can only prepare itself for so much.

"Nobody knows what to expect exactly. There are a lot of unknowns. That's the scary part."

Kagan said she heard different opinions on the situation from IDF and civilian doctors.

Despite the sketchy details, Kagan said she is interested in volunteering. She added that she is spreading the word among her colleagues.

HU student creates breakthrough AIDS treatment test

JERUSALEM — Hebrew University researchers have developed a test to identify at an early stage whether AIDS patients are developing a tolerance to their medication, and if so, which other drug could help and what dosage should be taken.

AIDS patients who take medication to suppress the disease and reduce its severe symptoms can develop a tolerance for the drugs, forcing doctors to move them to other medication, usually involving lengthy tests before the proper dosage can be determined.

PhD candidate Lital Alfonte, who developed the test as part of her thesis project, says the main problem with the AIDS virus is the speed with which it changes, enabling it to quickly develop an immunity to medications.

Alfonte recently received the Kay Prize today, Hebrew U's award to researchers who develop new applications for their science with commercial potential. Chemistry professor Itamar Wilner was her adviser together with virologist Prof. Moshe Kotler.

Alfonte says current procedures have the doctors systematically monitoring the level of the AIDs virus in the blood and when it increases, they change medications for the patient. But sometimes, she says, it is difficult to tell which of the drugs in the "cocktail" of drugs is the one creating the problem.

The research team has yet to publish its findings in the professional literature, so independent verification of the new procedure have not been conducted. According to Alfonte, their tests on 15 patients have all proved the credibility of the system.

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180 OUT-OF-TOWN PROPERTIES
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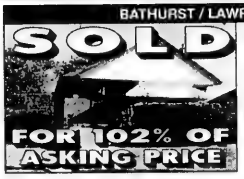

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$1,490,000. Fantastic 2/3 acre on Elgin Street. New home, 5 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, stone house, circular drive, best part of Thornhill. Stephen Selesnick* ext. #281

RAVINE PROPERTY IN THORNHILL

Fabulous ravine property, 3[SOLD]t., 4 bdrms, walk-out bsmnt, kitchen walk-out to deck, sauna, 2 bdrms in basement w/bath. $599,000. Bronte Road. Stephen Selesnick* ext. #281

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30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

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C.V. West, Boca Raton, 1 bdr., 1 bth., mn. flr., safe/clean, fully furn. & equip. 905-625-3189.

N. Miami Bch., 2 br. 2 bth. waterview condo, 3-4 mos. $1400/mo US. 416-250-6901.

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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Carol Moskot, Daniel Zimerman and brother **Sam**, welcolme with love, **Jacob Dov**. Born Friday, August 16, 2002. Proud grandparents are Isaias (Sao) & Evelyn Zimerman and David & Agnes Moskot.

♥ **Miriam & Ari Epstein** ב"ה ♥
and
Linda & Norman Evans
are thrilled to announce the engagement of
ELISE & RICHARD
Proud grandparents are Lily & Chaim Epstein, Itka & Ytzhak Abramowitz, Ron Barnett (Scotland).
Lovingly remembered are Jean Barnett, Philip & Dinah Evans.

273 INTRODUCTION SERVICES

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330 OBITUARIES

COHEN, Leon - Passed away on Aug. 31st, 2002 at the age of 78. Caring husband of late Luna, loving father of Joe (Estella), Esther (Joe Azoulay), Moses (Rachel), Isaac (Marni). Devoted grandfather of David, Michael, Allan, Jaime, Sarah, Ashley, Melissa, Luna & Michael. Special thanks to Fernando Chavere for his kindness to Dad.

BAJCZMAN (BAICHMAN), Pola – on Aug. 10, 2002, late of 35 Canyon Ave.
LANYS, Sandra – on Aug. 10, 2002.
LEVY, Dora – on Aug. 10, 2002, late of 33 Christie St.
PERNICA, Sam – on Aug. 12, 2002.
PILZ, Yale – on Aug. 12, 2002, late of 3 Wetherby Circle.
PRIBLUDA, Tatyana – on Aug. 13, 2002, late of 262 Ridley Blvd.
AVNI, Jackob – on Aug. 13, 2002, late of 65 Skymark Dr.
YACOUBOV, Francine – on Aug. 14, 2002, late of 59 Robert Hicks Dr.
BENNETT, Rose – on Aug. 15, 2002.
GRINSTEIN, Chaim – on Aug. 16, 2002, late of 178 Cocksfield Ave.
IDELMAN, Leonid – on Aug. 16, 2002.
BIALOSTOCKI, Jacob – on Aug. 17, 2002, late of 178 Arnold Ave.
GELFER, Mikhail – on Aug. 18, 2002.
KATZBERG, Jack – on Aug. 18, 2002, late of 333 Clark Ave. W.
SILVER, Irving – on Aug. 19, 2002, late of 125 Neptune Dr.
STARKMAN, Samuel – on Aug. 14, 2002.
GRANAT, Genya – on Aug. 19, 2002.
YUCHTMAN, Manya – on Aug. 20, 2002, late of 15 Wild Gingerway.
FREEDMAN, Ettie – on Aug. 20, 2002, late of 4 Pining Rd.
HOWIESON, Deborah Anne – on Aug. 20, 2002, late of 134 Purpledusk Trail.
GURVITZ, Shimon – on Aug. 21, 2002, late of 124 Robert Hicks Dr.
LAX, Tibor – on Aug. 22, 2002, late of 50 Shaftesbury St.
FRIED, Juliana – on Aug. 22, 2002, late of 155 Marlee Ave.
WEINMAN, Esther – on Aug. 24, 2002, late of 7 Collinson Blvd.
WEISS, Lorant – on Aug. 24, 2002, late of 2200 Avenue Rd.
KOMBERG, Batia – on Aug. 25, 2002, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
FREDLENDER, Toble – on Aug. 26, 2002, late of 162 Searle Ave.
WINEBERG, Irving – on Aug. 28, 2002, late of 4300 Highway #7.
HOROWITZ, Isidore – on Aug. 27, 2002, late of 31 Overbrook Place.
TABAK, Aryeh – on Aug. 27, 2002, late of 57 McCabe Cres.
SNIDERMAN, Hilda (Brenda) – on Aug. 27, 2002, late of 2100 Bloor St. W.
BEN-DAVID, Zelda Sharon – on Aug. 29, 2002, late of 755 Steeles Ave. W.
CHAPLICK, Louis Norman – on Aug. 29, 2002, late of 130 Neptune Dr.
BOOK, Milton – on Aug. 29, 2002, late of 89 Bedford Park Dr.

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330 OBITUARIES

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SHERMAN, Herbert – on Aug. 29, 2002, late of 55 Brickstone Circle.
PILCH, Alfred – on Aug. 30, 2002.
FARBIARZ, Hirsz – on Aug. 29, 2002.
COHEN, Leon – on Aug. 31, 2002, late of 6250 Bathurst St.
GERBER, Ruth – on Sept. 1, 2002.
LIPSON, Doris – on Sept. 1, 2002, late of 1 Northwestern Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

GOODBAUM, Gerry – on July 27, 2002, late of 54 Brookview Dr.
STEINFELD, Bernard – on July 26, 2002, late of 7 Law Cr.
STOLBERG, Shirley – on July 27, 2002, late of 8 Fontainbleau Dr.
CHAPLIN, Fran – on July 28, 2002, late of 59 Gilgorm Rd.
TESHER, Rose – on July 30, 2002, late of 274 Chaplin Cr.
ALLEN, Louis – on July 31, 2002, late of 520 Douglas Ave.
GOLDBERG, Lydia – on July 27, 2002, late of 6121 East Beverly Lane.
ENGLANDER, Sam – on July 30, 2002, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
RAPOPORT, Morris – on July 31, 2002, late of 90 Fisherville Rd., #1.
ROTH, Mary – on July 31, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SLAVNER, Dora – on Aug. 3, 2002, late of 25 Silver Aspen Dr.
HOFFMAN, Bessie – on July 31, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
STEIN, Fred – on Aug. 2, 2002, late of 39 Chiltern Hill Rd.
BROWN, Annie – on Aug. 1, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
ARNOLD, Diane Finsten – on Aug. 3, 2002, late of 10 Killarney Rd.
WAGMAN, Zelda – on Aug. 3, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
WRIGHT, Vivienne – on Aug. 5, 2002, late of 8 Codsell Ave.
LERNER, Anne – on Aug. 5, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
STERN, Sharma – on Aug. 4, 2002, late of 77 Finch Ave. E.
NISENBAUM, Hilda – on Aug. 5, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SKLARZ, Simon – on Aug. 5, 2002, late of 607 St. Germain Ave.
KATZ, Arnold – on Aug. 6, 2002, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
COLLIS, Lillyan – on Aug. 5, 2002, late of 30 Greenfield Ave., #60.
BRUNER, Cheryl – on Aug. 6, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

WIDMAN, Barry – on Aug. 7, 2002, late of 11 Bramble Dr.
MANDEL, Lily – on Aug. 7, 2002, late of 6151 Bathurst St., #30.
PROSSERMAN, Ellen – on Aug. 8, 2002, late of 2 Lynwood Ave., PH #1.
WELLS, Marie Rachel – on Aug. 9, 2002, late of 1166 Bay St., #1604.
KIRSCH, Anita – on Aug. 10, 2002, late of 10 Hashbury Place.
SOBEL, Dora – on Aug. 10, 2002, late of 6200 Bathurst St.
BRUNER, Anne – on Aug. 10, 2002, late of 370 Ridelle Ave., #706.
PENCER, Samuel – on Aug. 8, 2002, late of 105 Poplar Plains Rd.
MOROWICZ, Saul – on Aug. 11, 2002, late of 155 Marlee Ave., #180.
KUNIN, Reuben – on Aug. 10, 2002, late of Switzerland.
GOODMAN, Harry – on Aug. 11, 2002, late of 54 Danby Ave.
WASSERMAN, Freyda – on Aug. 10, 2002, late of 411 Duplex Ave., #221.
MINARSKY, Joseph – on Aug. 11, 2002, late of 120 Promenade Circle.
HILL, Cecil – on Aug. 12, 2002, late of 54 Foxbar Rd., #612.
HORNSTEIN, Sonia – on Aug. 12, 2002, late of 18 Lower Village Gate.
FINE, Natalie – on Aug. 12, 2002, late of 203 Glenayr Ave.
CHERNIAK, Jack – on Aug. 13, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
OCHSHORN, Marek – on Aug. 13, 2002, late of 400 Walmer Rd., #1129.
SHIMMERMAN, Leah – on Aug. 14, 2002, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
SOLYOM, Vera – on Aug. 14, 2002, late of 668 Roselawn Ave., #6.
GOLDKIND, Max – on Aug. 15, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SINGER, Jennie – on Aug. 16, 2002, late of 8 Ridge Hill Dr., #2.
REVZEN, Louis – on Aug. 16, 2002, late of 7601 Bathurst St., #816.
LEVINSKY, Frances – on Aug. 16, 2002, late of 55 Ameer Ave., #1110.
LAPORTER, Norman – on Aug. 17, 2002, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.
LESTER, Joe – on Aug. 18, 2002, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
ACKERMAN, Zoltan – on Aug. 18, 2002, late of 57 Neptune Dr., #2.
ANSHAN, Minnie – on Aug. 20, 2002, late of 569 Sheppard Ave. W.
ABRAMS, Judy – on Aug. 20, 2002, late of 12 Newbury Lane.
KARMAZYN, Moses – on Aug. 19, 2002, late of 130 Neptune Dr., #140.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

LESTER, Joe – on Aug. 18, 2002, late of 1035 Elinton Ave. W.
ACKERMAN, Zoltan – on Aug. 18, 2002, late of 57 Neptune Dr., #2.
ANSHAN, Minnie – on Aug. 20, 2002, late of 569 Sheppard Ave. W.
ABRAMS, Judy – on Aug. 20, 2002, late of 12 Newbury Lane.
KARMAZYN, Moses – on Aug. 19, 2002, late of 130 Neptune Dr., #140.
JACOBS, Joseph – on Aug. 22, 2002, late of 133 Chiltern Hill Rd.
CUKIERMAN, Lily – on Aug. 22, 2002, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.
TELCH, Barbara – on Aug. 23, 2002, late of 22 Brian Cliff Dr.
RAY, Esther – on Aug. 25, 2002, late of 3181 Bayview Ave., #1.
WEISS, Roslyn – on Aug. 26, 2002, late of 50 Lakeshore Rd., Uni.
GRUBER, Adele – on Aug. 27, 2002, late of 30 Holly St., #202.
BLOOM, Simon – on Aug. 28, 2002, late of 3000 Bathurst St.
GOODMAN, Fryma – on Aug. 26, 2002, late of 3636 Bathurst St.
ELBAUM, Sammy – on Aug. 28, 2002, late of 33 Christie St.
GARNET, Betty – on Aug. 28, 2002, late of 148 Albany Ave.
PAYNE, Garry – on Aug. 29, 2002, late of 20 Kimbark Blvd.
LEVY, Florye – on Aug. 30, 2002, late of 135 Caribou Rd.
FREED, Andrew – on Aug. 27, 2002, late of 137 Woodcrest Dr.
ZEIDENBERG, Issie – on Aug. 31, 2002, late of 795 Vaughan Rd., #108.
TARTER, Rachel – on Aug. 31, 2002, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
WHITE, Jean – on Aug. 31, 2002, late of c/o 500 Avenue Rd., #10.
FOOT, Martin – on Sept. 1, 2002, late of 128 Kingston Rd.
SINCLAIR, Gary – on Aug. 29, 2002, late of 3870 Ponderosa Lane.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

DONNENFIELD, Gertrude – on Aug. 4, 2002, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
ZACKON, Eric – on Aug. 5, 2002, late of 62 Berwick Ave.
FELD, Jennie – on Aug. 9, 2002, late of 282 St. Clair Ave. W.
SIMS, Celia – on Aug. 10, 2002, late of 642 Sheppard Ave. E.
FISHER, Jack – on Aug. 12, 2002, late of 2 Pining Rd.

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330 OBITUARIES

POLLOCK, Michael – on Aug. 21, 2002, late of 4300 Bathurst St.
DRUCKER, Fred – on Aug. 24, 2002, late of 127 Hove St.
BLOOMFIELD, Philip – on Aug. 26, 2002, late of 277 Marguerita St.

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TO PLACE AN UNVEILING NOTICE PLEASE CALL AT LEAST 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE UNVEILING

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ROY PETTLE ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, September 15th at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst St., South of Steeles
East End, Blue Star Lodge Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LAUREN ZARACOFF (SHEDLETSKY) ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Sept. 15th, 2002 at 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Temple Kol Ami Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

336 CARD OF THANKS

DAVID BERDUGO ז"ל
We would like to thank all our relatives and friends for your kind expression of sympathy.
Your support is greatly appreciated.
Rachel Berdugo and Family
Shana Tova

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women seeking men

SOULMATE SEARCHING
33 yr old female, with long brown hair & eyes, very good looking, out going, charming, loves to have fun. Looking for a down to earth attractive male between 30-40 yrs, non smoker, who shares same interests as I. I'm looking for my soul mate, if your interested please respond. **AD#1406**

DESTINATION: LOVE
Hi, If your interested in meeting a special single Jewish female, baggage free, has air miles & loves to travel you've answered the right ad. I'm a very attractive, slim, shapely, fun loving, 50'ish, single Jewish female with a warm smile, integrity & many interests. **AD1061**

EUROPEAN WIDOW
European, retired widow, is looking for a loving relationship w/ widower or divorced man, loves music, art , swimming, walking & tennis. **AD#1162**

CALL ME
Cindy is a petit, brown eyed brunette, 5' 2", very friendly, intelligent, loving, compassionate, looking for a professional gentleman, between 50-60 yrs, who shares similar qualities with whom I can enjoy companionship & happy times. Some interests include movies, theatre & music. **AD#1186**

LIFE PARTNER
Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, petite, cute, attractive, pretty and slim. She enjoys music, dancing, nature, hiking, quiet beach walks, non smoker, non drinker, looking for a life partner, preferably an easy going, single jewish male between 35-55 yrs with similar interests **AD#1200**

FUN LOVING
Fun loving, professional female who likes the finer things in life, but down to earth in personality. I'm attractive, blonde, likes to travel, enjoys theatre & learning new things. She's hard working, with no children and seeks intelligent, active, easy going gentleman 45-55 yrs with a balanced life **AD#1357**

I AM FOR YOU
Unique, Jewish female, attractive, 5' 5", intelligent, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established, male 45 yrs young, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable and over 6 feet tall. **AD#1240**

HIGH CLASS
Larissa is attractive, Jewish, 55 yrs, 5' 3" tall and seek an interesting accomplished, classy gentleman between 55-65 yrs for companionship & more. **AD#1443**

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Attractive, 40 yrs, single Jewish female, seeks male 40-52 yrs who's attractive, hard working like myself. I like to go out to eat, dance, movies & a bit of sports. If you have similar interests, leave me your name & number I'm looking for a serious relationship **AD#1037**

KILLER SMILE!
Hi, my name is Debbie. I'm 47 yrs almost, a Virgo—Sept 6th is my birthday, divorced for 8 yrs and very comfortable with that. I'm 5' 3" with short brown hair & brown eyes, and a smile that will knock you dead. Little bit overweight but working on it diligently. I love the outdoors. **AD#1151**

LOVE CONNECTION?
Jewish female, pretty, creative professional, young lady, 5'5ft, slender, enjoys travel,theatre & fine dining. Seeks an established & fit male, between 43-53 yrs, complimented by sincerity & spontaneity to share in the zest of life. **AD#1161**

THE FINER THINGS IN LIFE
I'm a fun loving, down to earth personality, attractive, blonde, enjoy travel, theatre, learning new things, very hard working. I have no kids and seek an intelligent, active, easy going male, between 45-55 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1211**

CHARMING AS WITH YOU
Marianna is 5' 4", with hazel eyes and dark hair. She enjoys sports, concerts, walks and dancing, and is seeking a male to share those interests. She describes herself as outgoing, friendly, straight forward & easy to talk to. **AD#1382**

RESPECT & SINCERITY
40 yr old honest caring, sensitive female writer, looking for compatible male in his 40's to share meaningful moments, I enjoy long walks, talks, cafes, movies, art, poetry, nature, animals, I'm open minded I value respect & sincerity, friendships & genuine relationships. **AD#1401**

LET'S MEET
Great personality, easy to please, lovely lady, who's considerate intelligent, good natured and attractive 53 yrs old, hoping to meet a nice polite gentleman for genuine relationship between 55-73 yrs old **AD#1136**

WALKS BY THE LAKE
Barb is very young, 50'ish, a single mom w/ 2 grown children. She lives in central Toronto and seeks a Jewish gentleman to develop a friendship with to laugh, cry & grow with. She enjoys walks by the lake out in the country, movies, sharing and cuddling. Please call and leave a message. **AD#1204**

VIVACIOUS FEMALE
Montrealer who now lives in Hamilton. She's vivacious, fit, slim 5'5", 120 lbs, seeks male for tennis partner. Also for dining, movies, walks & willing to explore a little bit. Looking for a compassionate man for a wonderful relationship. **AD#1186**

LOVE, FUN & LAUGHTER
Single female, 44 yrs young, attractive, intelligent, honest, sincere, down to earth, funny & good natured. She enjoys music, dancing, reading, travelling. If you seek love, fun & laughter, call me. **AD#1132**

FUN & COMPASSION
Single female from Montreal, 50's, non smoker, fit, classy, kind, sense of humour, conservadox. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel and the beach. Seeking a male between 51-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, w/ similar interests, willing to travel **AD#1360**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sensual smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, w/ wide variety of interests Seeking Jewish male between 65-75 yrs, who's honest & romantic for a long term relationship. **AD#1457**

PEOPLE PERSON
Financially secure, professional female who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a companion to enjoy theatre, sports and fine dining with. If you are between 60-70 yrs please give me a call **AD#1260**

HANDSOME SOUL
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5", with brown hair & eyes She's kind, sincere, creative, and lots of fun. Seeking a Jewish traditionalist, over 45 yrs young, handsome, 6 feet tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, a non smoker, financially stable & humorous to share in life's dreams. **AD#1248**

ROMANCE & LAUGHTER
Female in her 60's, romantic, likes walks, talks, country drives, movies, music, books, cards, holding hands, current events, laughter, day trips, candlelight and fireplaces, seeks a compatible male. **AD#1148**

POSITIVE OUTLOOK
Single female, 65 yrs old, fun loving, classical. Enjoys travel, heart music, dancing, outdoors, candlelight, wine, romantic places, has positive outlook on life. Seeks a complimentary man for long lasting for long lasting relationship. **AD#1036**

SMART 'n SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish female 64 yr old, smart, spontaneous, compassionate & has good sense of humour, Seeks 65-75yrs male who's active, handsome, loving & kind who is ready to share loving relationship. **AD#1071**

LOVES TO LAUGH
Debra is 46 yrs old, a single mom w/ 2 grown children and enjoys movies, dining, travelling, live theatre. She also enjoys doing home decorating and seeks a fun loving, easy going guy who loves to talk & laugh. Give her a call. **AD#1111**

OPTIMISTIC FEMALE
She's down to earth, professional, independent & fun loving is seeking a male who shares the same qualities for a companion first and see how it goes from there **AD#1124**

WARM & COMPASSIONATE
Sandy is Jewish, in her 50's and attractive She's 5' 6" with red hair and blue eyes She's sophisticated, sexy, warm, compassionate, sensuous and loves life She seeks a classy man between 60-69 yrs, preferably tall, non smoking, sweet, kind hearted & well groomed If you think you're a match, leave her a message **AD#1030**

PEOPLE PERSON
A financially secure, professional woman, loves to travel & meet new people. She enjoys theatre and sports, and seeks a male for a companion between 60-70 yrs old **AD#1405**

SEXY, SOPHISTICATED
I've been looking for love in all the wrong places, searching for my niche. I'm 59-69 yrs, a non smoker, who's kind w/ good qualities I'm also a sexy, sophisticated woman in my 50's, and I love life & dancing. I'm compassionate & sensuous. Call me. **AD#1159**

HARD WORKING GAL
Attractive, down to earth and friendly female She's 40 yrs old, a hard worker, and never been married. She enjoys movies, dining & dancing and seeks an attractive, friendly, down to earth, hard working male between 40-49 yrs, for a serious, long term relationship **AD#1387**

PROFESSIONAL WOMAN
41 yr old, single, professional woman. She enjoys a variety of interests ranging from the intellectual to the creative & physical Seeking an intelligent, considerate family oriented man who's serious about getting serious. If this is you, please leave a message and she'll be sure to call. **AD#1225**

HELLO TRAVELLER!
Life is exciting, but more exciting with a companion to share the way. Financially secure, perky widow who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a male between 60-70 yrs who is physically fit Please leave a message. **AD#1095**

LOVING & CARING
Single mom of one 6-yr old child, attractive, 32 yrs, good sense of humour, caring, sharing, wide variety of interests, seeks male, 32-45 yrs, prefer divorced with children and similar interests **AD#1026**

SEEKS A PROFESSIONAL
Nancy is Jewish, a youthful 56 yrs, divorced with 2 grown children. She enjoys dining, movies, long walks, country drives, and seeks professional man between 50-65 yrs, a great sense of humour and strong sense of integrity. **AD#1161**

OPTIMISTIC FEMALE
Single female from Montreal, 50's, non smoker, fit, classy, kind, sense of humour, conservadox. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel and the beach. Seeking a male between 51-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, w/ similar interests, willing to travel **AD#1360**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sensual smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, w/ wide variety of interests Seeking Jewish male between 65-75 yrs, who's honest & romantic for a long term relationship. **AD#1457**

PEOPLE PERSON
Financially secure, professional female who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a companion to enjoy theatre, sports and fine dining with. If you are between 60-70 yrs please give me a call **AD#1260**

HANDSOME SOUL
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5", with brown hair & eyes She's kind, sincere, creative, and lots of fun. Seeking a Jewish traditionalist, over 45 yrs young, handsome, 6 feet tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, a non smoker, financially stable & humorous to share in life's dreams. **AD#1248**

ROMANCE & LAUGHTER
Female in her 60's, romantic, likes walks, talks, country drives, movies, music, books, cards, holding hands, current events, laughter, day trips, candlelight and fireplaces, seeks a compatible male. **AD#1148**

POSITIVE OUTLOOK
Single female, 65 yrs old, fun loving, classical. Enjoys travel, heart music, dancing, outdoors, candlelight, wine, romantic places, has positive outlook on life. Seeks a complimentary man for long lasting for long lasting relationship. **AD#1036**

SMART 'n SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish female 64 yr old, smart, spontaneous, compassionate & has good sense of humour, Seeks 65-75yrs male who's active, handsome, loving & kind who is ready to share loving relationship. **AD#1071**

LOVES TO LAUGH
Debra is 46 yrs old, a single mom w/ 2 grown children and enjoys movies, dining, travelling, live theatre. She also enjoys doing home decorating and seeks a fun loving, easy going guy who loves to talk & laugh. Give her a call. **AD#1111**

CONSERVADOX FEMALE
Single female from Montreal, 50's, non smoker, classy, dynamic, kind, great sense of humour and conservadox. She enjoys art, dining and dancing, and travel She seeks a male, 53-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, with similar interests for friendship first **AD#1034**

SSSWEETER THAN SUGAR
She's sensational, sweet, sophisticated, sincere, successful, spontaneous, sensitive, swanky, sentimental, self assured, stable, self motivated, supportive, shapely, slim, sleek and sexy A sultry scorpion of 37yrs, seeking a relationship with a man who know what he wants. **AD#1226**

DEEP LOVE FOR ISRAEL
Self employed Jewish woman in midtown Toronto She's 60 yrs old and seeks a male who greets each day with pleasure & optimism, loves classical music, opera and has travelled a bit. Does not have to be religiously observant but shares her deep love for Israel **AD#1413**

SEEKING A SOULMATE
Sandy is in 50's, is 5' 6", very sexy, sophisticated, looks really good She enjoys dancing & life She is a happy woman, but seeks her soulmate: A gentleman between 59-69 yrs, non smoking, kind hearted and sensitive, who can be a good friend. **AD#1411**

TOUCH OF CLASS
Single female from Montreal in her 50's. She's a non smoker, is classy, dynamic, kind, great sense of humour, traditional & conservadox. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel, the beach and seeks a male 53-65 yrs, non smoking, secure, fit, passionate, good natured, traditional with similar interests. **AD#1305**

TAKE A CHANCE
Widowed female, early 60's looks 50 yrs, kind, caring, compassionate, good sense of humour, enjoys travel, the theatre, dining and dancing, seeks widower, non smoker, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1283**

PASSIONATE FEELINGS
Bonnie enjoys music, dining, walking, long drives and anything that has passion attached to it. She seeks a male who's interested in fine arts & theatre, not so much into sports, and possibly enjoys the outdoors, who has a great smile & sense of humour **AD#1371**

GOOD HEARTED
Gigi is 34 yrs and from Asia, long hair, medium sized, brown complexion. She's easy going, very charming, loves dining, travelling, dancing, cooking, spending time w/ friends Seeks someone who's understanding, honest, good hearted, friendly, non smoking and between 34-45 yrs **AD#1296**

TAKE A CHANCE
Widowed female, early 60's looks 50 yrs, kind, caring, compassionate, good sense of humour, enjoys travel, the theatre, dining and dancing, seeks widower, non smoker, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1283**

NAUGHTY & NICE
Single female, sensuous, witty, musical, shapely, sweet, sassy, stylish, warm, loving and caring, wonderful sense of humour, Seeks male 42 yrs to 52 yrs mature loving, honest, good sense of humour, similar qualities and interests **AD#1364**

LET'S DINE OUT
Single female, 55 yrs, enjoys dining and dancing, the theatre, a very popular oriented person, loves, caring, honest, warm hearted. Seeks male 45-65 yrs with similar qualities and interests to share life's joys. **AD#1417**

FOXY LADY
Foxy lady with class, works out, dances, into the arts, fit, non smoker. Seeks a male, 50-58 yrs, someone who knows the difference between intimacy and sexuality. Wants a best friend, lovers later. Looking for a soulmate. Please respond **AD#1232**

VARIED INTERESTS
Recently widowed 55 yr old lady who was married for 34 yrs, seeks a man with similar interests. She is outgoing person likes dancing, sports, dining out and travelling She works in science and engineering. **AD#1548**

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men seeking women

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FRIENDSHIP & LOVE
Single Jewish male of Indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest. Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family **AD#1459**

FUN GUY
Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things. Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading. Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands. **AD#1368**

LET'S TALK
I want to enjoy all the things in life like any normal person. I'm not interested in marriage. but would like a steady relationship. If you're slim, good looking, with a nice personality & would like to meet a nice, funny, good looking, 70 yr old, 5' 6", slim guy, let's talk. **AD#1055**

PICTURE THIS
I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more. If you find this brief introduction interesting, leave a message. **AD#1442**

EASY GOING
Steve is an easy going Jewish male, fun loving, enjoys walks and good conversation. Seeks attractive female up to age of 39 yrs who's easy going, enjoys the simple things in life, such as going out for dinners and other things. **AD#1390**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Chaim, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs, 5' 6", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family in a wonderful atmosphere. Please call and leave a message **AD#1239**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1176**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'
Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook. He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate. **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET
Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female (Jewish preferably), around the same age, who's honest sincere female and shares the same interests, If interested please leave a voice mail. **AD#1070**

MUSIC & WINE
Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-65yrs. He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports. **AD#1280**

AM I ASKING TOO MUCH?
Divorced Jewish male, 47 yrs with 2 teenaged children, seek woman 25-40 yrs, thin, good looking, who likes rock n roll, sports, 3 stooges, Howard Stern, partying & swimming because I have a pool. Am I asking too much? Give me a call **AD#1318**

KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN
Bob is 48 yrs, professional, seeking to meet female who's into cycling and would like to explore the city/country. If you're interested in meeting a very nice guy to have fun with and get a little exercise, please leave a message. **AD#1238**

LOOKING FOR YOU
37 yr old male, 6' 3", 230 lbs, with black hair, brown eyes & goatee He enjoys spending time with family & friends. likes playing golf and surfing the net, and seeks a nice lady who has similar interests. If this is you, leave him a message. **AD#1083**

LET'S TALK
Dave is 37 yrs old, slim and handsome, with brown hair, blue/grey eyes, and has a BA. He enjoys the outdoors, travelling, dining, and baseball. He's a good conversationalist, and seeks a Jewish female between 32-38 yrs who is tall & attractive. If you like what your reading, please call and leave a message **AD#1158**

WILLING TO SETTLE
Alan is 42 yrs, 6' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes. He's very active, enjoys exercise, boating and camping. He seeks an honest, generous, romantic, female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down. He is honest & straight to the point. **AD#1439**

NEW IN TOWN
Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love. If this fits you, please answer this ad. **AD#1051**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1256**

FRIENDLY FELLA
Martin, 48 yrs, is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets. He seeks a friendly good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well Kids are okay, no **AD#1206**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Jewish male, 46 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling. **AD#1438**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

COFFEE TALK
Hi, there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you. I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship. **AD#1340**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!
Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes. Exterior: Tall, handsome, good body. Interior: Compassionate, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink caddie, 1962-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded. **AD#1252**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

HEART OF GOLD
Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented. **AD#1177**

KIND & CUTE
46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile. Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating. Also seeking long term relationship. Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park. Kind and caring wants future family. **AD#1095**

EASY GOING
Single male, Jewish widower, 63 yrs, financially secure, professional, active, physically fit, enjoys music, opera, movies, travel. Very easy going, happy, looking for someone to be with. **AD#1049**

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with. **AD#1854**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams. **AD#1109**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female. **AD#1651**

CUDDLY CADDY
Born 1959, and traditionalist, top shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, driver with passion, class, and vitality, enjoys motives, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969 Waiting for your call **AD#1572**

YOUTHFUL GUY
Jewish male, 41 yrs, western european background, look younger than his years, handsome, beautiful smile, non smoker, non drinker, romantic, good conversation, classical music, dining, rea ding, travel, looking for Jewish female, 29-35 yrs, who is kosher, and lives in Toronto. Must not possess and baggage, and must not have kids. Casual to long lasting relationship. **AD#1288**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel. Looking for a **AD#1456**
for a mature relationship. **AD#1643**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic. **AD#1458**

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Toronto wins 'gold medal' for most medals

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Toronto's teenage athletes turned in a golden performance at the recently concluded JCC Maccabi Games in Montreal, winning the "gold medal" for most medals.

Toronto's 90-person team brought home 60 medals – 22 of them gold – to lead all participants. Coming next were the host Montrealers, who registered 51 top three performances while New York City's 92nd Street Y was third with 44 medals.

Toronto's swimming team was particularly effective, earning 16 gold medals, 15 silvers and 12 bronze. The 11-person team consists of experienced swimmers who train at a variety of Metro-area clubs. Many of them are likely to continue their careers at U.S. colleges on partial scholarships, said Grant Smith, head of the Toronto delegation.

The boys' six-man golf team also boasted an impressive medal haul, capturing five golds, one silver and three bronze in a variety of scoring formats, including stroke play and best ball.

The tennis team earned four medals, including two silvers and one each in gold and bronze.

The girls basketball team came home with a silver medal after losing the title game to a team from New York, while the girls softball squad also came in second, losing the championship game to a club from Los Angeles.

In soccer, the girls team won bronze, quite an accomplishment for a team that was making its first appearance at the youth games since 1986, Smith said.

In other events, the boys baseball team lost a title game to a team from Los Angeles while the boys basketball team finished out of the medals.

The boys soccer team also failed to earn a medal. Soccer players donned black armbands in memory of Greg Savenko, a former defender/midfielder who was killed while tubing in Chandos Lake near Peterborough, Ont.

Savenko, who was 17 when he died, played on the 16 and under team in Philadelphia that won a bronze medal last summer. The year before, he was on the Toronto team that competed in Staten Island.

Last year, he served as co-captain of the 16 and under Canadian Maccabiah soccer team in Israel, which finished fourth.

When they weren't competing against young athletes from across North America, the Toronto athletes took part in a "day of caring," a program aimed at giving youngsters a taste of community service. It included visits to seniors homes, working with special needs children and preparing packages for Israel, Smith said.

The young athletes also enjoyed a video-linked shmoozefest with high schoolers in Israel.

Altogether, an estimated 1,600 athletes between the ages of 13 and 16 took part in the Montreal games. Junior Maccabi events were also hosted in Memphis, Tenn., Omaha, Neb., Baltimore, Md., and Springfield, Mass. involving about 7,000 youngsters.

The opening ceremonies were held in Molson Centre, home of the Montreal Canadiens, while the closing event was held at Centre Claude Robillard, an Olympic water polo venue and stadium.

Toronto participants at the recent Montreal Maccabi Games.

New gym class geared for toddlers

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

From the "it's never too early" school of thought, here are a few examples of precocious over-achievers.

Tiger Woods started golfing when he was around three – he scored his first birdie when he was six; when Wayne Gretzky was six, he was playing organized hockey with older boys and using his playmates as pylons on the ice.

Great athletes often start young but by Sima Studin's standards, Woods and Gretzky were grizzled old veterans when they registered their first sporting successes.

Studin is president and manager of Toronto Aspirals, a rhythmic gymnastics centre with a 20-year pedigree. On Sept. 30, Toronto Aspirals in conjunction with the Bathurst JCC will introduce a new program of "Kindergym" sessions, geared for toddlers from 18 months of age to kids six years old.

The youngsters, accompanied by a parent or grandparent, will be exposed to colourful foam shapes like barrels, boxes, cubes, umbrellas and mats that they will climb over and crawl under.

Working with the foamies will offer them a variety of learning possibilities, Studin explains.

Instructors can create obstacle courses for the kids to traverse with the idea that the children will explore the forms, climb mini-walls, cross a foot-high balance beam, and not be afraid, Studin said.

"We believe the sooner they're involved in the fitness and gym environment, the more comfortable they'll be when they go to school."

Studin, who usually trains girls who are in their early teens, believes children today have such a comfortable, undemanding lifestyle, they "slip away from fitness activities. We try to eliminate these obstacles at the beginning."

Introducing children to a kid-friendly gym environment advances their physical, emotional and social development, Studin contends. By the time they hit the ripe old age of three or four, they've increased their balance and co-ordination and "they're ready for any sport."

At around age three, Kindgergym kids are divided into a separate group for more advanced activities.

Twice per session, theme days will be introduced (such as Teddy Bear time) and at other times, bubbies and zaydies will be invited to watch the kids perform.

Sessions will be held once or twice a week for 10 weeks at the Bathurst JCC. Cost of the session is $90 plus an annual registration fee of $10. For more information or to register, call 905-760-0092 or 416-242-6354 or visit www.aspirals.ca.

Recommended Reading

FICTION

• ***War Story***, by Gwen Edelman, Riverhead Books, $19, SC.

A beautifully written, moving love story of an aspiring writer and a much older, celebrated playwright and Holocaust survivor.

• ***The Curious Case of Benjamin Button apt. 3W***, by Gabriel Brownstein, W.W. Norton, $34.99, HC.

This debut collection of original, funny, and sometimes unsettling stories, based on the lives of a group of eccentric residents on Manhattan's Upper West Side in the late 20th century, incorporates elements of works by Auden, Kafka, Hawthorne, Singer and Fitzgerald. (The title is taken from Fitzgerald's *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*.) By a very talented and imaginative storyteller.

• ***The I.L. Peretz Reader***, by Ruth R. Wisse, Yale University Press, $28.95, SC.

"If you want to discover the beauty, the depth, the unique wonder of Yiddish literature, read this volume by its master." -Elie Wiesel

NON-FICTION

• ***Best-Kept Secrets of Judaism***, by Rabbi Reuven P. Bulka, Targum/Feldheim, $21.99, HC.

The author, drawing upon the classic *Sefer Chareidim* of Rabbi Elazar Ezkari, presents facets of observance that may be unfamiliar to many committed Jews and deepens our understanding of Torah wisdom. Topics range from belief in God to environmental issues to relationships.

• ***One People, Two Worlds***, by Ammiel Hirsch and Yosef Reinman, Schocken Books, $40, HC.

A fascinating, ongoing dialogue between two brilliant, prominent rabbis – one reform, one orthodox – who respectfully discuss, on a profound level, their convictions and differences.

• ***Hitler's Inferno: Eight Intimate and Personal Histories from the Holocaust***, by Vera Schiff, Raj Publishing, $19.95, SC.

This fine addition to Holocaust literature describes the lives of individuals of various backgrounds and temperaments before and under Nazi occupation.

• ***Rabbinic Exegesis of Biblical Names and Narratives***, by David Mendel Harduf, Beit Ra'if Publishing, $25, SC.

According to the Talmud and legend, prominent biblical persons, nations and places are referred to by various names. Often, moral truths may be derived from the exposition of the names. The original explanations are fully presented in the Hebrew version of this comprehensive, interesting and scholarly book, which consists of a thesaurus and a dictionary of biblical proper names in rabbinic literature.

YOUTH

Ages 9-12

• ***The Confe$$ion$ and Secret$ of Howard J. Fingerhut***, by Esther Hershenhorn, Holiday House, $27.95, HC.

"Many people dream of Succe$$, but few go after it quite like Howie Fingerhut..." A warm, humorous story about the determined, young Howie's business accomplishments.

Ages 3-6

• ***Sammy Spider's First Trip to Israel***, by Sylvia A. Rouss, Kar-Ben Publishing, $12.95, SC.

This adorable book about the five senses is the latest addition to the Sammy Spider series. Sammy misses his mother during the trip and wishes she were there to touch and feel, enjoy the smells, hear the sounds, enjoy the tastes, and see the sights of Israel.

Recommended Reading appears monthly. This list is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

dacor RANGES

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2 lg. eggplants, sliced 1/2" slices
olive oil
salt and pepper
2 tblsp. capers, drained
2 tblsp. parsley, chopped
2 tblsp. basil, julienne
2 tblsp. chives, chopped
2 lg. red peppers, roasted, seeded
1 lg. yellow pepper, roasted, seeded
16 oz. mozzarella, thinly sliced lengthwise
1/2 cup pine nuts, toasted, chopped
extra virgin olive oil, for drizzling

Brush eggplant slices with olive oil. Season with salt and pepper; arrange in one layer on baking sheets; broil in batches until golden. Transfer to paper towels; drain. Combine capers, parsley, basil and chives; set aside; cut peppers into wide strips.

Line loaf pan with plastic wrap, leaving 5" overhang. Assemble terrine: eggplant, peppers, mozzarella, pine nuts, beginning and ending with eggplant Cover with plastic overhang; weight down loaf pan with soup cans; chill in refrigerator for 24 hrs. Unmold, remove weights; invert terrine onto cutting board. Remove pan and plastic wrap; carefully cut slices with serrated knife. Serve slices drizzled with extra virgin olive oil and sprinkling of salt and parsley

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Dear Karilani,

This fall, I am attending university in my hometown while my best friend is going to a school that is a two-hour drive from where we live. She has been looking forward to going, and I am happy she is so excited, but I am worried that once she leaves she will forget about me. We have grown up together and I can't imagine life without her. What should I do?

Left at Home

About Teens

Dear Left at Home,

It is normal to feel insecure about your friend leaving. She is going through a big change and it will be difficult for you to adjust to her not always being around.

Instead of worrying about the lack of time you will have together, focus on making plans for the time you do have. Set aside a few days before she leaves for the two of you to do all things that you enjoy doing together. Eat one last meal in your favourite restaurant and see a movie in the theatre you went to every weekend.

You should also make long-term plans. Book a vacation together for the winter holidays. This will give you something to look forward to and will ensure that you keep in touch. Communicate with each other by phone and e-mail.

As well, you need to remember that you are also going to experience some changes. You may not be leaving home, but you will still be meeting many people. Create study groups with your classmates and join some of the clubs your new school has to offer. Don't rush home when your classes let out – instead, spend some time on campus so you can meet as many people as possible.

Don't look at your friend leaving as something negative. Rather, view it as a step forward in your life. The next time the two of you see each other, you will both have many stories to trade and advice to share. Going to different schools does not have to be the end of your friendship. The distance will only affect your relationship if you let it.

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

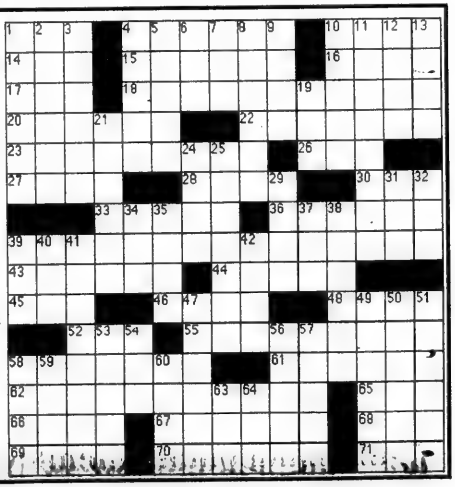
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 42.)

Rosh Hashana – Remembering the Temple
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Researcher's subj.
4. "Professor" of music, 1950's radio
10. On left bk. of Red River of the North
14. Damage
15. Acted Lawrence of Arabia
16. Willy genus
17. Khamor, in Cannes
18. Site of the ruins of the second sacred complex
20. Specialized groups, as in military
22. "If _____ thee, O Jerusalem"
23. Muscular Scottish feat
26. Ideology
27. Semi-precious stone
28. Mirrors, in Metulla
30. African ethnic group
33. Kol _____ ("voice of the heart")
36. Horse groom
39. Panorama from 18 across
43. Cat ___ Hot ___ Roof
44. Kind of twang
45. Samuel's mentor
46. Family name, acronym for "righteous priest"
48. Wiesel
52. Nickname for Miriam
55. Hystrionics
58. "_____ ___ me as to thy thinkings" – Shakepeare (Othello)
61. Smooches
62. First temple's builder
65. First patriarch, familiarly
66. Immersed in, colloquially
67. Card or Dodger, say, as a Rake?
68. ___ sequitur
69. One of the lochs (hold the bagels!)
70. Negative contractions
71. British river

Down
1. Wham!
2. The Land to which Israel migrated
3. Ticked off, on the part of
4. Diameter, in Dimona
5. Nuclear detonation
6. Day, in Degania
7. Small conciliatory favor
8. U.S. immigration port of entry
9. Where Eilat coral grows
10. King Hussein's queen, namesakes
11. Illegal substances lab
12. Teen affliction
13. Arm of N. Sea
19. A Muppet Miss' term for self
21. Fido house?
24. Hersheiser
25. Rosh Hashanah's month, by number, by number
29. Club, Irish, rock, or brook
31. ___ canto
32. Conjunctions
34. ___ was saying, ...
35. Spare of frame
37. "Quiet!", in Yiddish
38. Mosaic installers
39. Coat-of-many-colors wearer, familiarly
40. Army joiner, for short
41. Clothing
42. Labyrinth
47. Coral island, between Q and S
49. Town of Londonderry, Ireland
50. Refrigerator, old style
51. Member of sect, opposed priesthood's calendar
53. Othello's nemesis, namesakes
54. Israel's parliamentary reps.
56. Around
57. Neginot, in English
58. " ... under my _____"
59. Jerusalem, or Aleppo
60. 2,200 pounds, in Petach Tikvah
63. Solomon dug this
64. ___amie



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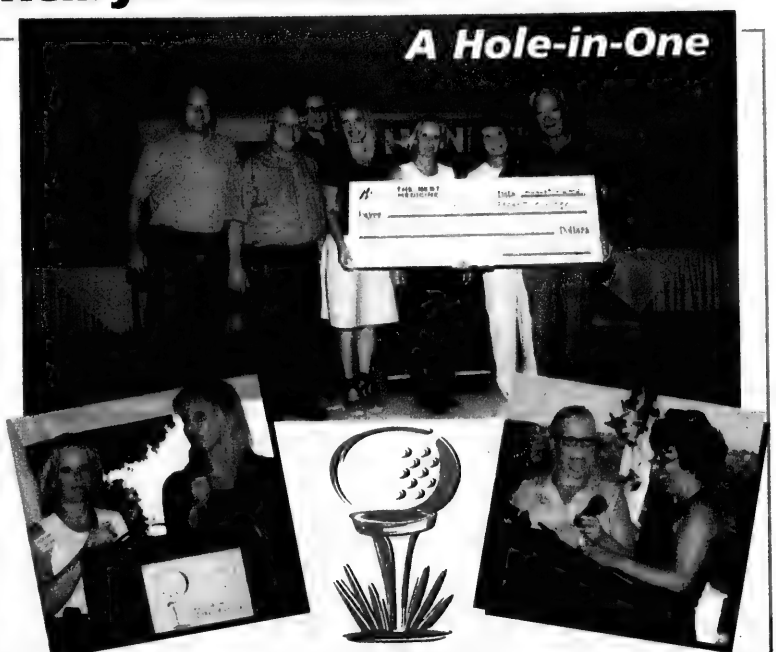

The 6th annual Henry's Tournament fore Health in support of the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre at Mount Sinai Hospital, was held on Monday, August 12, 2002 at the Board of Trade Country Club. It was another Sold Out event, raising close to $175,000 for the Breast Centre. Over 300 women showed up on this beautiful sunny day to play golf, shop at the silent and live auctions, enjoy the Iceberg Vodka martini bar, and walk away with great gifts including a new pair of golf shoes and new club head covers.

To top off the wonderful day, Karen Garscadden hit a hole-in-one – the first in tournament history! Many thanks to our generous sponsors who helped make this day memorable, especially Title Sponsor, Henry's Camera and Presenting Sponsor, Scotiabank. Other major sponsors included IBM, Royal de Versailles, Air Canada, CFMT, Canadian Spirit, and Audi. A special thank you to Sam Winberg. Without our sponsors, donors and players we would not have been able to reach our 6 year total of over $750,000.

September 11th Remembered

The world is a different place since last September. One of the changes is with regards to our preparedness for bioterrorism. The successful dissemination of anthrax spores through the mail demonstrated to all just how unprepared we were for a bioterrorist attack. Since then, much has been accomplished to allow us to better deal with such a threat; decisions have been made with regards to the purchase of additional smallpox vaccine, the allocation of new monies for training and equipping first responders, research, and upgrading laboratory facilities across Canada to be able to process biological specimens. As part of that preparedness, Dr. Donald E. Low, Chief of the Department of Microbiology at Mount Sinai Hospital, has been appointed by the Federal Government to Chair of the National Advisory Committee on Chemical, Biological, Radio-Nuclear Safety, Security, and Research. The mandate of this committee is to provide expert advice to the Minister of Health and Health Canada on what elements to consider, prepare for, and respond to, should a bioterrorism event occur in Canada.

On an anniversary that stirs emotions of loss, we urge you to remember the generosity and compassion that have been expressed over the last year and join us in extending heartfelt condolences to those who experienced loss and pain.

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This Week

National

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King Edward school celebrates 100 years. *Page 13*

Concordia protest: On the front line. *Page 27*

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'Fight regimes sponsoring terror'

Former Israeli PM gives defiant speech in Toronto

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Benjamin Netanyahu capped a tumultuous speaking tour of four Canadian cities last week by calling for the overthrow of Arab regimes that sponsor terrorism.

"The way to fight terrorism is to fight the regimes sponsoring it," the former Israeli prime minister said in a speech at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, given under the auspices of State of Israel Bonds.

Netanyahu, whose Likud government lasted from 1996 until 1999, said the Palestinian Authority (PA), led by Yasser Arafat, is a terrorist entity that must be eradicated.

Describing the PA as "Arafatstan," Netanyahu declared that Arafat, his former negotiating partner under the Olso accords, would have "to go down." Introduced as "prime minister," Netanyahu lumped the PA with the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, which was ousted last year, and with Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq, which the United States seeks to dismantle.

Pro and anti-Israel demonstrators outside the North York theatre where Benjamin Netanyahu spoke. *[Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications]*

Claiming that the root cause of terrorism is totalitarianism, Netanyahu said that terrorism can only be challenged if the dictatorships that nurture it are replaced with democratic governments.

"We're in a great battle," he told an audience running into the hundreds. "Terrorism has to be fought and vanquished."

Netanyahu, who was Israel's ninth and youngest prime minister, arrived in Toronto after stops in Winnipeg, Montreal and Ottawa.

He was scheduled to speak to the U.S. Congress about terrorism on Sept. 12, a day after the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C.

His engagements in Canada were arranged by Israel Bonds, the Asper Foundation and Hebrew University.

Netanyahu's tour was dogged by anti-Israel demonstrations.

Continued on page 26

Israelis recall 9/11

Many Israelis gathered outside the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv last week to show solidarity with the United States and to remember the victims of the attacks last Sept. 11. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon also read a commemorative statement on behalf of the Israeli government in which he said "any display of weakness in the battle against terror is destined to claim a heavy price." *[Israel photos]*

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Sukkot
Candlelighting: 7:02
Sept. 22 Havdallah: 8:07

Hopes dashed for release of Iranian Jews — please see page 9

The News in Brief

CANADA

Menorah Appeal

TORONTO — Chosen People Ministries is appealing a Federal Court of Canada ruling barring it from using a menorah as a legally protected logo. In May, the court ruled the missionary group was not entitled to register a stylized menorah as an official mark, in part because the symbol is so closely associated with the Jewish people.

ISRAEL

Citizenship Revoked

JERUSALEM — Israeli Interior Minister Eli Yishai has revoked the citizenship of Nahad Abu Kishaq, an Israeli Arab who is in prison facing charges of helping Hamas carry out terrorist attacks. Unlike two other Israeli Arabs whom Yishai wants to strip of their citizenship, Kishaq did not take steps to appeal the decision within the 30-day period granted by Yishai.

Saddam Spoke to Bibi

JERUSALEM — Former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu said last week that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein secretly communicated with him in 1998 to say Iraq would not launch a missile attack on Israel. Netanyahu said it was thought at the time that Saddam might launch a missile attack, as he had done during the 1991 Persian Gulf War, because of tensions over UN weapons inspections. "I sent him a message and told him that this was a very wise decision on his part [not to attack]," Netanyahu said.

Boy Recruited

JERUSALEM — A Fatah cell in Nablus recruited a 15-year-old boy to carry out a suicide attack in Israel, according to Israeli officials. The boy's relatives were informed of the plot by Israel's Shin Bet domestic security service, the Associated Press reported.

Army Probes Deaths

JERUSALEM — An Israeli army committee said soldiers followed proper procedures in recent incidents in which 13 Palestinian civilians were killed by Israeli military fire. The three separate incidents took place near the Gaza settlement of Netzarim, the West Bank town of Tubas and the West Bank city of Hebron. The committee submitted its findings Sept. 6.

WORLD

Leave, Israelis Told

RIO DE JANEIRO — The leading candidate to become Brazil's next vice-president says Israelis should leave the Middle East. Interviewed by a Jewish journalist last week about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Senator Jose Alencar said, "There is only one exit: Israel must buy territory somewhere else. Otherwise there will be an everlasting problem in that area. The United States could help." Jewish observers were saddened that the two leading candidates for the presidency – who are both affiliated with Alencar's Workers party – did not distance themselves from Alencar's comments.

Envoy Sent to Algeria

PARIS — The former French ambassador to Britain, who last year used an expletive to describe Israel, reportedly has been reassigned to Algeria. Daniel Bernard was recalled from his posting in London last month. He achieved notoriety late last year when he referred to Israel as "that shitty little country" at a London luncheon.

Owner Convicted

BERLIN — A German club owner was convicted Sept. 4 of inciting hatred and anti-Semitism. Rudolf Fischer, who was sentenced to six months' probation, went on trial for cancelling a Jewish charity event in Munich that was to have featured the granddaughter of former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin. The event, to raise money for Keren Hayesod, was to have included Noa Ben-Artzi, but Fischer said at the time he didn't want to host political events.

Reward Offered

BERLIN — Germany is offering a $10,000 (US) reward for clues leading to the arrest of vandals who desecrated a Holocaust memorial near Berlin. On Sept. 5, vandals firebombed a museum commemorating the April 1945 death march of 45,000 concentration camp inmates deeper into Germany as the Soviet armies approached at the end of World War II. They also scrawled a swastika and SS symbols outside the museum at Belower Wald near Berlin. Officials described the incident as the worst anti-Semitic attack on a Holocaust memorial in a decade.

Legislator Ousted

ATLANTA — The father of a well-known anti-Israel U.S. congresswoman has lost his own re-election bid. Just three weeks after Representative Cynthia McKinney, a Democrat from Georgia, was upset, Billy McKinney lost his chance to keep his seat as a Georgia state representative to John Noel. The Atlanta Jewish community, which had been angered by the elder McKinney's anti-Semitic remarks, supported Noel. Before his daughter lost her congressional race last month, McKinney spelled out the reason for his daughter's tough fight: "J-E-W-S," he said in a television interview.

PA Mocks U.S. on Sept. 11 Anniversary

JERUSALEM— The official daily newspaper of the Palestinian Authority (PA) ran two cartoons ridiculing the United States on the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, according to Palestinian Media Watch.

One cartoon appearing in *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida* depicted Uncle Sam running away from the words "Sept. 11." The second showed the World Trade Center towers standing over a mass of dead bodies that are described as the victims of American imperialism.

The PA had ordered its security forces to prevent any form of celebration marking the Sept. 11 attacks, the *Jerusalem Post* reported last week.

Meanwhile, Israeli President Moshe Katsav conveyed a message of support and condolence to the United States on Sept. 11. In a message to U.S. President George W. Bush, Katsav also said that for the past decade, the world had ignored warning signs of such attacks.

Various events were held in Israel to commemorate the anniversary of the attacks, including a performance of Mozart's *Requiem*, one of many memorial concerts held around the world.

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PM names new ambassador to Great Britain

First Jewish high commissioner to London

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Mel Cappe, a former clerk of the Canadian Privy Council, secretary to the cabinet and head of the public service, has been appointed Canada's ambassador to Britain and Northern Ireland.

"I am the first Jewish high commissioner to London as far as I know," he said in an interview on the eve of the High Holy Days.

"I'm not sure whether Donald MacDonald, Roy McMurtry, Fred Eaton or Roy McLaren were Jewish," he added, displaying a touch of wry humour. He was referring to his predecessors in Britain.

Cappe, who was Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's special advisor until May, is 53.

He was born and educated in Toronto, the son of Dave and Patty Cappe, whom he described as his "guiding lights."

An economist who graduated from the University of Toronto and the University of Western Ontario, Cappe joined the civil service in 1975.

He and his wife, Marni – an urban planner who left her job with the Federation of Canadian Municipalities to accompany her husband – arrived in London on Aug. 17.

"Her majesty, the queen, will be having us over for tea shortly," he said.

This is Cappe's first posting as a diplomat.

"I'm very pleased and excited to have been given the opportunity to represent my country abroad. My 27 years of experience as an economist and senior government official prepared me well for this job," he said.

His first priorities will be to promote British investment in Canada and to facilitate trade with Britain.

"Government-to-government relations start off deep and strong and I want to continue to maintain that," he noted.

"I also want to change British preconceptions of Canada by advancing Canadian culture."

Cappe, who had aspired to be an academic, joined the civil service with the intention of staying a year while he finished his PhD thesis.

"I found, instead, that the issues I worked on were fascinating and the people I worked with, contrary to the preconceptions and prejudices I had, were intellectually stimulating and personally challenging. So I never did finish my PhD."

During his years in Ottawa, Cappe held several senior economic and policy positions.

He was deputy secretary to the Treasury Board and deputy minister of the environment.

In addition, Cappe was deputy minister of human resources development, deputy minister of labour and chair of the Employment Insurance Commissioin.

As Privy Council clerk, he was Canada's top civil servant.

He held the position for three and a half years, during which time he dealt with the Y2K phenomenon, the war in Kosovo, the Sept. 11 attacks and the war in Afghanistan.

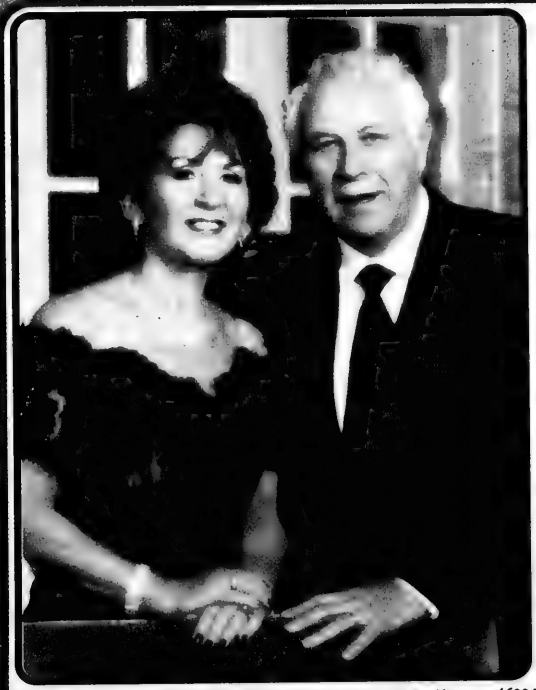
Cappe's father was a pharmacist before he retired. He refers to his mother as "E-bubby, because of her obsession with e-mail."

Mel Cappe

His brother, Lorne, an architect and urban designer, works for the city of Toronto.

"He has taught me a tremendous amount about life and what's important in it."

Continued on page 14



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Greater Toronto Area

It was like a movie set

From the editor's desk

Last week, I and approximately 1,000 others attended the speech that former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu delivered at the Toronto Centre for the Arts on behalf of Israel Bonds.

On arriving at the theatre, what struck the senses first was the level of the din and the noise. Two crowds of people, separated by a driveway not more than 20 feet wide, shouted at each other, taunted each other and hurled slogans and occasionally epithets at each other.

The deeply contrasting colours of the two opposing sides struck the senses as well.

The larger group, the 250 or so anti-Israel, anti-Netanyahu's-right-to-speak protesters, was festooned primarily in red, white, green and black, the colours of the Palestinian movement, the massive concentration of which evoked sensations of earthiness, compactness, dark, brooding.

The smaller group of the 150 or so pro-Israel, pro-Netanyahu's-right-to-speak demonstrators, was covered in blue and white, which engendered, as the colours were always intended to, breezy, ethereal sensations.

Of course, I was undoubtedly projecting pre-conditioned associations upon the weaving, waving tableau of flags and colours. But it was indisputable in my mind, nevertheless, that the weight of the highly contrasting colours evoked equally contrasting, very different emotional gravities.

Even before my senses had adjusted to the raucous sounds and sights, it was quickly apparent that it was not the narrow curbed driveway that kept the two haranguing hordes apart. Rather, it was the metal barricades on each side of the driveway and, of course, the police.

Up close, observed at street level, from underneath their massive chests, eight large horses standing side by side – their uniformed, well-equipped police riders sitting very tall in their respective saddles – create an imposing impression of strength.

When one adds to the eight horses at least 100 riot-ready police officers in operational formation, the impression of strength burgeons into an unambiguous demonstration of power and resolve.

It was like a scene from the movies.

But, of course, it was not.

No one was acting.

There were, however, cameras, lots of them: television cameras, video cameras, digital cameras, single lens reflex cameras and a number of disposable ones too.

The certainty that there would be so many cameras was, of course, one of the main reasons that there were anti-Israel protesters near the entrance to the theatre.

The images of their protest, beamed to points far and wide around the globe, were strategically more important than the fact of their protest. The protest, in and of itself, achieved nothing.

And because there would be no violence in Toronto as there had been the previous day in Montreal, the accolades for the protesters from their anti-Israel, anti-democracy kindred souls would derive from the televised proof of their "courage" in shouting at, and staring down, a huge rabble of more than 1,000 (including the hard-core supporters of Israel inside the theatre) oppressive Zionists.

Amid the anti-Israel protesters, there were a plethora of banners, flags and signs, each imparting its timeless message. It was sad, but not surprising, to see two banners purported to be borne by Jewish youth for peace and Jewish women against the occupation. But the only flags amid the anti-Israel protesters that really angered were the ones emblazoned with the emblem of CUPE Ontario.

It is offensive – morally and politically – that this union, which includes some of the teaching staff at our universities, would join a campaign whose purpose, at its core, is to vilify, incriminate and delegitimize Israel, to see the Jewish State eliminated.

The presence among the anti-Israel forces of the union that represents some of their teachers made it so heartening to see that the majority of the pro-Israel forces were students. They showed commitment, determination and even courage to be on the other side of the "barricade."

I spoke with two of the student demonstrators: Paul Cooper and Miriam Levin. They are members of the Young Zionist Partnership at York University.

When they were told that the International Socialists were distributing pamphlets urging individuals to show anti-Israel solidarity, when they were told that a number of activists from the group Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights were headed to Toronto from Montreal, Cooper and Levin decided to take their place on the side of the driveway defending Israel.

"We came to help ensure that Benjamin Netanyahu would be able to speak," Cooper said.

"We came to show our support," Levin added.

The scene outside the theatre was a shock to the senses; it boiled the blood and stirred the emotions.

It was, however, a fitting prelude to the searing message concerning truth and terrorism that would later be delivered inside by Israel's former prime minister.

* * *

A number of bemused readers called last week to point out the incongruous and confusing sub-headline "U.S., Israel agree" that appeared under the main headline "Libya wants nuclear weapons" on page 1. It seemed clear to us at the time. But I agree with those readers: we should have been more judicious in our choice of words.

—MBD

See JN

YAMIM NORA'IM TRADITIONS: Women in Tel Aviv, left, perform the custom of *Tashlich*, the symbolic casting of one's sins onto the water, on the second day of Rosh Hashanah. Some days later, in Bnei Brak, another woman, far right, performs the custom of *Kapparot*. [Isranet and RNS/Reuters photos]

Victims of 9/11 honoured at service

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Canada is safer now than it was one year ago, but we have no way of knowing how safe we really are, said MP Art Eggleton, at a Sept. 11 memorial service.

"Terrorists nowadays do not launch military actions against other militaries, they go after weaknesses in the system.

"As we strengthen those weaknesses, they will look for other weaknesses," Eggleton said at the service sponsored by the Institute for International Affairs of B'nai Brith Canada.

Terrorism has now become an everyday part of our vocabulary, he said, but it is nothing new in other parts of the world.

"While we stand shoulder to shoulder with the United States, we must also stand shoulder to shoulder with Israel.

"With its own forces, Israel is trying to protect its people. We must give it moral support and make sure innocent civilians are protected from people who threaten their lives," Eggleton said.

The campaign against terrorism will not be won on the basis of military operations, he said. "We have to find ways to deter terrorists. We have to find ways to cut off their money, but that has not happened. They are still collecting funds.

"We must also stop them from capturing the hearts and minds of their young people."

Jason Kenney, a Calgary MP and a member of the Canadian Alliance party, said that on Sept. 11 last year, "we all learned what it is like to face hatred combined with the force of violence.

"It is an experience that the Jewish people have suffered far too often," he said.

We must remember that those who unleashed their violence on the United States one year ago, are the same people who have killed innocent civilians in Israel, said Kenney.

"We as Canadians who support democracy, justice and freedom, have to stand by the victims of terrorism and violence on Sept. 11, and every week in Israel.

"It is important for us to realize the magnitude of terrorism in other parts of the world. We have to think of the impact it has on Israeli society," said Kenney.

The evening, which began with the singing of the Canadian and American national anthems, included a candle-lighting ceremony, and poetry reading by CHAT students Jamie Filer, Rebecca Roher and Deborah Cole.

K'el Maleh Rachamim was sung by Rudy Bromberg. The service ended with the sounding of the shofar.

TEL AVIV SERVICE:

A memorial service was held in Tel Aviv to honour the victims of 9/11.

[Israel Sun photo]

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NEW ADDRESS

Demonstrators rally outside Netanyahu event

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel's supporters welcomed Benjamin Netanyahu to the Toronto Centre for the Arts last week.

But outside, pro-Palestinian protesters shouting "Shame, shame" and "End the occupation" branded the former Israeli prime minister a war criminal.

Carrying Israeli and Palestinian flags and waving placards, the two sides were kept apart by barricades and armed police officers.

Violence did not flare, but the atmosphere was tense as Jews and Palestinians booed each other in the hour or so before Netanyahu delivered his speech.

Pro-Israel (left) and pro-Palestinian (right) demonstrators held separate rallies outside the Toronto Centre for the Arts last week. [Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications]

The messages on the signs and placards on the Jewish side were blunt and to the point, including:

- "Israel, We Support You;"
- "Stop Supporting Terrorism;"
- "Uproot Arafat's Kingdom of Terror;" and
- "Palestinianism is Nazism;"

The Palestinians and their supporters were just as emphatic.

They chanted, "Bibi, you're not welcome here, take this message loud and clear," and "Long live Palestine."

An Arab woman, wheeling an infant in a carriage, held up a sign: "Zionism is Racism." A man carried a sign: "Right of Return is Sacred."

Meanwhile, a non-Arab man shouted, "Israel-U.S., how many kids did you kill today?"

Close by, supporters of the Palestinians bellowed, "Go back to Russia, Go Back to Europe."

On a black lamp post, a sticker read: "Holocaust victims created once more."

As this reporter waded into the pro-Palestinian crowd after talking to a woman on the Jewish side of the divide, a beefy Palestinian man asked, "Are you Jewish?"

"Yes."

"Shanah Tovah. Welcome," the man replied.

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Bookstore to keep selling pro-Palestinian buttons

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A local doctor says he has purchased his last book from the Toronto Women's Bookstore.

Dr. Ari Zaretsky, the head of the cognitive behaviour therapy clinic at Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre and an assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of Toronto, says on a recent visit to the Harbord Street store, he was enraged to find pro-Palestinian buttons on display at the front counter.

The buttons – for sale in a separate display from other buttons – are arranged under a sign that reads "End the Occupation Buttons $2."

There are several buttons, some of which say "Free Palestine – Time for Peace Time for Women;" "End the Occupation Now;" and "Palestine – Homeland Denied."

"The framing is in feminist language, but when we read between the lines, the mindset is that Israel oppresses the Palestinians," Zaretsky said.

"They told me they believe in working towards peace and that they do not support terrorism, but they also say that Israel should leave the territories.

"The store does not sell buttons condemning suicide bombers. They are not taking an active stance against [them]."

Esther Vise, a board member of the bookstore said that they have no specific buttons that call for the end of suicide bombing "because we believe that the statement of 'end the occupation' encompasses this view. We believe that suicide bombing in Israel is a direct response to the larger issue of the ongoing state oppression and subjugation of Palestinians and to the occupation of Palestinian territories."

Anjula Gogia, co-manager of the store refused to talk about the issue but did provide *The CJN* with a written statement.

"We continue to carry the buttons, as they are consistent with our mandate," the statement reads.

That mandate includes "working in an anti-oppression framework that supports liberation struggles, anti-racist movements, struggles against anti-Semitism, and human rights work" and "carrying books and materials that deal with issues of feminism, racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, anti-Semitism, ableism, classism and ageism," the statement says.

The mandate also includes a "commitment to social justice and activism" and "carrying books by and about first nations women, women of colour, Jewish women, lesbian/bisexual women and trans people."

Regarding the Middle East crisis, the statement continues, "we work with individuals and groups within Jewish, Palestinian and social activist communities, such as Women Against the Occupation, Jewish Women's Committee to End the Occupation, Creative Response, and the Coalition for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine.

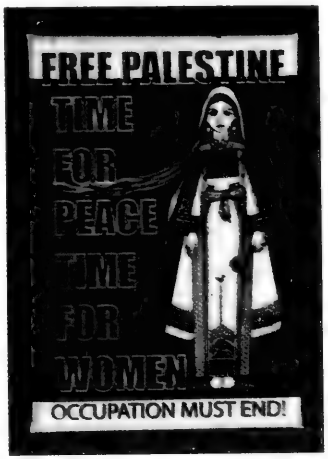
"We support the right to self-determination for Palestinians, and we support the right for Jews and Palestinians to live in peace. We believe that ending the occupation is the first step in order to realize that goal.

"We are dismayed by the attempts to silence dissent on this issue in Toronto. Those criticizing the bookstore have equated criticism of Israel with being anti-Jewish. We believe that an end to the occupation is part of the struggle against anti-Semitism. We recognize that anti-Jewish and anti-Arab attacks in Canada and around the world have been on the increase. We condemn those attacks."

Len Rudner, director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said the clenched fist that appears in the centre of one of the buttons is more a symbol of solidarity than a symbol of violence.

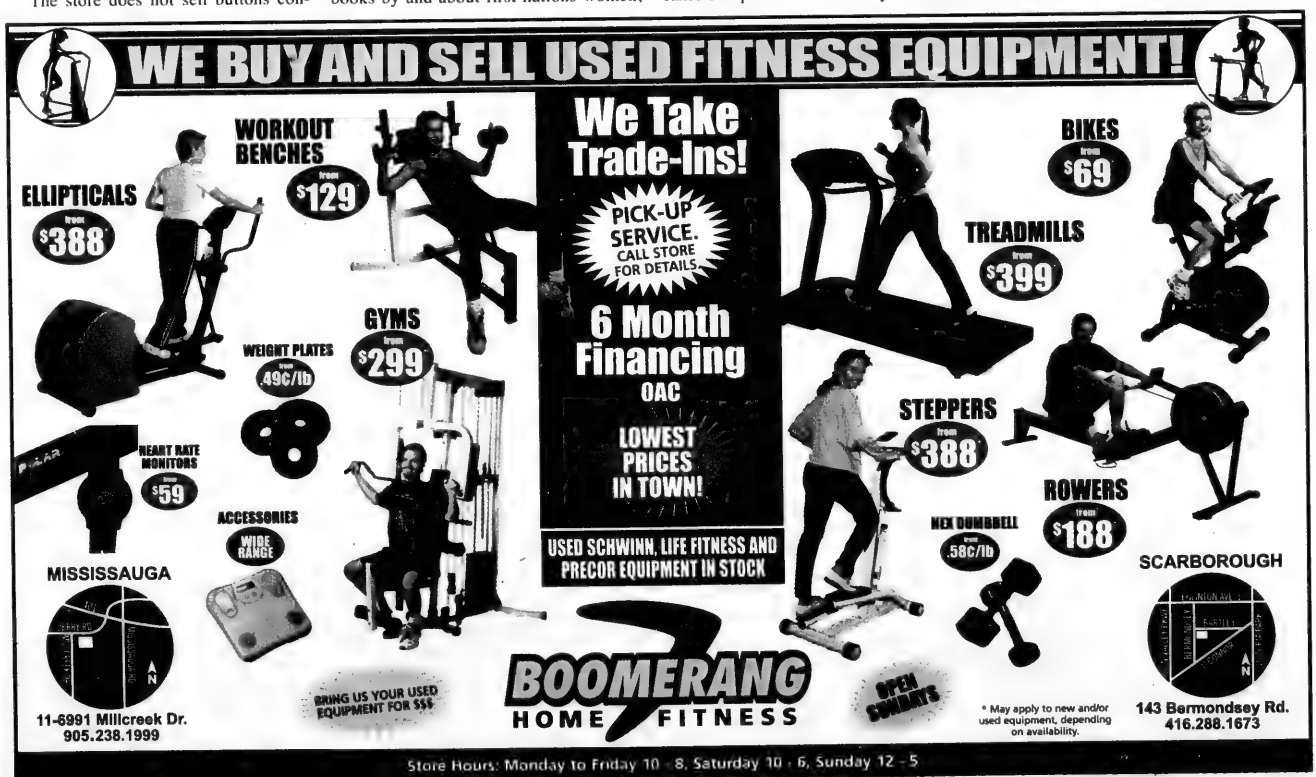
"My interpretation is that there are groups within the women's movement who have chosen to take a particular position.

"To some, the situation is driven by the so-called occupation. That is clearly not a shared opinion. The store has the right to hold its position, but [that position] is regrettable.



"I believe it is simplistic to place the blame at the feet of the Israelis. This approach denies the facts of Middle East history pre-1967," Rudner said.

Said Zaretsky: "It's a free country. They have every right to sell their buttons, but I strongly feel that we, the Jewish community of Toronto, should express how we feel about their behaviour by not buying their books."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Dry Bones

SUKKOT, ...AND IN CITIES AROUND THE WORLD..
THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL SAT IN PRETTY LITTLE HUTS..
AND AWAITED THE COMING OF AN AGE OF PEACE..
AS THEY HAD DONE FOR SO MANY GENERATIONS BEFORE.

Inappropriate musing

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is correct in wanting to ameliorate the misery and the poverty in which so much of the world's people are forced to live. He is to be commended for expressing, let alone, holding that view. But he is completely wrong to imply that there was any, even the slightest, correlation between the misery that exists in parts of the world and the massive murderous attacks that were perpetrated on the United States last September. And he deserves to be harshly criticized for implying the existence of that correlation in his interview with the CBC that aired last week.

It does not gainsay the need to mobilize the advanced, industrialized world on behalf of the non-advanced, unindustrialized world, to deny that Osama bin Laden's soldiers struck America for any reason other than sheer radical, religious zealotry.

Bin Laden's grievances against the United States are theological and cultural. They are not economic or developmental. He has said as much himself citing, as his foremost reason among many, the presence of U.S. (read: infidel) soldiers and especially women U.S. soldiers on Saudi (read: Islamic) territory. He also added, of course, the close association between the U.S. and Israel (read: the Jews) as another flint that has sparked his hatred for the United States.

Nor is Osama bin Laden, or any other member of Al Qaeda, representative of the plight of the sorrowful "poor" of the world for whom Chrétien feels such laudable empathy. Bin Laden and many of his comrades are among the wealthiest, most educated and most privileged people on earth. Like the Taliban regime that harboured him, bin Laden's chief aspiration has been singularly focused: to impose on others a form of society that exactly reflects his own perfect image.

To tie his radical, xenophobic, intolerant, violent, anti-democratic, anti-western, anti-Semitic outlook and actions to the predicament of the world's "poor" is actually an affront to the poor, most of whom simply want the opportunity to live in peace and to build a life for their families. Bin Laden speaks only for those who share his view of a world with no fundamental rights or freedoms, and certainly, with no State of Israel.

We caught a glimpse of the way such a world might look when, in downtown Montreal last week, a pack of protesters set upon Concordia University's Hall Building to thwart former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu from speaking openly and publicly. They wreaked havoc on the building and on some of the people, all of them Jews, who had hoped to hear Netanyahu speak. As police stood by, watching but not intervening, they also wreaked havoc on the core values and characteristics of Canadian life. All that remained after the violence ended was our resolve to know well and beware of the thugs who tried to steal our rights. If there was no conceivable justification for the Montreal violence, as the prime minister asserted the following day in Ottawa, how in good conscience, let alone logic, could he muse about a justification for Sept. 11?

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani (Hamid) Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

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Focus was misinterpreted

It is unfortunate that both Michael Brown ("Canadian academics and Israel," *CJN*, Sept. 12) and Ed Morgan ("Israel's advocates should focus on the right targets," *CJN*, Sept. 12) appear to have misinterpreted the essence of our essay about the treatment of Israel at Canadian universities and colleges ("Canadian pro-Israeli academics must challenge Mideast distortion," *CJN*, Aug. 22).

We have nothing but the greatest of respect for our colleagues, Jewish and non-Jewish, who vigorously work to promote an Israeli perspective on campus. Rather than belittling their efforts, we were in fact trying to draw attention to the numerous challenges currently confronting the pro-Israel community on Canadian campuses and to recommend practical ways for the organized Jewish community to address these challenges. One of our ideas was the establishment of a national body that could attract a "critical mass" of honest, intellectual discourse about Israel among Canadian academics while at the same time serving as an institutionalized mechanism for facilitating the exchange of Israeli and Canadian scholars.

Brown and Morgan are both right on one point. We are not attempting here to reinvent the wheel, inasmuch as the type of institution described above previously existed, at a relatively minimal cost to the Jewish community. Let's work together to direct our limited resources toward confronting the real adversary – academic colleagues who treat Israel unfairly. We definitely consider ourselves to be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

David Goldberg
Tilly Shames
Toronto

* * *

Re: Canadian pro-Israeli academics

In speaking of the "systematic global campaign to delegitimize Israel," David Goldberg and Tilly Shames imply we have no choice but to be either pro-Israeli or pro-Palestinian ("Canadian pro-Israeli academics must challenge Mideast distortion," *CJN*, Aug. 22). While I agree that we must condemn hate and calls for Israel's destruction, I do not believe that all criticisms of Israel – from both Jews and non-Jews – espouse an entirely anti-Israel perspective.

By reducing the discourse in our community to "us" or "them," we fail to engage in the glaring ethical dilemmas these criticisms bring to light and the valuable insights they offer. The act of self-criticism, while painful, is an invaluable part of a diverse, peaceful society.

Thus, I question Goldberg and Shames' unconditional assertion that obliges the Jewish community to exclusively "encourage Jewish academics... to speak out confidently on Israel's behalf." Rather than adhere to an uncompromising agenda that assumes it is immune to criticism, I call on Jewish academics to cultivate a more enriching and complex discourse that embraces and negotiates with differences rather than punishing and labelling them. Perhaps through such a process, we can sort through "the distortion of the facts" without asserting that "our" viewpoint is the sole representative of truth. Is it not possible, for the benefit of everyone, to develop more nuanced positions combining the essential elements of both the pro-Israeli and pro-Palestinian stances? A commitment to fulfilling this is necessitated by the realization that the prosperity of the Israeli people is dependent upon the prosperity of the Palestinian people.

James Sevitt
Toronto

* * *

A tragic day

Last week, I was among the hostages assembled in Concordia University's Hall Building – a prisoner of a Middle East mob composed of supporters of Al Qaeda, Al-Aqsa, Tanzim and suicide bombers. As a Holocaust survivor, the despicable spectacle reminded me of the European pogroms of the 1930s.

As an alumnus of Concordia, it particularly pained me to witness firsthand the fruits of the university's mismanagement, and its blatant inability to control the fascist, Nazi and destructive elements that have emerged from within the university.

Last week, the world had a taste of how political debate is conducted in the Middle East.

Last week, I cried as I witnessed the conquerors of the Middle East imposing on Montreal their distorted version of political debate.

Last week, I shed tears at having evidenced the mob embodiment of the Al-Aqsa "martyrs" sharing with Montrealers their Middle Eastern "civilization."

I also witnessed the total bankruptcy of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the Montreal police force and the City of Montreal authorities – all of whom turned a blind eye while people were spat at, pushed to the ground and forcibly prevented from entering the campus to hear former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu speak.

Last week will forever stand as a black and tragic day for Montreal, Quebec and Canada.

Baruch Cohen
Montreal

* * *

Kristallnacht in Canada

I was profoundly shocked that what happened in Germany at Kristallnacht in 1938 happened in Canada now. Roughnecks did what they wanted and the police did nothing. As I am still a Canadian, I urge Concordia University rector Frederick Lowy to expel the roughnecks, apologize to former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanhayu and invite him again.

Emil Fackenheim
Jerusalem

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Hopes dashed for release of Iranian Jews

By MICHAEL JORDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Another Jewish New Year has come and gone, and eight Iranian Jewish prisoners remain locked up in Iran on charges they spied for Israel.

Some observers had tracked recent rumours that the Islamic regime, with its membership in U.S. President George W. Bush's "axis of evil," might be rethinking some of its policies – including a possible pardon for a group of pious Jews believed to have been wrongly jailed in the first place.

For the third straight year, the lone Jewish member of the Iranian Parliament, Maurice Motamed, took to the floor of the legislative body in advance of Rosh Hashanah and appealed for freedom for the "Iran 10" – now down to eight, as two were released after serving their sentences.

Their release failed to materialize, though the authorities reportedly permitted their families to visit them in prison last Friday night to celebrate a Rosh Hashanah service together.

"We'd started seeing some changes with respect to attitudes toward religious minorities in general, and we were hoping this would translate into some actual movement on the ground," said Sam Kermanian, secretary-general of the Iranian-American Jewish Federation in Los Angeles, a community that boasts some 40,000 Iranian Jews.

"As far as we're concerned, we always felt these people did not belong in prison, that the charges against them were wrong. We would welcome the pardoning of these prisoners as an excellent first step forward in a more equitable treatment of religious minority groups."

That the holiday passed without the prisoners' release did not surprise more pessimistic Iran-watchers, who have long maintained that the mullahs in charge are deaf to international concerns and never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity to offer a goodwill gesture.

"I don't think they're smart enough to make these kinds of overtures," said Pooya Dayanim, spokesperson for the L.A.-based Council of Iranian-American Jewish Organizations.

"If they understood good PR work, they wouldn't have put these men in jail to begin with – and they wouldn't have landed in the 'axis of evil.'"

Thirteen Iranian Jewish men were first arrested in January and March 1999 and eventually charged with spying for the Mossad, Israel's foreign intelligence service.

Their real offence, said American Jewish observers, was that their increasingly devout observance of Orthodox Judaism became a source of irritation to the authorities.

Most of the men were religious leaders and came from the southern Iranian city of Shiraz, said to be a bastion of religious conservatism in general.

The arrests, it was believed, were intended as a signal to the rest of the community.

But the issue was soon sucked into the vortex of the political dynamic at the time – a power struggle between conservative forces, led by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and the reformist faction, led by President Mohammad Khatami, observers said.

The Islamists seized upon the issue to whip up anti-Israel fervour, which is often seen as a galvanizing factor among all Iranians.

In May 2000, after more than a year in solitary confinement, the Jews were brought before Iran's Revolutionary Court to deliver "confessions" that they had indeed spied for Mossad.

During the process, media and foreign observers were barred from the courtroom, the prosecutor served as judge and Israel said it had had no contact with the men. Most foreign diplomats and human-rights activists assailed the process as a sham.

Initially, it was feared the men might be executed. Since the Islamic Revolution in 1979, 17 Jews have been condemned to death, primarily for being accused spies.

But three of the 13 were acquitted, with the other 10 convicted on July 1, 2000, on various national-security charges. They were sentenced to terms ranging from four to 13 years.

The men appealed, and under international criticism, Tehran reduced the jail time in 2000 to two to nine years.

In March 2001, merchant Ramin Nematizadeh, who had taught religious school, was released after serving out his term.

And this past January, a second Jew, Hebrew teacher Faramarz Kashi, completed his term.

For the remaining eight, their lone hope seems to be a pardon from Khamenei.

Much of the Iranian Jewish community – both here and in Iran – has become resigned to the prisoners' fate.

"Iran now has too much to face besides this issue," Dayanim said.

"Unless Iran feels that releasing the prisoners will win them some kind of international brownie points, they will remain in prison and serve out their sentences."

Currently, with Iran's unemployment rate – which at an estimated 14 per cent, is particularly hard on the young and educated – and its stifling social restrictions, the significant strata of university students are reportedly ever more restive and disappointed with Khatami's promises of reform.

But it's not only U.S. Jews who are keeping up the pressure.

Foreign dignitaries visiting Tehran continue a steady drumbeat of criticism of Iran's treatment of its minorities, including the Jews behind bars.

In late July, for example, Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy and security chief, listed the concerns that impede improved relations between Iran and Europe: disregard for human rights, a muzzled media, acquisition of weapons of mass destruction and meddling in the Middle East.

For its part, Washington has become increasingly concerned about Iran's support for Palestinian terror groups. Iran has long been aiding Islamic Jihad and Hamas in the Palestinian territories, and Hezbollah on Israel's northern border.

And in January, ties between Iran and the Palestinian Authority surfaced with the Israeli interception of the Karine-A, a ship carrying more than 50 tons of weapons from Iran to the Gaza Strip.

Bush's now-famous "axis of evil" speech followed on Jan. 29.

Some in Washington suggest that Iran poses a much greater threat to Israel and the West than Iraq.

If nothing else, Iran's inclusion in the axis may be playing a part in Tehran's recent rally to the defence of arch-nemesis Iraq as Iran seeks to form a united front against Israel and the United States.

But as relations began to thaw, some thorny issues of the past have resurfaced.

Iraq, for example, is home to an Iranian dissident group, while Iran shelters an anti-Iraq dissident group of its own. When regimes both asked for the other to boot out the opposition groups, it re-opened old wounds.

Javeed Beit Yakov greets his family at his trial three years ago.

The insults they exchanged focused on which nation is truly in bed with the "Zionists."

"You will not find a single episode in history when the Persians have co-operation with the Arabs against the Zionists," said Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan.

To which, in the words of the Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hamid-Reza Asefi replied: "Baghdad had become a supporter of the Zionist regime by waging a destructive war on Iran, sowing the seeds of discord among Muslim nations."

Meanwhile, Iran's intense focus on Israel's actions against the Palestinians – coupled with the widely publicized arrest of the Shirazi Jews on spying charges – has fomented a hostile climate for Iran's remaining Jews, Dayanim said.

An estimated 22,000 to 25,000 Jews still live in the country, down from a peak of 100,000 or so before the 1979 revolution.

Dayanim said he has heard of Jewish children being beaten and harassed at school, with their fathers accused of being "Zionists."

"We're actively engaged in efforts to increase emigration," he said, but added that those efforts are hindered by the obstacles Jews face in trying to liquidate their assets.

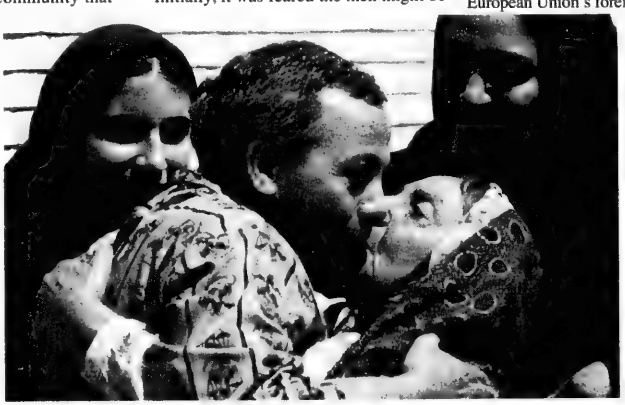
Those seeking to immigrate to the United States also face greater scrutiny from American immigration and FBI officials because of the new post-Sept. 11 restrictions.

Kermanian, meanwhile, remains optimistic about the future of Iran's Jews.

"Jews have lived in Iran for 2,500 years, always lived there as loyal citizens and they loved their country," he said.

"Even though there were ups and downs, Iranians and Jews found a way to live together in peace and co-operation. I have no doubt that with some goodwill, those days will return."

The remaining eight Iranian prisoners are listed under the "Let My People Go" headline on the CJN*'s editorial page every week.*



Asher Zadmehr, who was charged with spying for Israel, hugs his mother after his appearance in court in Tehran three years ago. [RNS/Reuters photos]

A visit with Robert St. John

Whenever I have occasion to remember my days during World War II, I think of one particular problem that faced me during the years I served with the U.S. Army in the fight against the Nazis. Aside from the basic need to survive the assaults of the enemy, there was the problem of staying in touch with my family in the United States.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Military censorship prohibited me from letting them know where my division was located. Only much later did I learn that they knew all along the general area where we were fighting, for an American correspondent often reported about the exploits of our division. He was none other than the famous Robert St. John, one of the best-known foreign correspondents of the time. Ever since, I have felt a special tie to this man who, without my knowledge, kept my family aware of our division's welfare, and therefore of mine as well.

He has now passed his 100th birthday, and I had the privilege of visiting him recently in his suburban Washington, D.C., home.

Naturally, I told him of his role in my family's life during the war, and he in turn shared some of his memories of that time and of the days when he, a non-Jew, was sent by his New York newspaper to cover Israel's War of Independence in 1948. Since then he has made news with his books, among which the biographies of David Ben-Gurion, Abba Eban and Eliezer Ben-Yehuda are probably the best known.

My friend, Janice Blumberg, who took me to see him, wrote this of St. John and his wife Ruth:

"Robert and Ruth are both truly remarkable people. Their zest for life, their keen sensitivity for the problems of the world, and their ongoing ability to entertain as well as to be entertained are unsurpassed by anyone I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. Their modest home is filled, wall to wall and ceiling to floor, with paintings, sculpture and fascinating objects they have brought from all over the world.

"Of all their qualities that endear them to everyone who knows them, the most admirable for many of us is their outspoken adherence to liberal causes, and their support of leaders and organizations that uphold them. An evening with the St. Johns is like walking into a living op-ed page with no reactionaries."

For those of my readers who are interested in becoming acquainted with some of St. John's writings, I suggest *Jews, Justice and Judaism*, *Ben-Gurion: Builder of Israel*, and *Tongue of the Prophets*, the story of Eliezer Ben-Yehuda, the father of modern Hebrew.

Back with a fresh view

There's nothing like returning home after an extended period abroad to freshen one's senses about life in Israel. It is now precisely one week since I came back from two months in Canada, and already my summer sojourn is fast receding into memory, overtaken by the intense reality here.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

My first days back in Jerusalem afforded me an unusual perspective, albeit a temporary one. It put the contrast between Toronto and my adopted home in the Middle East into sharp focus. Even in my jet-lagged state, as I reconnected with my life in Israel, I constantly experienced new-old impressions, sensations and observations.

I savoured this renewed sense of discovery, knowing it would not last long. Almost like a tourist, I marvelled (and sometimes cringed) at what I saw, aware that inevitably I will once again pretty much take such customs, traits and idiosyncrasies for granted the rest of the year.

So before I fully sink back into my Israeli reality, I'm jotting down some of the things that have caught my eye or crossed my mind recently. Many are obvious, some are profound, still others are banal, but all of them illustrate something about life in Israel, or Jerusalem, to varying degrees.

In no particular order, I was struck by:

- the insanely high prices in supermarkets;
- the total absence of billboards in Jerusalem;
- the number of people who asked me why I did not stay in Canada when I had the chance;
- the incredible taste of pears;
- the shameless littering in public places, especially parks;
- the quality of Israeli music on local radio and how great it is to hear it again;
- the special something in the air in Jerusalem;
- the resilience of people in the face of the Palestinian terrorist campaign;
- the heat of September;
- the relentless drumbeat of news;
- the impossible economics of life here;
- the light at sundown;
- the Mediterranean influence;
- the relative calm on the surface, although it has only been five weeks since the Hebrew University terror bombing;
- the concern and compassion people have for their country;
- the preparation for, and lead-up to, Rosh Hashanah;
- the seeming inability of people to allow others to get out of an elevator before rushing in themselves;
- the relative lack of pretense of Israelis;
- the high decibel level when people speak;
- the amount of dust in the air;
- the number of people going out in the evening despite the fear of new attacks;
- the sight of armed security guards at the entrance to every café and restaurant;
- the huge number of stray cats in the streets;
- the tiny number of homeless people in the streets (despite the economic adversity);
- the contrast between the image of Israel in the foreign media and the reality on the ground;
- the more satisfying taste of coffee here;
- the great look of Israeli youth;
- the disturbing number of smokers and dearth of smoke-free places;
- the incorrigibly aggressive driving habits of Israelis;
- the creative parking talents of local drivers;
- the low priority given to pedestrians;
- the shameless use of car horns;
- the arid Jerusalem cityscape deprived of rain since last spring;
- the imposing sense of so little space;
- the number of building sites despite a continuing real estate slump;
- the use of stone in building facades;
- the non-use of hard hats by construction workers;
- the excellent taste of local cottage cheese;
- the near-extinct species known as "foreign tourists in Israel;"
- the vibrancy of political debate in the media and in the street;
- the magic of a warm, late summer night in Jerusalem.

It all adds up, and yet there is of course so much more. Much of it serves to remind me why this country still has a hold on me and so many others. But you have to be here to fully understand that.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

Moving in the right direction

By any measure, 5762 was a difficult and depressing year for Israel and the Jewish people. Brutal Palestinian terror attacks took hundreds of lives and injured thousands, and the images of horror from the seder night in Netanya will remain indelibly engraved in our memories. In addition, there were assaults against synagogues, community centres and individual Jews throughout the world, while governments pretended they were "isolated incidents."

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

However, in the longer term, the past year may also emerge as a turning point, when the propaganda used to justify these attacks was finally exposed and the Jewish people regained their ability to fight back.

In some parts of the press, the automatic condemnation of Israel has ended, or at least the scope has been reduced. An increasing number of journalists, political leaders and diplomats around the world, including Canada, have stopped repeating the Palestinian myths that occupation and settlements are the root of all violence. The hidden history of terrorism has been restored, in particular the violence that took place long before the 1967 war and was (and remains) aimed at the destruction of Jewish sovereignty in Israel.

Following the leads of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and then U.S. President George W. Bush, even the usually soft Europeans have withdrawn their support for Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, recognizing that the Palestinian leadership is corrupt and composed of unreformed terrorists.

The BBC, the CBC, Reuters and other media outlets continue to allow Palestinian and other terrorists to hide behind terms such as "activists" and "fighters," but this practice is coming under increasing scrutiny and criticism.

From this perspective, 5762 can also be seen as the year that the Jewish people regained their collective voice and redoubled the commitment to the survival of Israel. The inherent democracy of the Internet has allowed for the wide circulation of independent sources of information and analysis that are not part of the "conventional wisdom" or the politically correct pro-Palestinian bias.

Using these resources, community organizations have mobilized to protest the biased agendas that focus exclusively on Palestinian "victimization," and to ensure that the myths and false slogans in the press are never left unanswered.

Without this activity, the Palestinian lies about a massacre in Jenin would have been accepted at face value. Working together, Jewish organizations also reversed some of the damage from the UN conference on racism that took place in Durban, South Africa, last September, and ensured that the Johannesburg conference on the environment was not turned into another Israel-bashing platform.

In addition, during the past year, the fallacy of the slogan that "acts of terrorism cannot be ended by military action" was exposed. Israeli security forces acted with a high level of professionalism and bravery to uproot the deeply entrenched Palestinian terrorist networks. In door-to-door fighting and extensive searches, weapons and explosives have been located and destroyed. The much-criticized policy of "targeted killings" has disrupted each of the terror groups and greatly impeded their ability to conduct deadly attacks.

Similarly, after 9/11, the U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan removed the Taliban from the scene, ending the safe haven provided to Al Qaeda terrorists. (The Americans took far less chances than Israel, relying primarily on high altitude bombing.) Although a series of errors apparently allowed Osama Bin Laden to escape, efforts to launch more attacks during the past year have failed.

It is far too early to declare victory, and while the trend has shifted for the better, much work remains to be done. The terror groups have not given up by any means, and attempts to kill Israelis and hijack aircraft to use against western targets continue. The threats from Iraq, Syria and elsewhere have not been subdued, and the anti-Israel myths and slogans from the politically correct vocabulary still dominate university campuses and much of the media.

Last year constituted an important beginning on this road, but the work must continue and expand in 5763.

The saga of the Jewish mestizos of Iquitos

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when the rubber boom in the Amazon rainforest was at its apogee, the remote Peruvian settlement of Iquitos, which can only be reached by air or water, morphed into a full-fledged city.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Enticed by the prospect of striking it rich, and allured by the prospect of adventure in a new land, thousands of immigrants streamed into Iquitos.

Among the arrivals were Jews from Brazil, Europe and Morocco.

When rubber prices sputtered after 1911, nearly two-thirds of the Jewish settlers departed, leaving behind a handful of Jews who were completely integrated into the local community through intermarriage.

The descendants of these Jews, most of whom married Indian women, are known today as "Jewish mestizos." In appearance, they strongly resemble Peruvians of mixed race, and in name, they are Roman Catholics.

And yet, as Ariel Segal writes in *Jews of the Amazon: Self Exile in Paradise* (The Jewish Publication Society), they consider themselves Jews. Hewing to what he describes as a "syncretic identity," they feel palpably connected to the Jewish people, and celebrate Jewish – and Christian – holidays. They often bury their dead in the Jewish cemetery – purchased by their forefathers in 1895 – and many dream of making aliyah. Some, indeed, already live in Israel.

Like the descendants of the Jews of Belmonte, Portugal, they teeter on the edge of extinction due to their isolation from mainstream Jewish communities.

Having formed a unique hybrid culture, they fluidly intertwine Christian, Jewish and Amazonian cultural references into what, he claims, is a "perfectly coherent system of beliefs."

Segal cites a conversation he had with an old women in Iquitos, as recorded in his diary: "She tells me how proud she is of belonging to the chosen people, and then asks me why Jews don't accept Christ as god, as if that is an unquestioned fact. [She] rigorously observes Shabbat, refraining from cooking and using electricity, reciting psalms from her Old Testament in Spanish translation, but every Saturday she asks her maid, her Shabbes Goy, to turn on the radio to listen to the weekly broadcast of Evangelical Christians."

To drive home the point, he cites another entry in his diary: "One of the leaders of the Jewish community, whose house has become the prayer site for every Shabbat, is raising a pig in his backyard for a future banquet."

The deracination of Iquitos' original Jewish inhabitants was incremental, explains Segal, who was born in Caracas, Venezuela, and now lives in Israel.

Circumcision was the first Jewish custom to disappear, and gradually, worshippers forgot all but the *Shema* prayer of the Hebrew liturgy. Eventually, he adds, their Judaism was reduced to " a few misshapen ceremonies" for the major holidays, the weekly lighting of Shabbat candles and burial rites.

In time, like the Marranos, they mingled Jewish and Christian customs, lost their sense of Jewish peoplehood and submitted to such church formalities as baptisms, weddings and funerals. Their children attended Catholic schools, but in order to be accepted as students, they had to be baptized.

And so it went.

The process of assimilation was doubtless accelerated by Iquitos' tolerant atmosphere, and Segal claims, its lack of anti-Semitism. Anti-Jewish feeling, however rare, did exist. One Jewish mestizo recalls: "The Jews were scorned here a long time ago. People spit on them. They hated Jews."

> They mingled Jewish and Christian customs in the vast Amazon rainforest

Be that as it may, Jews were absorbed into Iquitos' society. Even today, Jewish mestizos who try to practise Judaism cannot escape the overwhelming influence of the church.

"To be Jewish in a place like this is to be a weird animal," a third generation descendant of Jews, Ronald Reategui Levy, told Segal. "It is to have a different social behaviour than the rest of the people."

Segal says that residents of Iquitos such as Levy have created a new religion, neither strictly Christian nor Jewish, but rather something in between.

For example: Jews registered with the Sociedad Israelita de Iquitos, which was established in 1909, have the right to be buried in the Jewish cemetery. Yet many receive a Christian funeral before being interred in the Jewish cemetery. According to Segal, it connects them to their Jewish ancestors. It is their only "tangible link" with their parents and grandparents.

Until about 40 years ago, Jewish mestizos were virtually unknown to the Jews of Lima, where Peru's Jewish community is concentrated. But in 1966, Jewish organizations in Lima launched an active campaign to make its members aware of their existence.

After visiting them in Iquitos, Lima's Jewish communal leaders suggested that the rebirth of an organized Jewish community in Iquitos should be encouraged, and that books relating to Judaism should be sent.

Hard on the heels of these developments, the Israeli embassy in Lima dispatched to Iquitos books, magazines, films and radio tapes about Jewish history.

These efforts were beneficial. But in 1968, the president of the representative association of Lima's three synagogues informed the Jewish mestizos that their capacity to provide financial aid was very limited.

As a result, projects that had been envisioned to bring the mestizos back to Judaism – the building of a Jewish school and a shul, to name but two – petered out.

Yet, thanks to the work of a few dedicated families, a semblance of Jewish life has been maintained in the green depths of the vast Amazon jungle.

For the past 12 years, Segal reports, the younger descendants of Jewish pioneers have discovered Jewish traditions in the home of Victor Edery, the scion of an early Jewish settler. Here they celebrate Jewish holidays and Shabbat.

And through Israel, they express their connection with the Jewish world. During the 1967 Six Day War, they sent a modest donation to their "distant homeland."

In recent years, several Jewish mestizos have immigrated to Israel under the Law of Return, having formally converted to Judaism there. Interestingly enough, they prove their Jewish ancestry by displaying photographs of their fathers' and grandfathers' tombstones in the Jewish cemetery.

Ronald Reategui Levy and one of his children.

Segal is clearly impressed by their dogged determination to cling to their heritage. As he puts it: "I was a Jew in a community of people who wanted desperately to be Jewish and were fighting to preserve their identity in the face of challenges from their own environment and the skepticism of mainstream Jewish institutions.

"Somehow, Iquitos' Jewish descendants were more Jewish than I was from the standpoint of their stubbornness in preserving the identity of their Jewish ancestors."

Segal's plea is certainly heartfelt. Unfortunately, *Jews of the Amazon* falls short of being a first-rate book. It is haphazardly organized and somewhat repetitious. Though the journey through the thickets of his narrative can be arduous, the destination is a worthwhile one.

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Drugs made me feel good inside, says addict

The following is the second in a series on drug abuse in the Jewish community.

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

"I don't think I was born an addict," Daniel says nervously. "It's more like I became an addict the first time I tried a drug."

With low-slung pants and an oversized T-shirt, Daniel (whose name has been changed to protect his identity) isn't just a "poser." Last year, the tall, 14-year-old Jewish boy with short-cropped hair and sheepish hazel eyes was suspended for selling drugs on school property. He says the 20-day suspension for dealing alerted his mother for the first time to the fact that drugs were a major part of her son's life.

Drug Abuse in the Jewish Community

"My mom's a new immigrant with three other children to look after. She's single and works real hard at a job that expects her there full time, even though she only gets paid for part time," Daniel says.

He doesn't blame his mother for reacting the way she did – with strict rules and curfews – and says he would probably do the same if it were his child. Except, he says, "I wouldn't call the cops on my own kid."

His mother called the police when Daniel missed a curfew.

She also forced him to come to his first JACS meeting. Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons and Significant Others is a group that provides resources for those who want help with drinking problems or drug abuse. It's often the first place people turn to when they realize they have a problem.

"I never wanted to come through that door," Daniel says. "I didn't think I really needed a recovery program."

"A lot of teens don't get help because they don't want to tell anyone they use drugs or they don't realize it's a problem," he says.

"I always thought all teens do drugs on a regular basis."

At 12 years old, Daniel tried marijuana for the first time when his friend's older sister offered him some. Marijuana is referred to by educators as the "gateway drug" because some users go on from there to other substances that will help them get high.

JACS' executive director Marla Goldman explained that while most people can control how much alcohol they drink or how much pot they smoke, the addict cannot.

"It's a disease like any other. The users aren't bad people, they're sick people who need to learn how to control their disease," she says.

Daniel started with pot, a little alcohol and the occasional 'shroom (magic mushrooms).

One thing led to another until he made his own connections and started to sell drugs inside and outside his school.

"Using the drugs made me feel good and just sort of numb inside. I guess there were a lot of things I didn't want to have to think about," he says.

His father suffered from depression and committed suicide with a gun that was kept in the house. Daniel was three years old when his brothers heard the shot and found the body. The family has been coping with the tragedy ever since.

Last year, JACS convinced Daniel to go to a rehabilitation centre for the first time.

"I wasn't sure what to expect and was pretty scared going up there," he says. "I thought I was going to a mental hospital or something."

At the rehabilitation centre, he found support and kids like him who needed help with their addictions. He also found that as the only Jewish teen in the group, he was constantly explaining what being a Jew was about. Kosher food was unavailable and Christianity was used as the spiritual guide for recovery.

Two of Daniel's brothers go to yeshiva and his family observes all the holidays with traditional meals and prayer. For Daniel, those events pose additional challenges. Every holiday that uses wine can be trigger points into drug and alcohol-related binges – the smell of the Friday night Kiddush cup can be a hurdle, the four cups of Passover a nightmare.

The month in rehab forced Daniel to think about a lot of things. The counsellors showed him that over 75 per cent of his day was drug-related and suggested other ways to fill his life. They taught him that it would be foolish to introduce his younger sibling to drugs because he might become responsible for their deaths.

Those 30 days of rehab and weekly aftercare group meetings kept Daniel off drugs for several months. But once during the summer, Daniel saw kids at work put out a half-used joint and it triggered something in him. He went back later that evening, picked it up and smoked it.

That night, the counsellor was sick and Daniel's group didn't meet. So he called his buddy from aftercare and they went looking for drugs instead of support.

That binge got him kicked out of the aftercare group and on to a cycle of alcohol, cocaine, Percocets and Tylenol-3s.

Continued on page 14

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King Edward P.S. to celebrate 100th birthday

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

King Edward Public School will celebrate its 100th anniversary with festivities planned for Sept. 29 to Oct. 3.

In 1872, the Bathurst Street School opened at the corner of College and Bathurst streets. In September 1902, the Toronto Board of Education renamed the school in honour of King Edward VII who ascended the throne of Britain the same year a new school was built.

Located at 112 Lippincott St., in the neighbourhood where several generations of Jews had their homes and businesses, King Edward holds memories for many in the Toronto Jewish community.

Ami Trefler, principal of King Edward, says the reunion will bring together graduates, students, parents, staff and community members.

"I am extremely proud to be associated with King Edward Public School, which has a long history in the downtown community. I have a special attachment to this area, as my father grew up just a few blocks from the school and some of my first memories are of the College and Bathurst neighbourhood."

The celebrations will begin with a centenary gala concert with Molly Johnson and Friends on Sunday, Sept. 29, followed by an alumni reunion and reception later in the day with photos, stories and memorabilia.

Former King Edward Public School students meet for lunch to talk about old times. Standing, from left, are Kay Rotenberg, May Stern, Mae Waese, Gloria Mandel and Grace Goodman. Seated, from left, are Reta Mann, Shirley Weiss and Millie Pasternak.

On Tuesday, there will be a screening of the National Film Board documentary, *The Film Club*, about the members of the King Edward film club. Discussion groups will follow.

On Thursday, students and staff will celebrate at a happy 100th anniversary party.

"I am so looking forward to being part of King Edward's public school reunion," Mae Waese, a King Edward alumna who served as a school trustee and former chair of the North York and Metro Toronto school boards told *The CJN*.

"Memories flood back as I recall my days at the school. Three of my closest friends – we are grandmothers now – attended the school, where our friendships began in our kindergarten year.

"It was a place to make lifetime friendships, get a strong basic education, and there are several teachers that left me with lasting memories."

Waese adds that attending King Edward was especially meaningful to her, as her mother attended the school in the early 1920s. "My mother introduced me to Miss Pomeroy and her principal, Mr. Allan – we didn't use first names in those days – which helped pave the way to a great experience at the school."

A special centenary project will be established with the proceeds of the concert, a silent auction and donations. The money raised will convert the outdated design and technology room, previously known as The Shop, into a modern information technology and resources centre.

"This is a huge undertaking," Trefler says. "We believe in the importance of this project, and we are confident that with the support of the school community and alumni, we can create the foundation for a resource centre that will serve our students well into our next century."

For more information on King Edward Public School's 100th anniversary concert and reunion, call 416-393-1320, fax 416-393-1319 or e-mail KingEdward100th@hotmail.com. There is also a Web site, http://schools.tdab.on.ca/King Edward.

legacy of life

Lillian Shopsowitz 1924 - 1984

There was something truly remarkable about **Lillian Shopsowitz.**

With her sparkling blue eyes and luxurious blond hair, she was certainly a beauty, and as a young woman the local furrier often asked her to model the season's latest fashions. She was creative and artistic, an avid opera and art gallery patron, and the perfect hostess.

Still, what made Lillian Shopsowitz so exceptional was her inner beauty and incredible character.

"Lillian was extraordinarily beautiful, both in appearance and in spirit," recalls her youngest sister, Molly Nightingale. "She was absolutely gorgeous and just bloomed like a rose. She had a wonderful nature and would never turn away anybody who came to her door.

Molly and Lillian were the two Canadian-born children of Israel and Dvora Pearlstein, a loving couple from Kielc, Poland who fled to Canada to escape Eastern Europe's brutal pogroms. Israel arrived in Toronto in 1905 but had to wait 10 years – until the end of WWI – before he was able to send for Dvora and their two children, Florence and Benny. Lillian was born in Toronto in 1924 and Molly followed eight years later.

They may have had little money, but the Pearlsteins were rich in love. Their father was a warm, soft-spoken and extremely generous man who was extremely devoted to his family and his religion. As president of the Kielcer Shul, he was recruited by one of Ontario's first premiers to assist with the election campaign and, naturally, he gladly obliged. Dvora was a terrific cook and hostess and, much like her husband, wouldn't say no to anyone who needed her help.

With such role models, it's no wonder Lillian didn't fall far from the tree.

"I was in awe of her," says Molly. "It was hard to believe that someone could be so kind and generous."

The Shopsowitz family in Israel, 1966: From left - Noah, Shari, Sam, Alane and Lillian

When she was 23, Lillian fell in love with a man much like herself. Sam Shopsowitz, whose family owned the popular Monteith Inn in Muskoka, was a sweet and happy musician who played accordion and piano at Toronto's Royal York Hotel. One day, Sam was visiting his music teacher and had to make a phone call, so the teacher sent him across the street to ask the Pearlsteins if he could use their phone. When Sam saw Lillian's photo beside the phone, he was hooked, and a year later they were married.

Sam went on to build the Shopsy's food company, and as the business flourished both he and Lillian began devoting their time and money to numerous charitable causes. Sam was involved with Variety Village, while Lillian was active in Hadassah and ORT. Together they were major supporters of Beth Tzedec Congregation's museum, and the synagogue gift shop bears Lillian's name.

The State of Israel was also a big part of their lives. In fact, when two of their three children became B'nai Mitzvah the same year, Lillian led the family to Israel for a double celebration. The invitation asked guests to make a donation to Israel in lieu of gifts.

Lillian and Sam both died in 1984 – just 13 days apart – and in her will Lillian left an undirected bequest to be donated to charity in her name. After a visit to the UJA Federation's Jewish Board of Education, her son Noah established the Leah Shopsowitz Fund through the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto to provide funding for new film and video productions that promote Jewish culture. The Fund was first tapped into to purchase archival videotape for the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, which Noah says spawned Toronto's involvement in Steven Spielberg's Shoah project. The Leah Shopsowitz Fund has evolved into a vehicle for female Jewish filmmakers to complete their works. Among the beneficiaries: Francine Zuckerman's film *Punch Me in the Stomach* and Karen Shopsowitz's documentary *My Grandparents had a Hotel* about life at the Monteith Inn.

"My mother was a very creative person who really enjoyed the arts," says son Noah. "She was very interested in sculpture, drawing and art and always encouraged me to pursue a creative career.. The Leah Shopsowitz Fund is a good reflection of the type of activities she was involved in. I know she would have felt very strongly about supporting Canadian Jewish women in this way."

Says Molly Nightingale, "she was a true daughter of Israel."

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There will be an entrance fee of $18 in advance, $20 at the door. Tickets will be available at Israel's Judaica, 897 Eglinton Ave. W, Israel's Judaica, 441 Clark Ave. W., Beth Sholom Synagogue, 1445 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto Zionist Council, 788 Marlee Ave., Negev, 3509 Bathurst Street and at the door.

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Greater Toronto Area

Reform shuls to take part in Israel teach-in

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

More than 300 Reform congregations across North America, including six from Ontario, are set to take part in a teach-in on Israel on Sept. 29.

The day of learning is part of the Reform movement's effort to mobilize North American Jews in support of Israel and to provide a forum for open discussion and debate about the Mideast peace process.

The program, titled In Search of Peace and Security: A National Teach-in on Israel, is organized by the Union of Hebrew Congregations, the Reform congregational umbrella group.

Designed in part to debate Mideast peace process

Organizers said in a written statement that the teach-in, which coincides with the two-year anniversary of the latest Palestinian uprising, is meant to educate North American Jews, "many of whom feel confused about the complexities behind the conflict, and to get Jews more engaged and active in helping Israel and the peace process."

Participants will be provided with a package of background material including opinion pieces, reading lists, Internet resources, selections of Jewish religious and Zionist texts, the PBS Frontline documentary *Shattered Dreams of Peace: the Road From Oslo* and a list of elected officials to contact about re-starting the peace process.

Rabbi Sharon Sobel, executive director of Canadian Council for Reform Judaism (CCRJ) said the teach-in is meant to encourage all Canadian Reform congregations to think seriously about issues in the Middle East and become engaged in serious discussions.

"Our goals are to give people the tools to make informed decisions, and to unite Reform congregations by studying the same issues on the same day," she said.

The Ontario congregations involved in the teach-in are Temple Israel, London; Solel Congregation, Mississauga; Shaarei-Beth El Congregation, Oakville; Temple Israel, Ottawa; Holy Blossom Temple and Temple Emanu-El.

Rabbi Lawrence Englander of Solel Congregation said that issues about the Middle East are complex and "must be raised above the lowest common denominator.

"We want to provide open information sessions from all points of perspective. The Reform movement has been consistent with arriving at a two-state solution, and we will explore that avenue."

At Holy Blossom Temple, Bebe Jacobs, director of education, said it is essential now more than ever to feel connected to the situation and to support Israel in its time of crisis.

"Unless people have an opportunity to learn, they will not know how to consider the situation," said Jacobs.

Rabbi Paul Sidlofsky of Shaarei-Beth El Congregation said his congregants are showing their solidarity by coming together at the same time as other congregants across North America.

"I hope that this is the start of another level of discussion and information. It is very exciting to be part of a program that is unifying several hundred Reform congregations," said Rabbi Sidolfsky.

New ambassador named

Continued from page 3

Cappe enjoys photography, travel and books as well as the company of his children, who attended a Jewish school in Ottawa.

Danny, 26, a graduate of Queen's University, worked in the high-tech sector in Ottawa and Toronto. Currently, he studies law at the University of Toronto.

Emily, 24, resides in Vancouver and works for an upscale Italian restaurant.

Cappe said that his children are "the most important part" of his life.

When he lived in Ottawa, he was a member of Agudath Israel Congregation.

In the past, he chaired the public service division of the United Jewish Appeal and the United Way campaigns.

Last year, he was chair of the United Way campaign.

A drug addict tells his story

Continued from page 12

"Sometimes I even drank cough syrups for the dextromorphan," he says. "Anything to get high."

"I know it's wrong," Daniel says. "And I know that I'm always looking for an excuse to get high. I need to be completely convinced that I want to stay sober. Right now, there's 20 per cent of me that still wants to be high."

But there's another part of Daniel that likes music, wants to become a social worker, a devoted husband and a caring father with children who don't use drugs.

Daniel is hoping to go back to a rehab centre soon where he could spend anywhere from several months to two years. He says he's looking forward to it.

For further information on JACS, see their Web site at www.jacsweb.org or call 416-410-5227.

All calls are strictly confidential.

Grade 2 advice to Grade 1

Several Jewish day schools approached their Grade 2 students and asked what advice they would give to the excited and nervous incoming Grade 1 class.

Below is a compilation of the responses:

•Associated Hebrew Day School: If you forget your homework, don't tell a lie. You can probably do it the next day and bring it then.

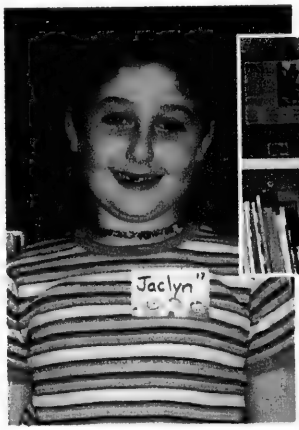
• Netivot HaTorah Day School: Grade 1 is a little easy and a little hard so it's O.K. if you're a little nervous. But don't worry, your friends will meet you in the playground.

• TJA Or Menachem Academy: Don't be late for recess, it's the best. And by the way, come back to class after recess, it isn't home time yet.

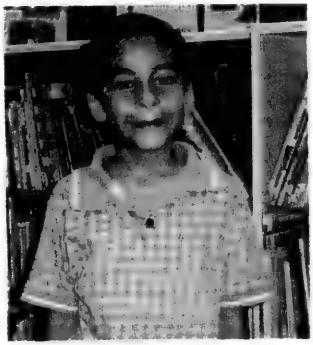
• Toronto Heschel School: Never sit next to someone you are going to talk to or you'll get in trouble, and when you are running in the playground make sure you don't bump into the little kids. Watch out for math – it's hard.

• Leo Baeck Day School: Don't talk when the teacher is talking. If someone is alone outside at recess, invite them to play.

• Netivot HaTorah Day School: Don't forget – if your tooth falls out in class, give it to Mrs. Krasman for a tooth-note mazel tov.



Above and left: Associated Hebrew Schools Kamin campus students Jared Klein and Jaclyn Naor. Right: students at TJA Ohr Menachem.



Above and below: Associated students Michael Ihilchik and Sofia Rachitsky.

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Ben Gurion Museum, Sde Boker – It was the dream of Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, to settle the Negev, and true to his word, he and his wife, Paula, joined this desert kibbutz, south of Beersheba, after his retirement. Here, in this unlikely location, is the Ben Gurion home, a popular tourist attraction transformed into a museum, with household furniture and a library of 5,000 volumes still intact.
The Ramon Crater – Measuring 400 meters deep, it's the world's largest natural crater - one of only five found on the planet and three of them are in Israel! You can hike through the crater or admire its beauty from above while learning about its formation, before heading toward relaxing Eilat on the Red Sea, just a short distance away.
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Chabad of Downtown Toronto is already visiting some of the main hospitals (Mount Sinai, Princess Margaret, Hospital for Sick Children)

For locations outside of Downtown, we will be glad to arrange for one of the local Chabad Centres to send a representative.

CHABAD-LUBAVITCH WISHES YOU A HAPPY AND HEALTHY SUCCOTH!

Jewish Life

There are no simple answers

By RABBI CHAIM STEINMETZ

There is a story about a rabbi who mediated a dispute between two congregants. The congregants went to the rabbi's house, and the first, Yankel, walked into the study and gave his side of the case. The rabbi listened intently and then exclaimed, "You're right!" The next congregant, Berel, came into the study, and argued his side. Again, the rabbi exclaimed, "You're right!" The rabbi's wife, who was watching, said, "First you told Yankel he was right, then you told Berel he was right. How can they both be right?" To which the rabbi replied, "You're also right!"

It is unrealistic for the rabbi, who is either too good-hearted to reject one of the disputants or too weak to stand up to them, to say both sides are correct. But I think the rabbi is right; reality is often too complicated for black and white answers.

I know complexity isn't popular. We live in a world of the simple and swift; your life philosophy has to squeeze into a 30-second sound bite or it isn't relevant in the age of television. A few years ago, a popular diet and fitness guru sporting a crewcut, constantly shouted the catch phrase, "Stop the insanity!" She was a major hit, and her infomercials were on 24 hours a day. This guru was truly a teacher for our generation; she was able to condense her life philosophy into three words. The hapless rabbi in the story, who sees complexity in every situation, would never have been invited on talk shows or to sign book deals.

There is nothing wrong with simple, easy-to-understand philosophies of life. There are many good Jewish sound bites. One example comes from the Gemarah, when the prospective convert asks Hillel to teach him the Torah while standing on one foot, and Hillel responds, "Love your neighbour as yourself is the entire Torah; all the rest is commentary."

It is important to have general life principles. Dozens of major Jewish works start with the words, "The foundation of foundations," where the author briefly explains the foundation of Jewish life. Indeed, this is the very ideology of monotheism: one God, one focus, one goal. If you believe in God, there can only be one goal in life.

But simple goals don't always yield simple answers. Often, after you pick your guru and choose your sound bite, a funny thing happens: you realize that real life is too complicated for one short clip. Many kabbalists note that although the source of all life is God, who is an absolute unity (and is symbolized by the letter *aleph*, which has a numerical value of one), the physical world is filled with diversity and complexity (symbolized by the letter *ayin*, which has a similar pronunciation, but has the numerical value of 70). There may be a simple, unifying being behind all of existence, but the world is filled with a fascinating, diverse array of life.

For this reason, simple answers don't always work. It is tempting to think that in matters of morality, there will always be absolute, categorical definitions of right and wrong. It is easy to think that if you are uncompromisingly honest or peaceloving, then you have done the right thing. In actuality, if you are radically honest, you run the risk of shaming other people and hurting their feelings; if you are an uncompromising pacifist, you will expose yourself and your family to the violence of criminals. As Sefer Kohelet (3:1) puts it: "For everything its season, and for every activity under heaven its time."

Complexity should not be considered an annoyance, as something that gets in the way of good, simple answers. Simplicity is for simpletons; complexity is what spurs our inner growth and creativity. Rav Soloveitchik argues that man is demanded to aspire to antithetical goals. Man is meant to be majestic and powerful, yet also humble and introspective; he is simultaneously drawn to the mundane aspirations of science and the transcendent aspirations of religion. It may be difficult to be torn in two directions, but out of the conflict between these goals arises human greatness.

Complexity is not an evil; it is the key to greatness. Great people know how to make love and make war; great people know the value of truth and the value of peace. Greatness is accepting the conflicts life presents, and recognizing that everything has its season.

Rabbi Steinmetz is the spiritual leader of Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem in Montreal.

Closing the Jewish gap

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

To paraphrase the Czech novelist Milan Kundera, for many North American Jews in the past two years, "life is elsewhere." The main focus of attention has been Israel, as a brief resurrection of identity and feeling has gripped many otherwise marginally committed Jewish individuals in the Diaspora.

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

But already the effects of overload are being seen on many American campuses, where young people simply do not want to maintain the sustained effort of an intellectual battle to defend Israel's actions. Many analysts bemoan students' lack of knowledge about Israel and Zionism, but in truth, this is merely a symptom of a larger gap in consciousness regarding Judaism itself.

One theme that Jewish history repeatedly dramatizes is the attempt to normalize – to pretend that Jews can be ordinary citizens of the world community, marching in the global multicultural pageant just like, say, France and Bolivia. The subsequent disappointment of learning yet again that such is not the fate of the chosen in a world that often likes its Jews downtrodden and downcast is exacerbated by our frustrating inability to crack the paradoxical code of anti-Semitism, with its breathtakingly circular ideology. They hate us because we are communists; because we are capitalists; because we are atheists; because we are God-fearing; because we are contemptuously separate; because we are spinelessly assimilated; because we are scrawny and silent and passive and feather-bodied and book drunk; because – in Israel today – we are olive-skinned and loud and muscular and sovereign and unyielding; because we are liberal; because we are reactionary; because we are indifferent to worldly events; because we conspire to dominate global affairs; because we subvert the boardroom (Karl Marx); because we undermine the bedroom (Sigmund Freud); because we are self-loathing (Noam Chomsky); because we loathe the other (Rabbi Meir Kahane); because we are too Jewish; because we are not Jewish enough. Because.

The overall ennui produced by this mind-numbing assault often leads to the worst possible outcome. Instead of learning from the precariousness of seeking approval from the outside and thus setting a course for Jewish self-enrichment and spiritual understanding, Jews invariably aspire after the keys to the corporate (and, as it were, cultural) washroom.

There have been several turning points in Jewish history. There is no doubt that another one is at hand. While we worry about societal acceptance or stock portfolios or making sure our children get into the right medical schools, Judaism burns. Even Israel is not the key to Judaism. It is Judaism that is the key to everything. We need to take stock – not tomorrow, but now – of what kind of destiny we are laying out for the next generation in terms of Jewish knowledge, intensity, skills and spirit.

This column is dedicated to my cousin, Levina Shapira, a woman of grace and compassion, intelligence and serenity. Levina died – vanished into the place where, as Chassidic thought puts it, God is crying – on July 31 in the Hebrew University bombing. May her memory, and all of those who have had their lives cut short, be for a blessing. We miss you.

Jewish Life

Judging a curious novel

***The Judges*, by Elie Wiesel, Knopf Publishing, 2002, $36 (Cdn).**

Books
Bernard Baskin

The contrived plot of *The Judges* begins with an airliner en route to Israel that is forced to land in rural Connecticut in the midst of a violent snowstorm. The passengers are distributed to local households for food and shelter, and five of them end up in the log cabin of a sinister, sadistic figure who imprisons them in a sealed room and proclaims himself a judge. He then discloses to his incredulous prisoners that he intends to play a game, concerned with what is most precious to them, the power of the imagination. The helpless captives are informed that one of them, before the long night is over, will be an assassination victim.

The five passengers, as one would expect, are an assorted lot. They include Claudia, an attractive, self-confident, New York theatre press agent and director; Bruce, an aging philanderer, who at one time had studied for the priesthood; George, a scholarly archivist, who is on his way to deliver a secret document linking an Austrian government official with a massacre of Jews in the Kovno ghetto; and Yoav, an Israeli commando, who is dying from a terminal illness. The fifth passenger, the narrator of the story, is called Razziel, a name that can be translated as "the mysteries of God." He is the principal of a Brooklyn yeshiva and a talmudic scholar.

Each of these characters has a role to play as the drama unfolds, and they each makes it clear to themselves and the others why their life is important. In Razziel's case, it is to meet with a mysterious figure out of his past who may be able to remind him of the terrible events of his life before he turned 18.

It is clear that Wiesel is not writing a novel in the usual sense, but conveying important, if difficult, moral and theological ideas about the nature of good and evil, the persistence of memory, the finality of death, the significance of faith and the meaning of the Messiah.

Throughout the book, the judge makes philosophical pronouncements: "What is innocence? Personally, I don't believe in it. What is it, other than an excuse for imbeciles and a matter of luck for the lucky and the fools? For them, as for the rest of us, it's the tip of the iceberg that rises above the mountain of sins and crimes committed in its name that we all carry around with us. And what is life? A tiny wretched island amid the infinite and majestic ocean of death."

The judge insists that "For me, the absolute lies in evil... Truth no longer lies in life but in death... It is in death that justice is accomplished... Good has less power than evil and less possibility."

In the end, the judge's long-suffering hunchback servant engineers a way out for the passengers that is ultimately unconvincing.

Now, at 76, laden with honours including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1968, Wiesel has written a curious and cryptic novel. Despite its high-flown literary style and characters that are merely props for the author's ideas, *Judges* can be welcomed as a work steeped in Jewish thought and tradition by a gifted storyteller.

Etrog, lulav and the Internet

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

"And you shall take for yourselves on the first day the fruit of a beautiful tree (etrog), the branches of date palms (lulav), branches of the myrtle tree (hadasim) and branches of the willow tree (aravot), and you shall rejoice before Hashem, your God, for seven days." (Leviticus 23:40) **[http://shlk.com/166]**

These items listed in the above passage are simply three branches and an odd-looking fruit. But when these four species are bound together, something special happens: an annual ritual can be celebrated. Today, the etrog and lulav on the World Wide Web.

There are many interpretations about the significance of the lulav and etrog and similarities drawn between the four species to those of the Jewish people **[http://www.joi.org/celebrate/sukkot/species.shtml]**.

All four species all have different physical qualities. For example, an etrog has both a pleasant taste and pleasant aroma. It is compared to a Jew who is learned in Torah and observant of the commandments. The myrtle twig is fragrant but tasteless. It represents Jews who are filled with good deeds but are not learned in Torah. But unless all four species are bound together, the mitzvah of lulav and etrog cannot be performed. Similarly, the Jewish people must be unified in order to be truly effective **[http://www.aish.edu/calendar/sukkot/unity.htm]**.

Some look at the shape of each of the four species to learn other lessons. The lulav is said to resemble the backbone of man; the myrtle leaves, his eyes; the willow leaves, lips; and the etrog, the heart. The Inner Dimension gives a mystical explanation for each of the species, including their significance in gematriah, Jewish numerology **[http://www.inner.org/times/tishrei/sukkot57.htm]**.

A superb lulav and etrog set doesn't come cheap. The Aish HaTorah site has tips on what to look for when shopping for a set. For example, the shape of an etrog should preferably be like a tower – wider at the bottom and narrow at the top – and even a small black dot on the upper part can invalidate it. Willow leaves should have a smooth edge, not serrated. And take a look at the very top of the lulav branch and make sure that the centre-most leaf is not split **[http://www.aish.com/holidays/Sukkot/]**. The Arba Minim Web site goes into even great detail about the rules for selecting a kosher lulav **[http://www.campsci.com/sukkot/]**.

Which hand do you use to pick up the lulav? Should the etrog point up or down? In what order should the lulav be shaken? Which way should you face? Those questions are answered in a guide at the Jewish New Year Web site **[http:// jewishnewyear.com/holidays/tishrei/4489]**.

Most of us think about etrogs once a year and really have no idea about the rich history of the citron (*citrus medica*) **[http://www.hort.purdue.edu/newcrop/morton/citron.html]**. Did you know that etrog seeds have been found in Mesopotamian excavations dating back 6,000 years? The armies of Alexander the Great are thought to have carried etrogs to the Mediterranean region about 300 B.C.E. In India, the peel is eaten to overcome bad breath. And in Panama, citron leaves are ground up and combined with other ingredients and given as an antidote for poison. Botanists can also read up about the myrtle (*myrtus communis*) **[http://shlk.com/164]**, the willow (*salix*) **[http://www.tau.ac.il/lifesci/botany/judaism.htm]** and the date palm (*phoenix dactylifera*) **[http://shlk.com/165]**.

One of the fiercest debates during Sukkot rages between people who argue over how to keep their lulav, willow and myrtle branches from drying up. The EtrogCenter site has this advice: keep the lulav in a cool and dry place. Wrap the myrtle and willow branches in damp paper towels. And do *not* refrigerate your etrog **[http://www.etrogcenter.com/Instructions.htm]**.

Next week, what to do with your lulav and etrog after the holiday ends – and some tasty suggestions for Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah.

Mark Mietkiewicz writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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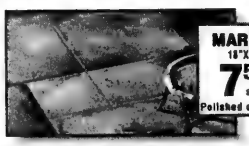

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Greater Toronto Area

Toronto lawyer pleased by immigration changes

Saudis now required to obtain visas

Sergio Karas

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

"I feel vindicated," exulted Sergio Karas. "The right thing has been done."

Karas, a Toronto immigration lawyer, was in a good mood last week after learning that the Canadian government had finally acted on his recommendation.

On Sept. 5, nearly a year after Saudi and Egyptian hijackers attacked the World Trade Center in Manhattan and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., Immigration Minister Denis Coderre announced that citizens of Saudi Arabia would henceforth be required to obtain temporary resident visas to enter Canada.

Saudis had been exempt from this provision.

In letters to Coderre, one of his senior officials and Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham, Karas fought a lonely battle to persuade Canada to lift the visa exemption Saudis enjoyed when entering Canada.

Karas warned them that the policy was a serious threat to Canada's national security and posed a danger to Canadian Jews as well.

Neither Coderre nor one of his officials, Johanne Deslauriers, answered his letters.

Graham's department, however, acknowledged his letter and passed it on to Coderre.

Karas also wrote to Paul Cellucci, the U.S. ambassador to Canada.

In response, the minister counsellor in the American embassy wrote that his letter "addresses a very real concern," and assured him that the matter was under discussion with Canadian authorities.

In announcing his decision, Coderre said the exemption on Saudi residents was cancelled because, after Sept. 11, Saudi passports are "vulnerable to abuse."

"The decision to lift the visa exemption was not made lightly nor in isolation," Coderre explained.

"Several factors were considered as we sought an appropriate balance between facilitating the entry of legitimate travellers and protecting the integrity of Canada's immigration program."

In his appeal to the federal government, Karas, an immigrant from Argentina, called Canada's policy dangerous.

As he put it: "The Jewish community should be extremely concerned about this policy. It is amazing that Saudis should be treated on the same level as the United States, Britain and Europeans. After 9/11, it makes no sense whatsoever."

Karas argued that the Saudi goverment did not accord visa-free entry to Canadians, restricted travel by foreigners and required disclosure of religion in visa applications.

After learning that Canada had followed his recommendation, Karas declared, "Finally, the government of Canada has done the right thing. But it took Canada one year to act."

Karas expressed regret that not a single Jewish member of Parliament took an interest in his cause.

And he voiced sadness that Jewish organizations offered no help.

"I did this all by myself," he said. "The bureaucrats of Canadian Jewish Congress and UJA Federation did nothing."

Karas said he wanted to thank the U.S. embassy for correctly sizing up the problem.

"I'm sure the United States leaned very hard on Canada when they realized what I was saying."

Karas' work is far from finished.

He wants Canada to lift the visa exemption citizens of Malaysia currently enjoy.

"Malaysia is a place where Islamic militants live."

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TJFLC hosting Hebrew Free Loan conference

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

The Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa is the best kept secret in town, according to Jerry Blitzer, one of the organization's core volunteers.

Operating out of a modest office in the Lipa Green Building, the Cassa – or "bank" in Polish – circulates $1.79 million in interest-free loans to immigrants, post-secondary students and other community members who are starting a business or who need the money for educational or personal reasons.

Blitzer, along with Brahm Seitz, TJFLC president; Cathie Smith-Friedman, immediate past president; and Marlee Allen Petroff, the organization's outreach co-ordinator and one of four mostly part-time staff members, met with *The CJN* to shed light on what the Cassa does and to talk about the International Association of Hebrew Free Loans' 21st annual conference that it is hosting Oct. 6-8 in Toronto.

Blitzer, who became involved with the organization 12 years ago at age 61, is the Cassa's chair, special events – the point man for the conference and an Oct. 6 dinner honouring Cassa volunteers Bert Cohen, Harold Hertzman and Jack Schwartz.

Although the TJFLC in its present form dates only to the 1980s, it was formed from the merger of three older organizations: the Toronto Hebrew Re-establishment Services Gemilath Chasadim (established in 1924), Scholarship and Aid, and the Loan Cassa, an agency set up to lend money to Jewish immigrants who wanted to start farms in Canada.

Twenty-five years ago, recalled Seitz, new immigrant loans were geared to starting businesses, not farms. At that time, he was a 25-year-old new loan committee volunteer who he had just moved from Montreal and wanted to get involved in the community.

The work has proved rewarding. "It's very hands-on. You meet the people you're helping, which is a good feeling. You see the results. You see someone come to borrow money because they just got into the country, and they borrow a few dollars to get into an apartment. You see them a year later when they're taking a course to return to their profession, and you see them two years after that because they want to start a business. And all of a sudden you see them as a donor or a volunteer."

He estimates that four or five of the current volunteers have been borrowers.

Wherever there are Jewish communities, there are free loan societies, said Seitz. The societies originated in Poland more than 200 years ago, added Blitzer.

From left, volunteers Jerry Blitzer, Cathie Smith-Friedman and Brahm Seitz admire framed memorabilia from the early days of the Cassa. [Frances Kraft photo]

Funding for the Toronto Cassa is derived from the original fund as well as through memberships, donations and bequests. UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the United Way provide operating expenses.

The loan Cassa of today will lend up to $10,000 to help start a business and $3,600 for student or personal loans. Applicants need three guarantors, and can repay 4 per cent a month, interest-free, over two and a half years.

Volunteers interview applicants one-on-one and present their cases to the rest of the loan committee to be voted on the same day. Although the business loan committee holds interviews on weekday mornings, businesspeople as well as retirees make time to volunteer for the monthly meetings, said Smith-Friedman, a 41-year-old social worker.

Including the interviews for personal and student loans, which are held every other week, there are more than 500 interviews a year. Over 80 per cent of the applicants receive loans, said Seitz.

In the late 1970s, he recalls, Russian immigrants commonly borrowed money to pay shipping charges on items they had sent from home.

Loans also helped people purchase kitchenware and furniture for their new apartments. Sometimes, recalls Seitz, immigrants would ask for money for "furniture" when they really wanted a television set. "Our take was [that] you need the television set to learn the language."

Other personal loans have funded burials, medical needs not covered by OHIP and reunification with an ailing relative.

Sometimes, said Seitz, the committee has to turn people away, but never because of a lack of funds.

One early borrower was theatre impresario and Honest Ed's owner Ed Mirvish who wrote a testimonial letter in anticipation of the upcoming conference.

Although the 47 member organizations of the international organizations differ in size and community demographics, issues such as fundraising, collection of repayments, new areas of funding and assessing need are common issues that will be addressed at the conference.

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Sept. 23, is deadline for Oct. 3 issue and Monday, Sept. 30, is deadline for Oct. 10. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Sunday, Sept. 22

CUMMER LODGE SUKKAH

The Mitzvah Volunteers welcome residents and their loved ones into Cummer Lodge sukkah 2-4 p.m. for the blessings and rituals of Sukkot and to fulfil the mitzvah of eating in the sukkah. For info: **Diana** 416-661-5578 or **Ann** 416-492-1960.

Monday, Sept. 23

THE HABIMA PLAYERS

The Cranbrooke Friendship Club of the United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) and the Winchevsky Centre invites the public to an afternoon of laughter, culture and socializing as the Habima Players perform, under the direction of **Roselle Stone.** 12:30 p.m. at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Program is preceded by a light lunch. 416-789-5502.

SUKKOT UNDER THE STARS

A Jewish rock band, candy floss, kiddie rides, large Sukkot fireworks show, barbecue. Fun for the whole family. 6 p.m., Chabad Lubavitch Markham, 83 Green Lane, Thornhill. 905-886-0420. Rain date, Tuesday, Sept. 24.

MEDINA SHOWCASE 2002

The Medina Theatre Ensemble annual Showcase Presentation, a potpourri of staged readings involving short scenes from familiar sources. 8 p.m., at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building) **Morris Jacobs** 416-785-0344 or **Susan Harssar** 416-485-1967.

Tuesday, Sept. 24

LIVE SHOW WITH MUSIC

Lubavitch South Simchas Beis Hashoevah live with Zemer Orchestra, dancing, outdoors, refreshments, 7:30 p.m. in the No Frills parking lot, Bathurst and Wilson.

DOUBLE COHORT

Workshop for university/college planning and decision making: A Guide for the Double Cohort: Navigating for Success, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Lipa Green Conference Centre, 4600 Bathurst St. Presented by **Joy Koplowitz** and **Jane Rendely**, JVS of Greater Toronto, **Judy Libman,** Ambitions Educational Consulting, and **Judy Winberg,** Options in Education. Students and parents welcome. Information and registration 416-787-1151, ext. 202.

BOOK REVIEW

Adath Israel Sisterhood book review series with **Heather Kassel** begins with *The Bonesetter's Daughter* by **Amy Tan**, at 8 p.m. at the synagogue. 416-635-5340.

Wednesday, Sept. 24

ISRAEL SOUNDS

A Blast from the Temple's Past-Music, Water, Ecstacy, Simchat Beit Hashoeva, hosted by **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer.** Come and jam with joy to the Israeli sounds of live music and celebrate Sukkot in the Beth Tzedec sukkah, 8:30 p.m. 416-781-3511.

JEWISH GENEALOGY

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) meets 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. The focus is on Conference Followup: Stories & Magic Moments, building on the experiences, successes and stories that resulted from the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in August.

COME SUKKOT HOP!

Are you a dynamic woman wanting to meet other dynamic women in their 20s, 30s and early 40s? If so, feel free to join Tikvah Chapter of Jewish Women International for a Sukkot Hop. For more information, 905-707-2331.

Continued on page 21

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What's New

Continued from page 20

JEWISH HUMOUR GROUP

Jewish Jokers and Humour Group monthly meeting, all ages, non-profit, refreshments, fun, prizes. Contact **Irv Helpert** 416-661-2541 for information and registration.

Thursday, Sept. 26

COMEDY CABARET

The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living presents Comedy Cabaret. Know any good jokes? Like to tell funny stories? Want to smile and laugh? Come get your 5 minutes of fame on stage. Join in an afternoon of laughter and entertainment. 2:30 p.m., 1003 Steeles Ave. W. For information, **Ruth Cohen** 416-225-2112.

And What Else Is New

KULANU/LGBT INCLUSION

Canadian Council for Reform Judaism presents Kulanu/LGBT Inclusion in the Synagogue (LGBT-lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered), featuring **Rabbi Sue Levi Elwell,** director, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Pennsylvania Council, speaking on how to create an environment that encourages better understanding of the needs of LGBT Jews and leads to greater inclusion in synagogue communities, Saturday, Oct. 5, keynote address and *Havdalah*, 7:30 p.m., Temple Sinai. Sunday, Oct. 6, plenary and workshops, 1-6 p.m., at Kolel, 151 Eglinton Ave. W. For information, 905-709-2275.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

The Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum needs volunteers to lend time, experience and energy a few hours a week or a month to help develop and deliver arts and crafts, tell a story, assist with school tours, oversee the museum. Volunteer services are also needed for Sundays. Anything is appreciated. Call **Heather**, 416-636-1880, ext. 390.

ADULT MINI SCHOOL

The Florence Melton Adult Mini School is taking registration for the fall term. Class meets Wednesday evenings at CHAT, starting Oct. 2. For information, 416-789-7400.

WELLNESS PROGRAM

It's never too late to look after your bones! If you're a senior living with osteoporosis, register for the fall session of Power, a 7-week wellness program that covers exercise, nutrition and education. A referral from your family physician is required. Classes begin Oct. 21. Register. Call Baycrest Centre, 416-785-2500, ext. 2588.

YIDDISH FOR CHILDREN

Free Yiddish program for children at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Ave., Sundays, 9:30 a.m. to noon, beginning Oct. 6. Funded by Toronto District School Board's heritage language classes and the Committee for Yiddish of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Call **Naomi** 416-635-2883, ext. 150.

VENDORS WANTED

Gift show vendors wanted for a Holiday Gift Show taking place Thursday, Nov. 7, in the evening at Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave. For vendor applications and information, contact **Patty Bloom** 905-762-9291 or **Samantha Bacher** at 905-660-2442.

BE A PUPPETEER

The Concerned Kids needs energetic, enthusiastic volunteers with a dramatic flair to help present interactive puppet programs to young people ages 4-14. Must be willing to commit either Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning or Thursday morning or afternoon from September 2002 to June 2003. A car may be necessary. Call **Joyce** or **Livia** at 416-636-1656.

THE CHORALAIRS

The Choralairs of North York, a volunteer choir singing for disabled persons and seniors, meets every Tuesday, 8:15-10:30 p.m. at Earl Bales Park Community Centre, Room 2. New members of all ages are welcome. No audition necessary. Repertoire consists of Broadway, pop, folk and old favourites. Ability to read music not necessary, just a love of singing. **Fay Cohen** 416-633-7233 or **Judy Gordon** 416-221-3161.

LADY BOWLERS

Lady bowlers are wanted for a 10-pin bowling league, every Monday at 7 p.m. at Newtonbrook Bowlerama. If interested, call **Phyllis** 416-223-5934.

FOR SENIORS

Holy Blossom Temple Lunch and Learn in Retirement group opening meeting Wednesday, Sept. 25, at noon. **Rabbi Dow Marmur** speaks on the Wisdom of Insecurity. Bring your own dairy lunch. Coffee, tea and cookies served. You are invited to meet in the sukkah at 11:30 a.m.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove Sr. (B'nai Brith Building). Get ready for Simchat Torah dance party. Sept. 19, bingo; Sept. 26, video movie; Sept. 29, Sunday, Simchat Torah dance party, 7 p.m., music, light supper. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama Oct. 9, 23, Nov. 6, 20; Saturday dances 7:30 p.m. Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 9, 30; Sunday dances Oct. 6, 29, Nov. 3, 17; Niagara Casino Oct. 17; trip to Atlantic City Nov. 3-6, $50 (US) in casino bonuses. 416-395-7881.

New Horizons Simchat Torah party Sunday, Sept. 29, 6 p.m., 3565 Bathurst St., **Edith Lazar**, 416-256-1892.

Senior Bowlers, co-ed, continues Tuesdays 1 p.m. at Pro Bowl, 877 Wilson Ave. **Milt Cohen** 416-495-1999.

Young at Heart Seniors trip to glatt kosher Saxony Hotel, Miami Beach, with meals or efficiency. free full breakfast and more. **Helen**. 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Relevant Topics of the Day with **Doug Haddow**, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 10-11:30 a.m.

Osteoporosis Interest Group Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Maryam Hamidi,** research nutritionist, discusses Fine Tuning a Calcium Rich Diet.

Autumn Festival, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Musical variety show; white elephant sale; sidewalk sale; book sale; raffle; special entertainment; creative lunch. **Irina Shulgin** ext. 123.

Let's Have Fun With Yiddish. Stories, jokes, anecdotes, videos, speakers. Thursday, Sept. 26, 1 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking people meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. **Anna** ext. 110. Sept. 24, concert; Oct. 1, Etrog Anniversary Dance party.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre for the Arts/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

The Jewish Discovery Place is now available in family size! Introducing the new Family Centre at the BJCC. Opens Sunday, Oct. 6. Open House 1-3:30 p.m. Jewish Discovery Place Museum off the lobby of the BJCC. A great line-up of programs for the entire family. For information, **Heather,** ext. 390.

Learning Experience Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1-2 p.m. Bunka Japanese punch needle craft demonstration and exhibit. Room 211.

Fun With Yiddish, Wednesday, Sept. 25. 1-2:30 p.m. Room 115.

Lunch N' Learn, Friday, Oct. 4, noon to 1 p.m. with **Rabbi Moshe Stern**. Room 202

Fall courses – register in class: bridge, ballroom dancing; current events; drama; painting; needlecrafts; choir; yoga; line dancing. folkdancing.

Yoga-Fit, led by **Dr. Estelle Altman**, starts Monday, Oct. 7, 1-2:30 p.m., Room 211B

The Music of Israel: Hava Nashira, with **Rita Sue Fisher,** starts Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Room 115.

Big Bands Revisited with **Al Basian** starts Thursday, Oct. 10, 1:30-3:30 p.m. Room 115.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 705 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Children's after-school programs have begun. Call for registration and information.

Registration is underway for adult fall programs including:

Beginning Jewish Meditation, a 6-week program beginning Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 7:30 p.m. with **Chashi Skobac**. Presented by the Downtown Jewish Learning Council at the Miles Nadal JCC.

Hebrew Language:

Two-Day Hebrew Marathon Sundays Oct. 20 and 27. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Instructor **Nirit Gruber**.

Hebrew 1 (beginner) Tuesdays Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26, Dec. 3 and 10, at 8-9:30 p.m. Instructor Nirit Gruber. For people who have completed the Hebrew Marathon or have a basic knowledge of the Hebrew alphabet.

Hebrew 3 (intermediate/advanced) Thursdays Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28 at 8-9:30 p.m. Instructor Esther Benari-Altmann, principal of Beth Sholom Hebrew School.

Kids! Study violin, flute and cello with the Suzuki Method. Phone **Gretchen Paxson**. 416-466-0208

Aquatics programs, tots to adults, including leadership, certifications, scuba diving.

Klezmer, Tuesdays 7:30-9 p.m., 6 lectures starting Oct. 7 with **Jordan Klapman**. Register.

Hava Nashira: Sing the Music of Israel with **Ritasue Charlestein Fisher**, 6-week program beginning Monday, Oct. 21, noon to 1 p.m.

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The tickets are for the performance on Thursday, October 17, 2002 at 8:00 p.m. at The Hummingbird Centre, 1 Front Street E.
Rules: To be eligible to win a pair of tickets to Klezmer Conservatory Band, please print your name, address and daytime phone number on a piece of paper along with the answer to this question:
How many band members are in the Klezmer Conservatory Band?
(Hint: the answer can be found in the photograph of the band printed in their advertisement elsewhere in this newspaper!)
All correct answers received by 1 p.m. on Fri., Oct 4/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Mon., Oct. 7/02 at 10 a:m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*
Send your response to: 'Klezmer' Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 'Klezmer' Contest, 416-391-0949.
Employees and family members of The Hummingbird Centre for the Performing Arts or *The CJN* are not eligible to enter.

SINGLES EVENTS
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On Campus

Deadline approaching for Israel Advocacy funding

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

UIA Federations Canada, which funds a number of Canada-wide agencies including National Jewish Campus Services, has allocated $100,000 to fund innovative Israel advocacy programming on campuses excluding Montreal and Toronto for the 2002-2003 school year. (Campuses in those two cities receive funding from their local federations.)

"We wanted to do something significant," said Lance Davis, UIAFC's director of leadership development.

"Students living on campus in particular have to deal with anti-Israel and anti-Zionist propaganda, sentiment and rhetoric, and that tension fills the air 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They face a greater challenge than the average person in the community.

"The message we heard from students and lay leaders," said Davis, "was that things would be more effective if they were done locally."

The funding, which is a separate budget line not available last year, will not affect the amount campuses receive for other programming like Shabbat, arts or environmental events.

"We're giving campuses that are often underfunded a chance to raise the bar of programming by doing something extraordinary with funds that are not part of their annual allocation," said Davis.

"Working with students is probably one of the best investments we as a community can make," he added. "These are our future leaders."

Each campus with more than 250 Jewish students may apply for up to $10,000. Joint applications from schools with smaller Jewish populations are also eligible. Applications must be submitted on line, by Sept. 30.

There's no formula for the programs, said Davis, but "creativity is probably the cornerstone." Programs must be initiated and developed by students, and must be supported by their campus professional.

> *'These are our future leaders'*

Applications will be judged by a committee of three community lay leaders and two students.

Anyone who submits a grant proposal will be invited to a Canada Israel Experience training conference for Birthright madrichim (leaders) being held in Collingwood, Ont., in October. Funding for travel will be available.

The goal of the conference, said Adam Minsky, director of national campus services, is to provide Israel advocacy training and, for those who have submitted grant applications, to "refine the grants, enrich their proposals, and provide them with additional services."

At the same time, he hopes that the professionals at the conference will learn what grant applicants see as the most effective tools and services to help the campus community.

"We're dealing with [students,] the most creative population. I'm confident we're going to come up with some outstanding ideas," said Davis.

For further information about the Israel Advocacy grants, go to www.younglead ershipcanada.org under Grant Application, or to www.jewishcanada.org and see the top right corner.

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Quebec scholar decries academic boycott of Israel

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – As Israel became increasingly targeted by academic boycotts over the past six months, one of the first non-Jewish scholarly voices in Canada to denounce the practice was Annette Paquot.

During the summer, Paquot, who heads the linguistics and translation department at Laval University, decried what she saw as an alarming and outrageous effort to stifle academic freedom.

And, as she said during a recent telephone interview, "I have been one of the few willing to do it publicly."

Paquot was angered by the "appalling" academic boycott launched last April in a petition published as a letter to *The Guardian* newspaper in Britain.

In the petition – started by British professor Steven Rose, a Jew who has renounced his right of return to Israel over its treatment of the Palestinians – more than 100 academics criticized Israel for its "campaign against the Palestinian people" and called for an academic boycott of both scientific conferences in Israel and of scientific and cultural exchanges.

The number of signatories to the petition has since mushroomed into several hundred.

About one month after the campaign was launched, two Israeli scholars were fired from the boards of two academic translation journals owned by Mona Baker, a professor at the University of Manchester Institute of Technology, who said she was honouring the boycott of Israeli institutions.

One of the fired academics, Miriam Shlesinger of Bar-Ilan University, said she and Gideon Toury of Tel Aviv University were dismissed because they had "the wrong passports."

Paquot sees such initiatives as a threat to academic freedom and human rights.

In an opinion piece published in *Le Devoir*, Paquot said the boycott and firings raise serious questions that transcend academia.

"The two Israelis earned their positions on the journals based on their professional and scientific reputations," Paquot wrote. "How can it possibly be justified that they were fired because of their citizenship?...

"Will being part of a particular national group become a criterion for competence?"

Paquot wondered why Israel been singled out for an academic boycott.

"The implacable harshness against the Jewish State, this selective indignation, this imbalance of blame, should make people within certain intellectual circles honestly ask themselves about the current tendency to demonize Israel."

What particularly outraged Paquot, she told *The CJN*, was the "indifference" of many of her colleagues toward efforts to ostracize Israel through boycotts.

Besides the pro-Palestinian bias within academia, Paquot suspected an element of "hidden anti-Semitism," despite the indignant protestations to the contrary by those in support of the campaign.

In late July, the Society for Academic Freedom and Scholarship (SAFS), based in London, Ont., joined Paquot in condemning the boycott, stating that any such effort "weakens science, impeded the progress of scholarship, and denies full opportunities to Jewish and Arab students in Israeli universities."

The SAFS stated that the signatories to the petition "fail to distinguish between the individual and the nation."

In blunt terms, the SAFS called "any such actions contemptible, political attacks that violate academic freedom, diminish the dignity of the individual, and debase the scholarly process.

"Academic freedom means the right to engage in free inquiry – to research, teach, and otherwise communicate without regard to prevailing doctrine.

"To deny academics participation in normal activities of scholarship, simply because they work in Israel, is to deprive them of their academic freedom."

Harvey Shulman, a member of the SAFS board of directors who teaches at Concordia University, said the reaction by Canadian academia to the boycott has been "tepid, hesitant and too ambiguous."

He said that at Concordia, the boycott did not appear to be an issue for most of his colleagues.

Ottawa doctor honoured for helping doctors

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Dr. Rose Goldstein, a rheumatologist, is well known for helping patients, but she has recently been recognized for her assistance to fellow physicians as well.

At a special ceremony held during the Canadian Medical Association's annual meeting in Saint John, N.B., Goldstein, also associate dean of professional affairs at the faculty of medicine at the University of Ottawa, became the first recipient of the May Cohen Award for Women Mentors.

The award recognizes a woman physician who has demonstrated outstanding mentoring abilities.

Cohen was a family doctor in Hamilton, and until her retirement a few years ago, director of the women's health office at McMaster University medical school.

Goldstein, a native of Montreal and graduate of McGill University, became interested in mentoring, "because I saw the difference that it made to my career and I saw people around me, particularly women, who did not have that advantage.

"When the faculty of medicine established the Office of Gender Equity, one of the mandates was to mentor women and improve their role in the faculty of medicine."

Through her work with the Office of Gender Equity, Goldstein has helped to define an equitable promotion policy, and has inspired similar initiatives in other Ontario universities.

She has initiated and leads workshops on leadership development, balancing professional and family life and the academic promotion process and has provided conflict resolution training.

She also mentors other mentors.

"A lot of my mentoring is informal. I have helped others to counsel women about academic promotion, helping them through the process in almost a coaching role."

The award came as a great surprise to her, she said.

"There were no awards for such things when I began. The role is rather new, and until now has not been recognized. It is especially meaningful because I know May Cohen. She has been an important influence in the area of women in medicine and women's health, and she was one of my mentors.

"Through her tireless activities and advocacy on behalf of others, she embodies mentoring, and laid the ground work for establishing mentoring as an important professional activity," said Goldstein.

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או טו טו לקחה שנה חדשה את מקומה של אחת השנים הקשות והאיומות ביותר בזיכרון הישראלי. הטרור, הכלכלה, האנטישמיות האירופאית, הבדידות בעולם. אבל דווקא עכשיו מבצבצים כמה ניצנים מעודדים: יש ראיות ראשוניות לכך שהכלכלה הישראלית מתחילה להתאושש ועוברת לגידול, ובמישור הפלשתינאי נראה שצה"ל והשב"ך מתחילים למצוא תשובות, גם אם לא מלאות, לטרור. נדמה גם, והלוואי ולא אתבדה, שהפלשתינאים מתחילים להבין שהטרור הולך לשבור אותם, ואין סיכוי שישבור את ישראל. הסטטיסטיקה מראה ירידה דראמאטית במספר הטסים לישראל: אין כמעט תיירות, וגם תכניות חינוכיות רבות מתבטלות. רוב היהודים, כמו הגויים, פוחדים. היהודים שממשיכים למלא מטוסים הם הישראלים. זוהי השעה היפה שלנו: תמשיכו לנסוע, לבקר, להביא מתנות, לארח ישראלים כאן. זה הבית שלנו. אלה מיכם שמגלגלים עיניים ואומרים "כולם שם אומרים לי לא לבוא עכשיו"-דחילאק, זה קשקוש- שם יוצאים, מבלים, חוגגים. תסעו ותחזרו מחוזקים.

האימהות

אחד הקטעים הכי קשים בשבילי השנה היה מראות הטלביזיה והעיתונות של אימהות פלשתינאיות שמעודדות את ילדיהן להיות שאחידים. קשה לי להשוב על משהו יותר מפלצתי מזה. נדמה לי גם שזה שכנע גויים רבים לראות את האכזריות והוסר האנושיות של המאבק הפלשתינאי. זה החבדל התהומי בין ח-**אידישע נאמע** לבין ח-**שאחידישע נאמע**. אבל שישאר בינינו.

על הסיגנון

בערך אחת לשנה מתלוגן אחד מהקוראים לעורך העיתון על סיגנון הכתיבה שלי. בפעם האחרונה זה היה קשור לטעם שלי בבדיחות. הפעם התלוגנו י.ו-ז.פ (בחרתי בעילום שם מאחר והמכתב לא נשלח אלי אלא לעיתון). אני מתרגם קטע ממכתבם לעורך:

"הזדעזנו מנטייתו בזמן האחרון להשתמש בשפה פוגעת. למשל כשאמר באופן גורף 'הקנדים בטפשותם', או כשכינה את האירופאיה 'כלבים' בגלל הצהרות אנטי ישראליות של פרופסורים אירופאיים". רק בשביל החקשר: כיניתי את הקנדים טפשים כשנכתב שהסרט "חתונה מאוחרת" מתרחש בגרוזיניה, בעוד שהסרט מתרחש בישראל זה מייצג עבורי סוג של שטחיות והפיפיות שאופייני לתרבות הזו. לאירופאיים האנטישמיים קראתי כלבים, כי מתוך נימוס איני יכול להעלות על הכתב על את מה שאני באמת מרגיש. זה ש-י.ז.פ מאמינים שהעצומות האירופאיות הן "אנטי ישראליות" ולא "אנטישמיות" זה סיפור עצוב לכשעצמו.

"שישאר בינינו" הוא טור שנכתב בעברית לישראלים. לא הייתי כותב כך באנגלית. זה אולי ייחודו של הטור בעולם שיש בו מספיק טורים שהם פוליטיקאלי קורקטיים. אינני מתכוון להעליב בכתיבתי את י.ז.פ או אף אחד אחר. אבל לא יקרה לחם כלום אם יחליטו לקראת השנה לדלג על דברי. חרי לא צריך לקרוא את כל מה שכתוב בעיתון.

ההשוואה השבועית

מי מיכם שקורא עיתונים ישראליים לא יכול להתעלם מהעיסוק הכפייתי בהשוואה בין ישראל לשאר העולם. כאילו כל החיים שם הם לינה אחת ומתמשכת מלידה ועד מוות. והינה במוסף אחד של "ידיעות אחרונות" מודיעים שהישראלי הממוצע מתנסה בחייו עם כך וכך נשים בכך וכך הנוחות, שזה המקום השבעה עשר בעולם בהנוחות ומקום עשרים ושבעה בממוצע השבועי. והתלמיד הישראלי, שהיה עד לא מכבר במקום הראשון בעולם במתימטיקה ירד למקום העשרים ושש המבייש. ומסמר השבוע- רמת השחיתה הציבורית. ולא הייתי מטריד אתכם בנושא שגרתי כל כך, אלמלא הוזכרה שם קנדה בריש גלי. בכתבה התראיין "איש העסקים הבינלאומי" ער"ד גדעון פישר שמאוכזב מן המקום הנמוך של ישראל. וכך הוא מצהיר:

"קח למשל את קנדה. מדינה שנחשבת נקיית כפיים, אבל בפועל, בכל הרשויות המקומיות שלה יש תעשיית מאכערים מפותחת, ששום עסק גדול לא יכול לזוז בלעדיה. הייתי המום כשנתקלתי בזה, ונעשיתי פטריוט לגבי המנהל התקין בישראל".

חשבתי לעצמי: מסכנים הקנדיים- אין בקנדה פרוטקציה כמו בישראל, או צריך לשלם למעכארים..... אבל שישאר בינינו. שתהיה שנה טובה, בריאה ושלוה.

Coast to Coast

Jumping aboard a rickety bandwagon

How has it come to this? At the same time as a growing number of Palestinian intellectuals and even political figures are opposing violence and terrorism against Israelis as both counterproductive to Palestinian interests and inherently wrong, numerous western intellectuals are busy advancing the opposite argument.

They insist, contrary to the facts and to valid moral principles, that Palestinian terrorism is an understandable and justifiable "resistance to occupation." Their argument, it must be said bluntly, amounts to rank stupidity. While this column recently addressed the subject, warning about the "suicide-bombing-is-justified-resistance" bandwagon, we must revisit it now that another prominent figure has just jumped aboard in a most troubling way.

Ted Honderich, a former Canadian, a recently retired professor of philosophy in Britain and author of the just-published book *After the Terror,* was the subject of a feature interview on CBC Radio's *This Morning, Sunday Edition* with host Michael Enright. (The Sept. 8 program was devoted, as all such programs were last week, to retrospectives on Sept. 11.) Toward the end of the first chapter in *After the Terror*, Honderich singles out Israel and its alliance with the United States for special historical attention, because, as he writes, "wrongly or rightly," it is "the outstanding cause of the terrorism that seized our concentration on Sept.11 and subsequently gave rise to our counter-attack on Islamic terror." You know where this is going.

His historical treatment is tremendously skewed, making a mockery of his claim that he's limiting himself "to propositions that seem more or less indisputable."

The same distorting lens soon becomes apparent in the interview. While Enright lists Honderich's impressive credentials, he omits to inform listeners that Honderich is one of the supporters of the European academic boycott of Israel.

Honderich contrasts the Sept. 11 terrorists whose acts were "monstrous," "hideous," and "entirely wrong" with Palestinians who have "a moral right to their terrorism." After all, claims Honderich, drawing upon what he calls a "literal metaphor," the Palestinians have suffered and continue to suffer a "rape of Palestine by Israel." Insisting that Israel claims a "moral right to its state terrorism," Honderich finds further justification for Palestinian terrorism on that (non-existent) basis. And he concludes that in supporting Israel, in underwriting, in effect, its "rape" of Palestine, the United States bears "a responsibility for Sept. 11."

That Honderich promotes Israel as the central causal factor in Sept. 11, when Osama bin Laden himself has placed the Palestinian cause far down on his list of grievances against the West, clearly reveals a peculiar obsession on Honderich's part.

The mind reels at the accumulation of factual and moral absurdities in the first chapter of Honderich's book and in 25 minutes of thoroughly unchallenged conversation. (Space does not allow for rebuttal. See the Aug. 29 column at www.cicweb.ca under "According to Reports" for generic responses.)

We are in a very precarious place these days – intellectually, morally, spiritually – when relatively accomplished contemporary philosophical figures like Honderich are looked to for moral guidance on issues about which they spew nonsense. And not just any nonsense, but dangerous nonsense (rationalizing the murder of innocents) that is met with the most uncritical acceptance on our trusted public broadcaster. Shameful.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Open Letter to the Community

The volunteer committee of B & G Productions would like to extend its sincere thanks to all those who helped support our charity fundraising event on July 13th 2001. The event was held at The Revival Lounge and attracted over 400 participants to a night of great music, dancing and socializing. We would also like to thank our corporate sponsors: Crane Capital, Cantar/Polyair, BellePak, Forum Financial, Dominion Sheet Metal and Roofing, City Water Inc, and Passion Group.

We are pleased to report that all the funds were directed to V'Ahavta, The Canadian Jewish and Humanitarian Relief Committee (original Charity of Record was Zareinu). It is encouraging and gratifying to know that with a little effort we can do a lot of good for people in need ... and have fun doing it.

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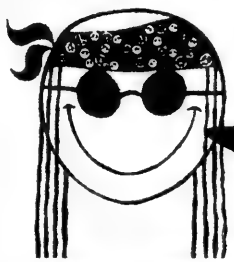

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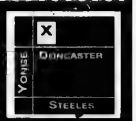

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Coast to Coast

Bibi gives defiant speech

Continued from page 1

Violent pro-Palestinian protesters in Montreal prevented Netanyahu from delivering a speech at Concordia University.

In Ottawa, where he met with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, demonstrators milled around the downtown hotel where he spoke.

At the Toronto Centre for the Arts, some 200 Palestinians and their sympathizers, waving Palestinian flags and shouting slogans, confronted an almost equally large phalanx of Israel supporters holding aloft Israeli flags and placards.

Armed police officers kept the antagonistic groups apart, and there was no violence.

In a biting reference to the pro-Palestinian protesters, Netanyahu said that Israel provokes Palestinians by its mere existence.

"What you saw in Montreal is a microcosm of the hatred we're fighting," he said, apparently referring to the current Palestinian uprising.

Netanyahu, the author of a book on terrorism, branded terrorism " a criminal means of warfare" that must always be rejected and punished.

Defining terrorism as the systematic attack against civilians, he charged Palestinians with deliberately targeting Israelis.

"Terrorists trample all human rights into the dust," he declared.

Characterizing the events of Sept. 11 as "a wakeup call from hell," Netanyahu launched into a blistering critique of Arafat.

Having earlier accused him of naming public squares after known terrorists, Netanyahu claimed that Arafat does not seek peace, but Israel's destruction.

He ascribed Israel's presence in the West Bank, and the formation of the Palestinian refugee problem, to "Arab aggression."

Presenting a short history of Zionist settlement in Palestine, Netanyahu urged the world to understand "basic historical truths" about the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Jews did not steal Palestinian lands, he said emphatically.

"We never gave up our claim to the land as a free and independent people."

Growing still more emotional, he added, "We're not in a strange land. We're in our land."

Netanyahu said that an Arab propaganda campaign has succeeded in clouding the issue of land ownership.

Asserting that Israel and Diaspora Jews must work hand in hand to defeat the false perception that the foundations of Israel were laid on Palestinian territory, Netanyahu said, "This is the most important battle we face."

Ramming home his point, he observed: "The most important battle we're fighting is the battle for the truth."

After describing a meeting he once had with the late Lubavitch Rebbe in New York City, Netanyahu said he has devoted himself to lighting the candles of truth so as to dispel the slanders and vilification hurled against Israel.

In closing, he urged members of the audience to become "soldiers of truth."

Several speakers preceded Netanyahu, notably Meir Romem, Israel's consul general in Toronto, and Israel Asper, the Winnipeg-based proprietor of the Canwest Global media empire, which includes Global Television and the *National Post*.

Romem said Israel is at war and that the objective of the Palestinians is to destroy the Jewish state.

Saying that Israel's spirit has not been broken by the latest intifadah, Romem stated that Israel will stand firm and win.

He asked Jews to show solidarity with Israel by visiting the country, by investing in it and by buying its products.

Asper said that anti-Semitism rises when Israel is attacked and defends itself.

Criticism of Israel veers into sheer anti-Semitism, he continued, when it denigrates Zionism in contemptuous terms.

He called on Jews to respond vigorously to anti-Israel bashing before it assumes crisis proportions.

Violent pro-Palestinian protesters in Montreal prevented Netanyahu from delivering a speech at Concordia University. [Mike Pochwat photo]

Sitting on the front line at Concordia University

By SHIRA GOLDBERG

In the *CJN*'s Rosh Hashanah supplement for 5763, there is an image of a group of Canadian youths, clad in army khaki, on a volunteer mission to Israel last May. There I am, sitting in the front line.

Now it's Sept. 9 in Montreal, and I have decided to attend a lecture by former Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu scheduled at Concordia University. The subject is combating terrorism.

Guest Voice

Concern about terrorism abounds in Israel, but not in Montreal. I was unprepared for the intensity of the confrontation that erupted before my eyes.

As soon as I approached the pulsating campus, I began to feel uneasy. An angry mob of students waving Palestinian flags had circumvented the police barriers meant to confine the protest group. The Jewish girl who was accompanying me decided to return home. Determined to gain entry, with my tickets in hand, I finally advanced to the front of the line.

Once past the extensive security at the building's lobby, I came face-to-face with a group of protestors being held back by police on the second floor balcony. One man caught my eye, glared at me and pointed at me menacingly. For the first time in my sheltered existence, I felt threatened as a Jew. At no point during my time in Israel had I felt so intimidated.

But I escaped the commotion; a lady ushered me into the lecture hall. Immediately, I felt the calm in the room, which was now almost full. Then police entered with dogs to sniff for explosives. Soon an announcement was made that the lecture would proceed when security improved. Everyone waited patiently, talking quietly.

When the spokesman returned, he said the police had determined it was not safe for Netanyahu to speak at this lecture hall that day. He added that it was not safe for those in the hall to leave, saying that tear gas was being used outside to disperse the crowd.

The audience responded loudly and emotionally. Several students shouted, interrupting the subsequent speakers who tried to explain the situation. Several people tried to leave the room but security officers prevented them. We were required to wait it out, in this shelter. Some people began singing Israeli songs, but it didn't catch on. Speakers were ignored. People tried to cope with the frustration of their confinement and the cancellation of the lecture.

Finally, after more than two hours, we were evacuated in groups of 20 at a time. This exemplary composure, in opposition to the chaotic violence on the street, was a contrast as sharp as the shards of broken glass that lay at our feet when we left the building.

Once outside, I thought about the people who are scared to travel to Israel right now. Likewise, many were reluctant to hear Netanyahu at Concordia. The sad truth is that the problem of terrorism is everywhere. Like the spray used to dissolve the fanatical mob, the crisis permeates every domain – even an academic institution dedicated to preserving freedom of thought and expression. We must deal with it in all places.

When I returned to my apartment, I recounted the day's horrifying events to my non-Jewish roommate and her close friend, who told me that she had been invited by her social activism group to attend a "peaceful information session" about Palestinian rights. She had considered attending the rally and was shocked to learn about the violence that had ensued.

By manipulating language, extremists have been able to convince many Canadians that the Palestinians are the sole victims in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. They are taking advantage of the tolerance and political correctness that characterizes Canada, particularly in its highest institutions of learning. Radical students, who hector for freedom of speech when it suits their interests, attempted to silence another's voice.

No longer can we sit by idly and unsuspecting. It is time to renew the fight against terror. In this important battle, we must all push to the front of the line.

Shira Goldberg is a second-year student at McGill University.

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Coast to Coast

Concordia's response to violent protest criticized

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

The suspension of Mideast-related events by Concordia University after violent protests forced the cancellation of a speech by former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu penalizes Jewish students who want to stage pro-Israel activities, an organizer of the event says.

"Concordia deserves a lot of credit for its willingness to host [Netanyahu], but it has made a mistake. A moral equivalency is being drawn which is inappropriate," Rabbi Reuben Poupko said.

"What Concordia should be doing is shutting down Arab or Palestinian activism, and the Jewish students should be rewarded with additional platforms."

Yoni Petel, president of Montreal Hillel, which sponsored Netanyahu's Sept. 9 appearance, said he understands the need for a cooling-off period, but feels the moratorium gives the protesters what they wanted.

"It's infringing on the rights of everyone. The rioters have managed to take away the freedom of not only the pro-Israel camp, but also the moderate Arab camp."

The night after the violence, in which protesters smashed glass windows of the downtown Henry F. Hall Building and threw chairs and other objects at police who responded with pepper spray and batons, Concordia rector Frederick Lowy announced a "period of restraint" that will last until further notice.

No university space may be used for speeches, rallies, exhibits or information tables on the Mideast conflict. The administration will meet with student leaders to develop a "long-term policy" on such activities, Lowy said.

The day after the protest, members of the Concordia Student Union (CSU) executive denounced the moratorium at a press conference and called on Lowy to resign if he could not guarantee freedom of speech and the right to dissent on campus for all students.

One of the moratorium's first casualties, the *Montreal Gazette* reported, was a lecture on the Mideast situation by U.S. academic Norman Finkelstein, a well-known anti-Zionist. Scheduled for last Thursday by the CSU, it was to have been replaced by a forum led by Lowy and CSU president Sabine Friesinger on free speech, tolerance and diversity.

Lowy called the protest, whose organizers made it known well in advance that their goal was to stop Netanyahu from coming on campus, "a shameful and distressing event."

Besides the damage to property, Lowy deplored the "intimidation" and "jostling" of some students and visitors as they entered the Hall building to go to the main hall were Netanyahu was to speak.

Lowy promised to prosecute those who provoked or engaged in violence or vandalism, and to have their student status reviewed. Police have already charged five people.

The day before Netanyahu's Montreal appearance, about 250 people protested peacefully outside the venue where he spoke in Winnipeg. Protests were similarly peaceful the following day in both Ottawa and Toronto.

The Montreal protest was officially organized by the Quebec Coalition for a Just Peace in the Middle East, which considers Netanyahu a war criminal. Though largely made up of Arab students, one of the group's key organizers, Aaron Maté, is Jewish. Maté, who is also a CSU vice-president, was among those arrested.

Petel said Hillel is compiling its own evidence for police of the "hundreds" of people who were "heckled, spat upon, kicked and shoved" as they went into the Hall building.

Among those attacked was 73-year-old Thomas Hecht, chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, Quebec region, an event co-sponsor.

"This is Europe 1939 all over again," said the Czech-born Hecht. "I was kicked, spat upon, told this is not your country, it's a Palestinian checkpoint. I was found guilty just because I had come to hear [Netanyahu]. This is fascism; it's not civil behaviour," he said.

Rabbi Poupko and Petel are seeking a review of what they feel was a failure by the police and university security to contain demonstrators. They believe it was particularly egregious that 200 protesters made it inside the building, stationing themselves on the escalators and mezzanine beside the hall where the event was.

"There was even one demonstrator standing on a police car shouting his hatred, and the police did nothing," said Petel, who said he did not regret bringing Netanyahu to Concordia.

Concordia professor Frederick Krantz said police "generally stood by" as people "ran the gauntlet" to enter. He said Concordia should set up a "blue-ribbon" panel to examine how the university handled this "debacle."

Demonstrators began congregating on the street at 9:30 a.m. for Netanyahu's noon-hour speech and by 10:30 there were about 350 of them, but the atmosphere appeared calm as protesters chanted slogans and held Palestinian flags.

By 11 a.m., those with tickets were allowed past tight security and into the building. But when the hall was only half-full, Lowy announced that a demonstration outside had grown out of control.

Netanyahu never left the Ritz Carlton Hotel four blocks away. Shortly after 1 p.m., one hour after the speech was to begin, Lowy announced to the 650-member capacity audience that the Montreal police, RCMP and Netanyahu's security personnel had decided it was "not advisable" for him to come to the campus.

At that point, police were confronting demonstrators inside the building and right outside the hall where Netanyahu was to speak.

Lowy said it was not the administration that had cancelled the event. In a later press release, the university said the decision was made when police felt they could not guarantee the security of the audience or anyone else in the building.

(Later that day, Montreal Mayor Gérald Tremblay issued a statement that Concordia made the decision to cancel when it deemed Netanyahu's security would be in jeopardy.)

Lowy, nevertheless, was heckled and shouted down by the disappointed audience. One young man in a kippah urged everyone to go outside the hall and take on the protesters.

Petel and Concordia Hillel president Patrick Amar pleaded with the audience to "keep your heads, unlike those outside," and "make Bibi proud." Amar called the demonstration a "viper's nest of anti-Semitism."

Most then stood up and sang *Hatikvah*. The audience spent almost another hour inside the hall until police gave permission to leave.

At a press conference later, Netanyahu said he was "glad" his appearance had been called off, because it gave Canadians a glimpse of the "mad zealotry run amok" that Israel must contend with.

"What you saw is a small example of what the larger war on terrorism is about," he said. "These people hate the freedoms we cherish and seek to extinguish them anyway they can." He compared the protesters to those who cheered when the World Trade Center towers crumbled.

"This was not a demonstration, which is a part of democracy. What we had was a coercive riot to prevent the airing of the truth."

Netanyahu said those who had tried to stifle him had failed "because instead of speaking to 600 people, I can speak through you [the media] to 30 million people." He insisted that he had been prepared "until the last moment" to speak. He said he would accept another invitation to speak at Concordia if it was made.

Netanyahu firmly rejected a suggestion that inviting him to Concordia was "waving a red flag" given the history of tensions at the university over the Middle East.

"The cause of the problem is the rioters who want to prevent basic rights... If there is a situation at Concordia, clean it up... It's unacceptable to have a hornets' nest in the halls of academia, which is supposed to be a place of open debate." *With files from JTA.*

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Israel pleased with Bush's UN speech, but keeps quiet

By AMNON BARZILAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Officials in Israel's security establishment expressed satisfaction with U.S. President George Bush's speech to the United Nations General Assembly last week, when he said that if Iraq does not comply with UN resolutions, action against Baghdad would be "unavoidable."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is said to be refraining from responding publicly to the speech for fear it might undermine U.S. efforts to garner international support – particularly among Arab countries – for military action.

In internal discussions held last Thursday, Israeli Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer responded favourably to Bush's address, since he believes Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein poses a threat to the entire region.

Defence sources say the United States will now focus on mobilizing international support for action against Iraq. But this has no meaning from an operational standpoint, since Bush hinted in his speech the United States would act alone if necessary.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who was at the UN to hear the address, called it unequivocal, determined and powerful, saying it clearly stressed the necessity to continue the global fight against terror. He said U.S. efforts to "save freedom" in two world wars means it has a right to expect the world to understand its position on Iraq.

"[Bush] left the door open for another attempt [at Iraqi disarmament] through the [UN] Security Council, though I must admit the chances for it are very dim," Peres said.

If Saddam defies the international community again, the world must move "deliberately and decisively" against him, Bush told the General Assembly.

Bush's speech amounted to a challenge to the UN to live up to its responsibilities. "Iraq has answered a decade of UN demands with a decade of defiance," he said, adding the UN now faces "a difficult and defining moment. Are Security Council resolutions to be honoured and enforced… or cast aside without consequence? Will the United Nations serve the purpose of its founding… or will it be irrelevant?"

Bush offered to work with other nations on a resolution "to meet our common challenge." His apparent willingness to act through the UN seemed to respond to a growing chorus against unilateral U.S. action to topple Saddam.

A senior U.S. official said U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell would be working with the four other permanent Security Council members – Russia, China, France and Britain – on a deadline for Iraq to comply with demands to admit weapons inspectors.

Bush laid out a harsh indictment of Saddam and challenged the UN, which included many skeptical member nations, to act swiftly on a new Iraq resolution. "The Security Council resolutions will be enforced – the just demands of peace and security will be met – or action will be unavoidable," he said.

He left little doubt the United States would respond on its own if necessary. "If the Iraqi regime wishes peace, it will immediately end all support for terrorism and act to suppress it, as all states are required to do by UN Security Council resolutions," Bush said.

In response, British Prime Minister Tony Blair's office said he has always believed the Iraq issue should be dealt with at the UN "because it is the UN's authority that has been consistently flouted."

Iraq's UN ambassador Mohammed Aldouri called Bush's speech the "longest series of fabrications that has ever been told by a leader of a nation" and an attempt to divert attention from the Israeli-Palestinian crisis. He said the United States has failed to find evidence of Iraq's involvement in terrorism.

Meanwhile, Israeli defence sources said Iraq has stepped up attempts to move weapons and financial aid to the Palestinian areas in order to resume terror attacks against Israel. Iraq's plan is to refocus international attention on the Israeli-Arab conflict and hope for a second front in case of a U.S. attack against Baghdad.

The Iraqi-backed Arab Liberation Front last week held a rally in Gaza where financial grants from Saddam were handed out to 32 families of Palestinian dead. The rally included an appearance by Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, who called for "unity in the ranks of the resistance," and linked Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation and U.S. threats to Iraq.

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Argentina's Jews fight poverty

By VIVIANA GORDON

Commentary

A hundred years ago, many Jews came to Argentina escaping persecution in their homelands and searching for better opportunities in a country full of promises. Today, those dreams are shattered because of the crisis that has stricken this land. Once the fourth wealthiest economy in the world, Argentina has fallen into a deep depression following a recession that began in 1998.

The crisis reached its climax last December when five presidents came to power in just a few weeks. Corruption is an omnipresent feature in every government.

Since then, Argentina has defaulted on its foreign debt and has no credit; access to savings accounts has been restricted. Moreover, the peso, linked to the U.S. dollar for the past decade, was devalued, and prices started to climb while incomes remained stable or decreased.

This past May, the unemployment rate reached a record 21.5 per cent, according to the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INDEC). But unofficial figures estimate that it might be as high as 35 per cent, a number which does not include the 15 per cent who work less than 10 hours a week. Almost 50 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line and 8,000 people cross that threshold every day.

Argentina's economic collapse has affected mainly its middle class, to which 80 per cent of the country's Jewish population belongs. Currently, there are about 200,000 Jews in Argentina, most of them in Buenos Aires. Seventy per cent of small businesses run by Jews were forced to close because of the situation.

Traditionally, Argentina's Jewish community has been well-organized, with more than 60 day schools and synagogues and a strong network of communal associations, supported mainly by the middle class. Today, over 20 schools have closed and attendance has dropped by 50 per cent because parents cannot afford to pay the tuition.

Many small businesses owners, merchants and professionals of the Argentinian Jewish community have lost their jobs and run out of money. Their savings have decreased dramatically with the recent banking restrictions adopted by the government.

Despite the fact that these figures are estimates because there is a lack of reliable data, a report done by the Fundación Tzedaka, the Jewish Argentine Community Foundation, estimates that 25 per cent of the Jewish community is poor and eight per cent is indigent. Indigents, those whose income does not allow them to obtain their basic food requirements, are the most needy.

Historically, poverty in Argentina has been represented by the structural poor – that is, large families lacking essential needs, such as basic education, a proper dwelling and food. However, the proportion of structurally poor Jews has always been very small. For the most part, poor Jews are part of the "new poor," as a result of a crisis that started in the 1970s and pushed thousands of middle class families below the poverty line due to a gradual salary drop. Between 1980 and 1990, the value of workers' income decreased by 40 per cent.

Nevertheless, the current economic depression has created a new group of impoverished Jews, called the "emergent poor," the formerly wealthy and upper class Jews who have become suddenly poor. Some people risk losing their homes because they cannot afford to pay the rent or the mortgage payments on time; others lack electricity and gas supplies. Many others face the impossibility of acquiring the drugs they need for their medical treatments.

As a result, within the impoverished Jewish community, there is increasing familial violence and break-up, school desertion, isolation and loss of community ties, as well as an increase in the mortality rate.

In 1998, there were 27,900 poor Jews – that is, 14 per cent of the Jewish population. By 2001, that figure increased to 38,800 (19 per cent), reaching 49,555 (25 per cent) this year. Within this category, the number of indigent poor rose from 6,200 (three per cent) in 1998 to 10,600 (five per cent) in 2001 to 15,097 (eight per cent) in 2002.

The current economic depression has created a new group of impoverished Jews called the 'emergent poor'

These numbers, however, mask a much harsher reality, one that cannot hide behind cold figures and is shown in the individual cases such as the ones referred to below.

Education: When a right becomes a luxury

Currently, more and more families are forced to withdraw their children from Jewish schools and send them to public ones. However, sometimes they cannot even afford that because they lack the money to pay for transportation.

Parents feel desperate when their children do not attend school, a fact that deepens their exclusion because the whole family is now isolated from the social groups they used to belong to.

The situation is critical at the university level as well. Even though university is public and free in Argentina, students can no longer support themselves financially.

Malnutrition: A common problem

A woman was worried because her husband was very sick with cancer and her house was mortgaged. Her family does not have enough money to buy milk for their baby and the public hospital stopped supplying them with it. She was so immersed in her despair she did not realize that her baby was undernourished.

When the risk of becoming homeless knocks at the door

Many members of the Jewish community face eviction and remain in the streets because they cannot financially support their homes or pay for the rent. One 55-year-old widow has spent her last savings paying the rent for the following year, managing to avoid eviction.

Nevertheless, she is unemployed and if she does not find a job, she will join the homeless in the near future. Her sons cannot help her, because one does not have a job and the other is still in high school.

When violence strikes

A man was robbed and murdered while he was working as a taxi driver. His wife and two sons lost most of their income. The youngest son is still in high school. The eldest, who used to drive the car at night, is no longer able to work because the car was confiscated during the murder investigation. Once a typical middle class family, they are now victims of the crisis and the violence prevailing in this land.

Due to the depth of the crisis, some Jews are considering leaving the country. The number of Jews immigrating to Israel has increased considerably this year. It is estimated that 5,000 to 6,000 people will make aliyah in 2002, compared to 1,500 in a typical year. Observers predict that around 20,000 might move to Israel in the next three years. Since the founding of the State of Israel, 65,000 Argentinian Jews have made aliyah.

These cases indicate just a few ways this depression is affecting Argentine Jews' everyday life. No one is free from falling into the seemingly never-ending spiral of despair and hopelessness. The Argentine government and political leaders do not seem ready to assume their responsibility and take measures to ease the suffering of the people, which is worsening constantly.

Even though local and international Jewish organizations are assisting Argentina's Jews through different projects, such as providing food, financial aid, job training and psychological support, among others, much more help is needed. The clock is ticking. Now is the time to act.

Viviana Gordon is a journalist from Argentina.

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U.S. going it alone on terror, WJC chair says

TORONTO — The United States has never been as isolated on the world stage as it is now, says the chair of the New York-based World Jewish Congress.

Last Wednesday, on the first anniversary of the Sept. 11 terror attacks, Israel Singer told a conference call of the national executive of Canadian Jewish Congress that the United States finds itself alone in making a strong case against terrorism.

"We are more isolated than we've been in a very, very long time," Singer said. "We need to end our isolation. We need to change our situation. We cannot continue to remain as isolated as we are."

He said it's up to the United States to change its approach.

"The lack of empathy, the lack of understanding for other people's pain brought about by terror... the responsibility is ours. We have not explained efficiently or sufficiently to the world what the implications [of terror] are for each person.

"We have not made our case as Americans."

He said even traditional allies of the United States have fallen away from supporting an attack on Iraq, something Americans – especially Jews – should view with concern.

Sept. 9

• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon appointed Maj.-Gen. Meir Dagan as director of the Mossad, replacing Ephraim Halevy, who has been appointed director of Israel's National Security Council.

Sept. 10

• Two new systems will be in place within a year to protect passenger planes over Israeli air space, Transportation Minister Ephraim Sneh said.

• Palestinian militia leader Marwan Barghouti's deputy refused legal counsel at his trial. Nasser Awis, who faces murder charges relating to his alleged involvement in terrorism, said he did not recognize the court's authority.

Sept. 11

• The security cabinet voted to include Rachel's Tomb, near Bethlehem, on the Israeli side of a security fence. *A day later, the Palestinian Authority called the move "a new crime against the Palestinian people, their Christian and Muslim holy places."*

Sept. 12

• Four eastern Jerusalem Arabs were charged with involvement in terrorist attacks. The four, allegedly members of a Hamas cell, were accused of causing the deaths of 35 people.

Sept. 13

• Lebanon said plans to divert water from the Hatzbani springs would go ahead despite strong warnings from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon earlier this week. On Tuesday, Sharon warned Lebanon not to divert water from the springs, telling Army Radio that he sees the attempt to do so as "a pretext for war." Under a plan announced recently by Lebanon, a pipeline would take 5,000 cubic metres of drinking water each day to five or six villages on the banks of the Hatzbani River in south Lebanon.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Difficult questions lead Israelis to re-examine Russian aliyah

By JESSICA STEINBERG
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — A renewed call to change the Law of Return, which guarantees Israeli citizenship to anyone with at least one Jewish grandparent, is turning the spotlight on immigration from the former Soviet Union.

Nearly one million immigrants have moved to Israel from the former Soviet Union since the floodgates opened in the late 1980s – and as many as a quarter of them are not Jews according to religious law, experts say.

Though immigration has tailed off sharply in the last few years, the percentage of non-Jews among the most recent immigrants has risen as high as 70 per cent, Israel's chief rabbis say.

The Interior Ministry puts the figure slightly lower, at 58 per cent for the first half of 2002, but still far above what it was in previous years.

The controversy over Russian immigration is not academic. With Israel defining itself as the Jewish State – and with the Orthodox rabbinate in charge of marriage, divorce and burial – an influx of large numbers of non-Jews raises difficult societal questions.

Should non-Jewish immigrants be allowed to undergo Reform or Conservative conversion, for instance, or must they go the more demanding Orthodox route?

Indeed, some ask, should they have to convert at all? Or are the responsibilities of Israeli citizenship, such as military service, the price of entry to the Jewish people?

The significant number of non-Jewish immigrants has pushed these issues to the front of the political battlefield.

At the same time, Russian immigration has "forced Israeli society to find practical solutions for problems that didn't exist 10 years ago," says Eli Kazhdan, executive director of Yisrael b'Aliyah, Israel's largest Russian political party.

It has also infused the country with a fresh dose of Zionism at a time when patriotism has fallen prey to cynicism in much of Israeli society.

While most Israelis generally welcome the idea of immigration, opinions differ widely on the implications of the huge Russian immigration for the Jewish state. Recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union now make up nearly one-sixth of the population.

For the most part, it all can be traced back to the Law of Return, which begs the question of who is a Jew.

Initially adopted in 1950, the Law of Return gave every Jew the right to immigrate to Israel. An amendment in 1970 extended that right to non-Jews who had a Jewish parent or grandparent, their spouses and the spouses of Jews.

Of the 250,000 non-Jewish Russian immigrants, about 30,000 fall under the "grandfather clause." The rest are spouses or children of Jews.

Assuming half of those 250,000 are women of childbearing age, the figures mean that in coming generations, the Jewish State will be producing non-Jews, since halachah does not accept the children of non-Jewish mothers as Jews.

With only religious marriages recognized in Israel, the halachic issue raises dilemmas. How, for example, would a young man whose immigrant mother wasn't Jewish, but who served in the army and lives like any other secular Israeli, marry a woman who is accepted as Jewish?

Such questions, which threaten to create an "A-list" and "B-list" of halachic status, are a ticking time bomb in a country not lacking in explosive issues.

Some Israeli leaders, such as Interior Minister Eli Yishai of the Shas Party, and Chief Rabbis Yisrael Meir Lau and Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron, want to eliminate the grandfather clause and limit the Law of Return to halachic Jews.

In July, the cabinet rejected a proposal to drop the grandfather clause – but the issue may come up again. Israel can't continue to bring entire Christian families to Israel, the chief rabbis said.

Without changes to the Law of Return, Yishai has warned, by 2010, Israel will lose its Jewish identity.

Others, such as the chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), Sallai Meridor, are equally adamant that Russian immigration should continue, but say the current conversion process should be changed to make conversions more available and less degrading.

Yisrael b'Aliyah takes a third stance: Since "only" about 30,000 of the non-Jewish immigrants are eligible for citizenship through the grandfather clause, the party argues that it's not worth tampering with the Law of Return. Still, the party thinks JAFI should stop actively seeking potential immigrants who fall under the grandfather clause.

"The Jewish Agency sometimes gets into the mindset that they must have a certain number of immigrants, so they end up scraping the bottom of the barrel," said Kazhdan. Instead, JAFI should work on infusing potential immigrants with Jewish identity and streamlining the conversion bureaucracy, which would solve more problems than changing the Law of Return, he said.

Yet immigration is crucial for Israel, as projections show that without significant immigration, Arabs will outnumber Jews between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River within several generations.

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YEAR OF LANDING	WHEN TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION
2002	October 15 to November 30, 2002
2001	December to February 2003
2000	March & April 2003
1996 - 1999	May 2003
1992 - 1995	June 2003
1988 - 1991	July 2003
1980 - 1987	August 2003
1973 - 1979	September 2003
Before 1973	ANYTIME after October 2002

Artistic 'dream team' tackles Chekhov classic plays

By CARRIE BRODI
Special to The CJN

A "dream team" of Canadian actors, playwrights and directors gather for rehearsals at the du Maurier Theatre, in preparation for the Soulpepper premiere of *Absolutely Chekhov*.

One of several Jewish contributors, including Adam Pettle, Jason Sherman and Daniel Brooks, is Toronto-born Leah Cherniak, an award-winning writer, director, actor and teacher. She's also a mother, and today she's running behind schedule.

"The reason I'm late," she says, "is because I had to enrol my five-year-old daughter in Downtown Jewish Day School. And I'm really nervous about it."

Although she considers herself a "less-than-secular" Jew, she values the communal experience and wants to provide her daughter with a base from which to grow. She worries about the speed of technology, the size of cities and widespread human alienation. The face-to-face human experience, she says, cannot be replaced.

It is that sense of human interaction that attracts Cherniak to the Russian playwright.

"My interest in Chekhov is his lovely, detailed attention to everyday life and how there are hidden treasures within that speak about bigger secrets and fears of people.

"As Canadians, I think we have a language vocabulary that mutes a lot of our emotions, mutes a lot of our passions. So, there's a lot going on underneath us as well. I think there's a profound visceral understanding, even if we don't know it, of Chekhov's work."

Leah Cherniak

Albert Schultz, artistic director of Soulpepper, describes *Absolutely Chekhov* as a "love letter" from Canadian playwrights. The program consists of four short farces, or "vaudevilles," and one original one-act play.

Though Chekhov lived only 44 years, he changed the face of modern drama. It was the study of ordinary human lives as opposed to the complicated plots of earlier works that stood at the fore of such works as *Uncle Vanya*, *The Cherry Orchard* and *The Seagull*. But the transition from his popular one-act comedies to longer dramas did not come without a personal cost.

The Old Business, directed by Cherniak and co-written by Canadian Jewish playwright Jason Sherman and Susan Coyne, and the only original work in the Soulpepper production, is about Chekhov's life at the time of the disastrous premiere of *The Seagull*, in 1896.

Sherman recalls reading biographical information on the night's events that tell of Chekhov running from the theatre to hide under the blankets in his friend's bed, in an attempt to escape audience hisses, after the first curtain.

He almost gave up writing that night – a frightening thought when you think about his influence on successors including Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams and George Bernard Shaw, playwrights whose work might never have seen the stage lights, if Chekhov had not returned to re-mount the play two years later under the direction of the Moscow Art Theatre.

The second production was met with critical acclaim and mass public acceptance because, Chekhov said at the time, the actors understood their roles.

"I think the writers [of *The Old Business*] want to have an experience of Chekhov in a place of despair," Cherniak says, "and [a] sense of what the writer's dilemma is—the public nature of failure."

Asked about working with Cherniak, Sherman says, "She's like all the best directors: very concerned that the writer's vision is served."

Furthermore, when you speak to Cherniak, you can't help but feel heard. She thinks like a director, attaching meaning to nuance, pausing slightly between thoughts to formulate beautifully crafted sentences, wasting not a word.

Her mastery of verbal and non-verbal communication comes from years of theatrical training, first at the University of Toronto and later, the Jacques Lecoq School of Mime, Movement and Theatre, in Paris. In Paris, she met Martha Ross and together they founded Theatre Columbus.

Since its inception in 1983, the company has won 11 Dora Awards, and Cherniak has garnered the Pauline McGibbon Award for directing. Ross and Cherniak have co-written, directed and produced several hit shows, including the Chalmers Award-winning *The Betrayal*. Themes of marital infidelity, family dynamics, loneliness and stress – stories of ordinary lives – infuse their work.

"The themes of my plays have a lot to do with family," Cherniak says. "It tends to be key both in the working process and creating an environment for the work."

As for what audiences can expect from *Absolutely Chekhov*, Cherniak says, "Although this is work that was happening in the 1800s, it still speaks to audiences today. It's just dressed up in different clothes with a different sense of language."

Absolutely Chekhov opens Sept. 9 and runs until Sept. 28 at the du Maurier Theatre, 231, Queens Quay W., Toronto. For tickets and information call 416-973-4000 or visit www.soulpepper.ca

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Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

HABIMA PLAYERS AT WINCHEVSKY CENTRE

The Habima Players are a seniors' drama group that has been performing staged readings and vignettes for seniors' groups across the city for 15 years.

The Cranbrooke Friendship Club of the United Jewish People's Order and the Winchevsky Centre host "a delightful afternoon of laughter, culture and socializing" featuring the Habima Players under the direction of **Roselle Stone**.

Admission $7 includes program preceded by a light lunch. Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Monday, Sept. 23, 12:30 p.m. 416-789-5502.

* * *

Readings at Israel's: Robert Jan van Pelt, a professor of cultural history at the University of Waterloo, was a member of **Deborah Lipstadt's** successful defence team in the civil suit brought against her by **David Irving** in the High Court in London.

Van Pelt's latest scholarly work (written with **Deborah Dwork**) is *Holocaust: A History*, which analyzes the vast sweep of historical events from the Middle Ages to the modern era that gave rise to the Holocaust.

He reads and signs copies at Israel's Judaica. 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Refreshments, no admission charge. Tuesday, Sept. 24, 8 p.m. 416-256-1010.

Also at Israel's, **James Arthur Diamond**, chair of Jewish Studies at Waterloo and author of *Maimonides and the Hermeneutics of Concealment*, offers an analysis of the towering medieval Jewish philosopher, Maimonides. Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Restoration Comedy Revisited: Written in rhyming couplets, **Kathleen Oliver's** *Swollen Tongues* gives restoration comedy a contemporary twist with its portrayal of a man who discovers his love verses are being plagiarized.

The play won the 1997 National Playwriting Competition, was produced in Vancouver in 1998 and London in 2000, and just ended a tour of Britain. The Toronto cast features **Jordan Pettle**, **Melody Johnson** and **Nancy Palk**.

It previews from Oct. 19 and runs Oct. 24 to Nov. 10 at the Factory Studio Theatre, 125 Bathurst St. $22 to $30. 416-504-9971 or www.necessaryangel.com.

* * *

Child's Play for Nashman: Familiar for his work in *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Reading Hebron* and *Kafka and Son*, Toronto actor-director **Alon Nashman** is stepping into the lead role of *Alphonse*, a play by Montreal playwright **Wajdi Mouawad** that is due for a November production at Harbourfront.

Alphonse tells the tale of a remarkable boy with a huge imagination who disappears. It is said to "provoke reflection on the journey from childhood to adulthood." Its author was born in Lebanon and raised in Egypt and Montreal, where he is artistic director of Théâtre de Quat'Sous. The play was translated by **Shelley Tepperman**.

The Theatre Direct Canada production runs Nov. 5 through 17 at the du Maurier Theatre Centre, 231 Queen's Quay W. $18 to $28.50. 416-973-4000.

* * *

Holocaust Play Premieres: Among the three plays in Alianak Theatre's upcoming season is a world premiere of *The Crimes*, by **Adam Nashman**. **Hrant Alianak** directs this dramatic presentation of two Armenian Canadians who explore the Jewish Holocaust in relation to the early 20th century Armenian genocide. Berkeley St. Theatre. Previews Jan. 17, 2003, runs Jan. 21 to Feb. 8.

The company is also presenting the world premiere of **Nick Mancuso's** *The Death of Socrates* and the remount of *The Walls of Africa* by **Hrant Alianak**. Subscriptions $30 to $70. 416-504-PLAY (7529).

* * *

Arts Briefs

- The Art Gallery of Ontario offers free admission on Sept. 21, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
- Many performers are showcased in the Roy Thomson Hall-a-Balloo, a free open house to show off the hall's recent $20-million renovation. Sunday, Sept. 22, 10 to 4 p.m.
- An exhibition of works by **Kotaro Migishi** is on view at Beckett Fine Art, 120 Scollard St. Until Sept. 28. 416-922-5582.
- The first hour-long segment of *The Undefended Border*, a new three-part documentary series about Canada's illegal immigrants, airs on TVOntario on Sept. 25, 10 p.m. Parts 2 and 3 follow on Oct. 2 and 9.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 43.

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Series documents Eastern Front war

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

It was, simply, the biggest war of the 20th century.

Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union, launched on June 22, 1941, was a titanic clash of imperial powers. It turned into a bloody struggle that claimed the lives of almost 30 million people, including hundreds of thousands of Jews, and defined the nature and outcome of World War II.

On Monday, Sept. 23 at 10 p.m., TV Ontario presents the first of four instalments of *War of the Century*, a superb BBC/History Channel series on the conflict by Laurence Rees, who created *Nazis: A Warning from History*.

Like the latter, *War of the Century* is meticulously produced, based on vivid archival footage and revealing interviews.

In hindsight, Germany's thrust into the Soviet Union was a catastrophic mistake, but a boon for humanity: the war sapped Germany's strength and led to the downfall of the Third Reich.

Adolf Hitler badly underestimated the Soviet Union, his ideological foe, and assumed that Germany would win. This assessment was shared by foreign observers, including the Americans.

Hitler and his generals had reason to be sanguine. The Soviet army had performed poorly in Finland in 1939, and Germany had easily rolled over France, Holland and Belgium in 1940.

Germany, driven by a desire to expand eastward, seize raw materials and eradicate communism, struck along a 1,800-kilometre front, throwing three million soldiers into the massive offensive. In the first week, Germany made impressive territorial gains and 150,000 Soviet soldiers were killed or severely wounded.

The victories reinforced Germany's belief that its Bolshevik adversary, supposedly under the sway of Jews, was intellectually and morally inferior.

Continued on page 34

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TVO Series documents brutal war

Continued from page 33

During this period, when Germany seemed invincible, Soviet Jews lived in terrible fear. This would be a war of annihilation, as Hitler had predicted.

German atrocities were perpetrated not only by special killing squads (Einsatzgruppen), but by the German army as well. The Holocaust in the Soviet Union unfolded with terrifying precision.

Jews were ruthlessly hunted down, often with the help of local collaborators such as Ukrainians. As is pointed out, many Ukrainians initially welcomed the Germans, hoping they would free Ukraine of the Soviet yoke and support their aspirations for statehood.

They were to be bitterly disappointed. At best, the Germans were willing to grant Ukrainians only limited independence, and the brutal character of Germany's occupation alienated most Ukrainians.

One of the most intriguing revelations in *War of the Century* turns on one of Stalin's desperate decisions. With the tide running in Germany's favour, and with the knowledge that 650,000 Soviet troops had just surrendered in Kiev, Stalin put out feelers for a peace treaty.

Germany was not interested, being determined to push on to the Volga River, the site of the city of Stalingrad.

But Stalingrad was a turning point, a huge German defeat. Buoyed by the victory, and having greatly improved its battlefield tactics, the Soviet Union proceeded to recover lost ground.

By war's end, the Red Army had evolved into an accomplished fighting force, appropriating the Germans' blitzkrieg strategy and beating them at their own game.

Yet, as they swept into eastern Germany, Soviet soldiers also committed war crimes, raping upwards of two million German women.

As *War of the Century* suggests, the war on Germany's eastern front is one of unbridled brutality in which rank human passions spiralled out of control.

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TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

SUKKOT IN JERUSALEM — AN ANCIENT CUSTOM

With weather that is usually idyllic and a national atmosphere that is usually celebratory, the holiday of Sukkot (Sept. 21 to 27 this year) is normally regarded one of the best times to be in Israel. Corresponding to the harvest season, Sukkot is one of three festivals that drew multitudes of Jews to Jerusalem in days of old – before the Romans destroyed the Temple in 70 CE.

Clearly eager to revive the trend, Israel's Ministry of Tourism is promoting numerous holiday-related events, including a pre-Sukkot concert featuring top-notch international talent, to be given along the Temple Mount's Southern Wall.

The concert, Strings Above Jerusalem – Hearts of the World, is scheduled for Sept. 19 along the Southern Wall excavations of Jerusalem's Old City. It showcases violin virtuosos Nigel Kennedy, a protégé of the late Sir Yehudi Menuhin, and Maxim Vengerov, a 28-year-old violin superstar from the former Soviet Union.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, President Moshe Katsav, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert and scores of international dignitaries are expected to attend. Proceeds are earmarked for a proposed new arts centre for children with special needs.

* * *

Other Sukkot-Related Events

• Throughout the year, visitors to Israel's Neot Kedumim Biblical Landscape Reserve may view biblical plants and animals, and learn how life was lived in biblical times. During Sukkot, the reserve presents a harvest festival, during which visitors are shown how a sukkah can be built in unusual places such as on a camel's back or a haystack.

• Alternative theatre, children's productions and street events are featured during the Israeli Fringe Theatre Festival, set for the historic northern coastal city of Acre, Sept. 21 to 24.

• The magnificent Dead Sea oasis of Ein Gedi is the setting of the Tamar Festival, which offers three days of workshops, tours, food fairs and performances by top Israeli musicians. Sept. 23 to 25.

• Walk, run or bike at this year's Jerusalem March on Sept. 24. Participants choose between walking routes ranging from 2 to 14 km and an 18-km bicycle track. The march ends at Sacher Park, home to a famous work of art called the Japanese Bonsho, a symbol of everlasting peace. A festive parade along Jerusalem's main streets concludes the day.

• Biking the Negev, a competition for amateur and professional riders of all ages, takes place in Golda Meir Park on Sept. 24.

* * *

New Kid on the Block: A new hotel for business travellers opened recently on Hayarkon Street along Tel Aviv's bustling seaside promenade. Suites at the Sea Hotel are equipped with well-stocked kitchens, Internet-linked computers, free cable and cinema systems. Rates range from US $150 to $250 US per night.

* * *

Summer Discount: Situated in Israel's northernmost community of Metulla, the Canada Centre has been offering discounted admissions. The complex includes Israel's only Olympic-size skating rink (built by Canadian philanthropists), a pool with an exhilarating waterslide and two Jacuzzis, and a bowling alley built by a Toronto family.

* * *

Israel Briefs

• Many Jerusalem hotels are offering guests free summer admission to some 40 city sites. They are also promoting a quiz about Jerusalem's attractions. Prizes include a weekend for two at a top-rated Jerusalem hotel.

• Recanati, a winery on Israel's northern coast, wants you to see its operations. A new $1.6-million visitors centre offers guided tours and tastings. Recanati is a relatively new winery with the ambitious goal of producing one million bottles by 2005.

Different views of Israeli-Palestinian conflict

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Three Israeli films that probe the nature of Israel's perennial conflict with the Palestinians were screened at the recent Toronto International Film Festival.

Kedma, by Amos Gitai, is set in 1948, on the eve of Israeli statehood. It focuses on a bedraggled group of European Jewish immigrants who land on a beach in the face of British opposition.

Local Angel, by Udi Aloni, is an earnest reflection, through music and political discourse, of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

Promise Land, an animated short by Gili Dolev, satirizes Palestinian suicide bombers, Israeli settlers, reporters in Israel and the so-called Israeli and Palestinian "silent majority."

Kedma, starring Andrei Kashkar and Helena Yarolova, unfolds in Hebrew, Yiddish, Arabic, Polish and Russian against the backdrop of the waning British mandate, the arrival of Jewish refugees and the corresponding flight of Palestinians from their villages.

The Kedma, a ship steaming for the coast of Palestine whose name means "toward the Orient," is filled with Holocaust survivors from Poland and the Soviet Union.

When they disembark, a platoon of British soldiers is hiding in wait, but a Palmach force guides the immigrants to a makeshift camp. As they trudge through drab, sun-bleached fields, they cross paths with a band of Palestinians heading toward Arab lines.

The camera pans the immigrants as they respond to their new environment.

With startling suddenness, the men from the Kedma are given rudimentary lessons on how to use a Sten submachine gun. Although they have no military training, they are sent to attack an Arab hilltop position. The frenetic battle scene is filmed in cinéma vérité style by a hand-held camera. It is an effective tableau of the horrors and unpredictability of war.

Gitai uses the aftermath of the carnage to convey blunt messages, which take the form of stagey soliloquies voiced by a Palestinian and a Jewish immigrant. The Palestinian man, a refugee-in-the-making, suggests that the dispersal of his people was caused by both Arab and Jewish forces. And he exclaims that the Palestinians will always defy the Jews.

The issue of land ownership, the crux of the problem, is superficially disposed of when a middle-aged Arab woman claims the territory the Jews have seized belongs to the Palestinians.

Reeling from the shock and trauma of the just-concluded battle, Janusz, a weary Jewish immigrant, holds forth philosophically on the course of Jewish history, the suffering of Jews down through the ages and Israel's Jewish identity. It all sounds forced, even theatrical, as if Gitai is pushing words into his character's mouth.

Pessimistic and emotionally distant, *Kedma* gets bogged down in the quagmire of its dogmas.

* * *

In *Local Angel*, Aloni – the son of Israeli civil libertarian and politician Shulamit Aloni – attempts to deconstruct Israel's bitter struggle with the Palestinians. An artist who has been living in New York City for the past eight years, he returns to Israel and is chastened by the apparent hopelessness of it.

The other protagonists in *Local Angel* are Palestinian spokesperson Hanan Ashrawi, the Arab rap group DAM, vocalists David Daor and Dikla, Ben-Gurion University philosopher Haviva Pedaya and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

The gist of it is that the Palestinians are unjustly demonized as terrorists, that they will resist Israel's occupation, that peace would have taken hold had Yitzhak Rabin lived, that Arab terrorism is inspired by Israeli extremism, that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has blood on his hands and that Israeli and Palestinian negotiators came close to signing an agreement after the failed Camp David summit in July 2000.

The filmmaker, an unabashed opponent of Zionism, espouses a binational state in what is now Israel. It is, to be charitable, a peripheral, naive and unrealistic idea.

The only appealing aspect of *Local Angel* is its music, especially Daor's sweet, angelic voice. It is simply incredible.

* * *

Promise Land is a wild, sardonic, colourful ride into the maelstrom of the Palestinian uprising. Through graphic cartoons and black humour, Dolev skewers suicide bombers' yearning for martyrdom, brands Jewish settlers in the territories as aggressors, lampoons insensitive foreign correspondents and lambastes Israelis and Palestinians seeking mutual destruction.

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Health & Lifestyles

Understanding dreams can help solve problems

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Dreams are the way the subconscious mind gives solutions to conflicts, says Layne Dalfen, a Montreal dream analyst.

The trick, she believes, is to translate the metaphors in a dream in order to identify what each person or thing in it represents and what message is being given by the dream as a whole.

Dalfen has just published a book on the subject, *Dreams Do Come True*, (Adams Media Corporation, 2002). While she is a Gestalt counsellor with training in dream analysis in the traditions of Alfred Adler and Carl Jung, her book is for lay people. "I synthesized the information I have gained into plain English."

Dalfen is a member of the C.G. Jung Society and the Association for the Study of Dreams.

She will be in Toronto to promote her book the week of Sept. 22, when she will appear on on CTV's Canada AM and CITY-TV, on CFRB radio, and in Chapters bookstores throughout the city.

In a telephone interview, Dalfen stressed that "you are the only person who can really understand your dreams. Your own past, your own history, your own experiences are expressed in them."

Dalfen's job is to help her clients understand what a dream is all about.

As an example, a client she calls Melanie dreamed about carrying a huge laundry basket up some stairs. She was having a lot of trouble, because there were many people in her way. At the top, there was a huge, terrifying man, who nevertheless made the people move so that she could get up the stairs.

Using the insight that "all the characters in a dream are you: you give the metaphors," Dalfen discovered that Melanie was going to school, holding down a job and was pregnant – a heavy load for anyone.

The man at the top of the stairs was frightening to Melanie even though he helped her, because Melanie was basically not an assertive person. However, "that doesn't mean she doesn't have it in her" to be more aggressive, Dalfen said.

She had to have the strength to say that the job was too much for her and that her husband would have to carry the financial load, Dalfen said. In effect, "she has to become that big guy."

The wonderful aspect of the human condition, Dalfen said, is that "you are born with all the characteristics you will have. Your parents teach you it is better to be one way or another."

Somewhere along the line, Dalfen said, Melanie had learned that is is not OK to say "no" to people. "She was overinvested in being accommodating, and underinvested in being selfish."

Dalfen stressed that she is not implying that change is simply a matter of understanding the messages in your dreams. In fact, you may have several different dreams that all suggest ways to solve whatever problem is bothering you at the moment.

The dreams indicate that your subconscious wants you to pay attention to that problem, she said. However, she added, the priorities of the subconscious mind may be different than those you are aware of when you are awake.

Although some dream metaphors are fairly universal, such as being chased, others may be more individual. For instance, Dalfen said that for her, a cat in a dream signifies arrogant independence and a lack of affection and need for others, characteristics she does not like. "I would have to ask myself, is another person behaving like that? Am I?"

Her daughter, on the other hand, loves cats but can't have one because of allergies. To her, then, a cat may mean she must get away from a relationship that is not good for her.

Dalfen said that while a dream may point to an ongoing problem, "at the first level, it addresses something very current."

For example, dreaming about being chased is a common metaphor for being overwhelmed or afraid. The point, she said, is to work out "why you are being chased this week."

A nightmare is somewhat different from a regular dream, she said. "It grabs your attention. Your [subconscious] wants you to do something right away."

Listening to the message, she said, "frees the energy that is wrapped up in [dealing with a] conflict."

Dalfen emphasized that interpreting dreams "isn't rocket science." If someone has a serious psychological or psychiatric problem, she sends them to the appropriate therapist.

Her Dream Interpretation Centre – founded in 1979 in Montreal as the first such institute in Canada – aims to discover how problems or issues are addressed in dreams, to learn how dreams can reveal what prevents people from dealing with problems, to recognize how dreams reflect what is going on in waking life and to learn how to identify and work with dream symbols.

For more information, contact Dalfen at 514-481-8081, via e-mail at layne@dreamsdocometrue.ca, or visit her Web site at dreamsdocometrue.ca.

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498 TRAVEL & TOURISM
500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW COVERINGS
525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
530 WINDOW CLEANING
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$635K! Bayview N/Finch! Spac'us 4+1 bdrm, 4 bath! Mn fam+lib+lau+2pce! 3 car grge! See it! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

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34 McBRIDE LANE! "DEMPSEY PARK"!
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Paul Slavens

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RESULTS
RESULTS
483-4337

FINE PROPERTIES

KILBARRY / SPADINA - $2,250,000.
Elegant 5 bdrm. stone Georgian. "Downsview" kitchen. Main fl. library & powder rm. Finished lower level. In-ground pool + cabana on fabulous park-like grounds. Double garage. *Edith Weiss.

LOWER FOREST HILL - $1,825,000.
Stunning residence. Exceptional SOLD er suite w/dressing rm., sitting rm. & 6 pce. ensuite. Main fl. library & family rm. Finished lower level. Circular drive & built-in garage. *Leslie Dennis.

1st AD - PRINCE ARTHUR AVE. - $649,000.
Lovely condo suite. Approx. 1800 sq. ft. 1 bdrm. + den. Reno'd kitchen. Parking. Building has 24 hr. concierge & indoor pool. Steps to subway & Bloor St. shops. *Leslie Dennis.

YONGE / ST. CLAIR - $599,000.
Spacious corner suite. Approx. 1,525 sq. ft. 2 bdrms. Kitchen + breakfast rm. Custom built-ins. Insuite laundry. Tiled balcony. 2 parking spots. **Don Wagman.

BAYVIEW / EGLINTON - $569,000.
Over 2,100 sq. ft. of luxury living. 3+1 bedrooms. 4 baths. Ensuite laundry. 2 balconies. 2 lockers. 2 car parking. **Richard Sherman.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE - $469,000.
Luxurious & spacious penthouse suite. Approx. 2448 sq. ft. 2 bedrooms. 3 baths. Large family rm. Walk to synagogues, shops & TTC. *Elaine Goldenberg-Pike.

DON MILLS / LAWRENCE - $384,000.
Elegant "Windfield Terrace". 2 bdrms. Multi walk-outs to open balcony. Ensuite laundry. Approx, 1450 sq. ft. 2 parking spots. *Elaine Kehoe.

YONGE / EGLINTON - $379,000.
Detached 3 bdrm. home with garage in terrific location. Steps to Yonge & Eglinton shops, subway & restaurants. *Christina Paisley.

NEAR CASA LOMA - $379,000.
"Castle Terrace" townhouse. Main floor powder rm. Fireplace. Walkout to patio. CAC. Price includes locker & parking. *Betty Cohen.

YONGE / CLARK - $369,000.
Stunning executive townhouse. Beautifully renovated. Main fl. powder rm. Finished lower level. Private drive & built-in garage. *Irena Elina.

"GOVERNOR'S HILL" - $359,000.
Yonge/York Mills. Approx 1,092 sq. ft. of luxury living. Family rm. Ensuite laundry. CAC. Locker. Parking. Fabulous amenities. *Karine Lobart.

"BEDFORD GLEN" - $349,000.
Lawrence/Avenue Rd. 2 storey Penthouse Suite. 2+ bdrms. 3 baths. Eat-in kitchen. Marble fireplace. CAC. Ensuite laundry. Locker. 2 terraces. 2 parking spots. **Richard Sherman.

YONGE / YORK MILLS - $319,900.
"The Antiquary". 2 bdrm., 2 bath suite in new luxury building. Upgraded kitchen w/granite floor. Insuite laundry. Balcony. Locker. Parking. *Edie Winberg.

YONGE / EGLINTON - $309,000.
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$309,900. This beautiful condo features 2 bdrms, 2 baths, solarium, grand marble foyer, upgraded kit. w/top of line appliances, full ensuite, laundry, 2 park spots. M. Noik* ext. #289

WALK TO SYNAGOGUES & SCHOOLS
$689,000. Magnif. fam home in walking dist. to religious schools & shuls, 4+3 bdrms, 4 baths, fin. basement w/2 bdrms, 3 pce bath, hot tub, outdoor pool. M. Noik* & D. Zaikin** ext. #289/545

BAYVIEW GLEN
$1,390,000. This beautiful contemporary home features 5+1 bdrms, 5 baths, fin'd bsmnt. w/oak wet bar, gas frpl, mn flr study, hdwd flrs, loads of extras! M. Noik* & D. Zaikin** ext. #289/545

BAYVIEW + YORK MILLS
$1,090,000. Beautiful contemporary renovated bung. w/3+2 bdrms, 3 baths, hrdwd & granite flrs, skylights, custom mouldings, concrete ingrnd pool, basketball court. M. Noik* ext. #289

FABULOUS THORNHILL - NEW HOME
$1,490,000. Fantastic 2/3 acre on Elgin Street. New home, 5 bedrooms, 8 bathrooms, stone house, circular drive, best part of Thornhill. Stephen Selesnick* ext. #281

THORNHILL - STACEY CRESCENT
$409,000. 4 bedrooms, fabulous street, bright house, eat-in kitchen. Stephen Selesnick* ext. #281

GREAT 5 BDRM HOME! YONGE/FINCH/BATHURST
$439,500. Well kept spacious & affordable, huge finished bsmnt, A/C, walkout, 2 car garage & loads of extras. 77 Charlton Boulevard. Carmen & Ron Justein* ext. #520

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Bathurst/N. of Finch – Approx. 1600 s.f.!! Huge 3 bdrms. One of the largest in the area. Unique wraparound balcony. Magnificent view!! Only $245,000.

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I'm a slim, shapely, very attractive, 50'ish, single Jewish female who's 5' 4" tall, dark hair & eyes, a great smile, warm & affectionate. As far as interests are concerned, the simple pleasures of life are the very best. For me it's laughter, good conversation, sipping wine at a cafe. **AD#1029**

INCURABLE ROMANTIC
Jewish male, non smoker, in his 70's going on 50. A university graduate, 5' 5", 145 lbs, I have many varied interests including theatre, music, dancing, the arts, tennis, golf, dining, travelling. I'm also an incurable romantic & social drinker with a great zest for life. **AD#1235**

SOULMATE SEARCHING
33 yr old female, with long brown hair & eyes, very good looking, out going, charming, loves to have fun. Looking for a down to earth attractive male between 30-40 yrs, non smoker, who shares same interests as I. I'm looking for my soul mate, if your interested please respond. **AD#1406**

DESTINATION: LOVE
Hi, if your interested in meeting a special single Jewish female, baggage free, has air miles & loves to travel you've answered the right ad. I'm a very attractive, slim, shapely, fun loving, 50'ish, single Jewish female with a warm smile, integrity & many interests. **AD1061**

EUROPEAN WIDOW
European, retired widow, is looking for a loving relationship w/ widower or divorced man, loves music, art , swimming, walking & tennis. **AD#1182**

CALL ME
Cindy is a petit, brown eyed brunette, 5' 2", very friendly, intelligent, loving, compassionate looking for a professional gentleman, between 50-60 yrs. who shares similar qualities with whom I can enjoy companionship & happy times. Some interests include movies, theatre & music. **AD#1186**

LIFE PARTNER
Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, petite, cute, attractive, pretty and slim. She enjoys music, dancing, nature, hiking, quiet beach walks, non smoker, non drinker, looking for a life partner, preferably an easy going, single jewish male between 35-55 yrs with similar interests. **AD#1200**

HIGH CLASS
Larissa is attractive, Jewish, 55 yrs, 5' 3" tall and seek an interesting accomplished, classy gentleman between 55-65 yrs for companionship & more **AD#1443**

I AM FOR YOU
Unique, Jewish female, attractive, 5' 5", intelligent, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established, male 45 yrs young, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable and over 6 feet tall. **AD#1240**

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Attractive, 40 yrs, single Jewish female, seeks male 40-52 yrs who's attractive, hard working like myself. I like to go out to eat, dance, movies & a bit of sports, if you have similar interests, leave me your name & number. I'm looking for a serious relationship. **AD#1037**

LET'S MEET
Great personality, easy to please, lovely lady, who's considerate intelligent, good natured and attractive. 53 yrs old, hoping to meet a nice polite gentleman for genuine relationship between 55-73 yrs old. **AD#1138**

KILLER SMILE!
Hi, my name is Debbie. I'm 47 yrs almost, a Virgo—Sept 6th is my birthday, divorced for 8 yrs and very comfortable with that. I'm 5' 3" with short brown hair & brown eyes, and a smile that will knock you dead. Little bit overweight but working on it diligently. I love the outdoors. **AD#1038**

LOVE CONNECTION?
Jewish female, pretty, creative professional, young lady, 5'5ft, slender, enjoys travel,theatre & fine dining. Seeks an established & fit male, between 43-53 yrs, complimented by sincerity & spontaneity to share in the zest of life. **AD#1151**

SHARE WITH YOU
Marianna is 5' 4", with hazel eyes and dark hair. She enjoys sports, concerts, walks and dancing, and is seeking a male to share those interests. She describes herself as outgoing, friendly, straight forward & easy to talk to. **AD#1382**

RESPECT & SINCERITY
40 yr old honest caring, sensitive female writer, looking for compatible male in his 40's to share meaningful moments, I enjoy long walks, talks, cafes, movies, art, poetry, nature, animals, I'm open minded. I value respect & sincerity, friendships & genuine relationships. **AD#1401**

VIVACIOUS FEMALE
Montrealer who now lives in Hamilton. She's vivacious, fit, slim 5' 5", 120 lbs, seeks male for tennis partner. Also for dining, movies, walks & willing to explore a little bit. Looking for a compassionate man for a wonderful relationship **AD#1166**

WALKS BY THE LAKE
Barb is very young, 50'ish, a single mom w/ 2 grown children. She lives in central Toronto and seeks a Jewish gentleman to develop a friendship with to laugh, cry & grow with. She enjoys walks by the lake out in the country, movies, sharing and cuddling. **AD#1204**

men seeking women

PRIME CONDITION
Hi My name is Arnon, I'm a white executive living in Thornhill. I look in the mirror & I see a healthy young 1939 model w/ no deficiencies, I'm told that I'm not bad to look at either. I've got salt & pepper hair, beautiful blue eyes, slim,. 5' 10" and I have good teeth too. **AD#1201**

DO YOU JUBU?
Physically & spiritually active male, 33 yrs old. Seeks non materialistic female with insight, aged between 25-35 yr old for mindful & compassionate relationship. **AD#1316**

UNEMPLOYED BUM
Are you looking for a ugly, short, fat, bald, umemployed bum? Well keep looking because I'm none of the above. I'm honest, successful, good looking with no dependants. I love gourmet foods, wine tasting, movies & I'm a very good cook. Seeking a woman between 38-48 yrs. **AD#1227**

LET'S MEET
Hi my name is Marvin, I'm a warm & thoughtful person, single 60 yrs old and I live in GTA. I'm a romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who loves to travel, watch movies, take long walks, rides in the country. I also enjoy great conversation, nice quiet times at homes, and I love to read. **AD#1074**

FRIENDSHIP & LOVE
Single Jewish male of Indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest. Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family. **AD#1459**

FUN GUY
Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things. Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading, Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands. **AD#1368**

PICTURE THIS
I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more, If you find this brief introduction interesting, leave a message. **AD#1442**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1178**

LET'S TALK
I want to enjoy all the things in life like any normal person. I'm not interested in marriage, but would like a steady relationship. If you're slim, good looking, with a nice personality & would like to meet a nice, funny, good looking, 70 yr old, 5' 6", slim guy, let's talk. **AD#1055**

EASY GOING
Steve is an easy going Jewish male, fun loving, enjoys walks and good conversation. Seeks attractive female up to age of 39 yrs who's easy going, enjoys the simple things in life, such as going out for dinners and other things. **AD#1390**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Chaim, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs, 5' 8", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family in a wonderful atmosphere. **AD#1239**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'
Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook. He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate. **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET
Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female (Jewish preferably), around the same age, who's honest sincere female and shares the same interests, If interested please leave a voice mail. **AD#1070**

MUSIC & WINE
Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-65yrs. He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports. **AD#1280**

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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

BROWN/KIMELMAN - Gail & Gary Brown are delighted to announce the engagement of their daughter, Jody to Jason, son of Linda & Harold Kimelman. Excited siblings are Amy and Marc, proud grandparents are Betty Brown, Dora & Sam Reznick. Lovingly remembered are Reva & Eddie Friedlander, Harry Brown, Dvora & Leon Kimelman and Marnie.

JACOBS - Jordan is a big brother at last, happy to welcome his new baby sister, **Jaden Susan**. Also thrilled are parents Sidonya & Dana, grandparents Nety & Herman Wexler, Aunty Gail, Uncle Danny Wexler, cousins Zakary and Samantha, Aunty Lisa & Uncle Peter Borst, and cousins Devin & Danielle. Jaden was born July 30th at 4:28 a.m., weighing 7 lbs. 8 ozs. Much thanks to Dr. Petersell and Dr. Brown & the amazing staff at North York General Hospital.

265 PEOPLE SEARCH

RE: RACHEL BLOOM
Anyone having knowledge of the whereabouts of Rachel Bloom, who may have been a resident of the City of Montreal, & who gave birth to a daughter on or about March 7th, 1947, in the City of Montreal, is asked to contact the solicitor for the said daughter, namely, Jack Lambert, Barr. & Solic., Suite 200, 620 Wilson Ave., Toronto, Ont. M3K 1Z3, ph. 416-226-6333 or fax 416-226-6344. A reward will be given for information that assists his search, the purpose of which is to help trace inherited medical conditions within the family.

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You are a beauty. I am Paul Newman. You are young, (less than 40), I am 58. You love to travel, you are wealthy, you love languages. I visit Paris, Los Angeles, Wash. D.C., regularly. I am well-off. Shelly, I lost your #! Daniel, 416-663-3466.

264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Israel & the Jewish World

Iraq says will attack Israel if it 'interferes' in U.S. strike

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Iraq will attack Israel if it takes part in any U.S. strike against President Saddam Hussein's government, an Iraqi minister said in remarks published late last week.

"Israel will suffer a profound and an unforgettable strike if it interferes in the [U.S.-led] war [against Iraq]," Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mahdi Saleh told the United Arab Emirates newspaper *Al-Khaleej*.

Israel has warned it will retaliate if Iraq attacks it. During the 1991 Gulf War, Israel refrained from retaliation after 39 Iraqi Scud missiles landed in the Jewish State. Its government decided to hold back to help the United States maintain Arab support for the coalition fighting the Iraqi forces that had invaded Kuwait.

Last week, Israel's army chief, Lt. Gen. Moshe Yaalon said that the United States wanted Israel to stay out of any military operation against Iraq.

"America would be very happy if we are not involved in this attack, at least at this stage," he said. "Let them do the job alone."

Saleh said a U.S. strike against Iraq would help Israel become stronger in the Middle East.

"The attack will shatter the Arab people and make Israel more strong in the region," he told *Al-Khaleej*.

Saleh's comments came amid rising speculation that the United States is gearing up to strike Iraq and oust Saddam. Last Thursday, President George W. Bush warned Iraq that it must comply with UN Security Council resolutions and admit UN weapons inspectors or face confrontation.

Since 1998, Iraq has refused access to UN weapons inspectors, who are charged with verifying the country has eliminated its weapons of mass destruction.

Palestinians use Kassam 3s for first time, says IDF

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel Defence Force (IDF) experts believe the rockets fired last week by Palestinian militants from the Gaza Strip that landed in the western Negev desert were Kassam 3s, *Ha'aretz* has learned.

This would be the first time Palestinians have used Kassam 3 rockets, which have a longer range and carry a larger charge than previous versions. With a range of up to 12 kilometres, the Kassam 3 could easily hit large population centres.

The range of the Kassam 2 is between five and six kilometres, while Hamas boasts that the new version has a range of between 10 and 12 kilometres. According to IDF estimates, the rockets fired over the past two days reached up to eight kilometres.

In addition, the calibre of the Kassam 3s is 170mm, compared to 110mm on the previous version.

It is believed that the rockets were fired by Hamas or Islamic Jihad activists. The accuracy of the new model Kassam is still thought to be poor; IDF armaments experts are currently examining the remains.

Palestinians first used the Kassam 2 this past January, despite Israeli warnings of massive retaliation.

330 OBITUARIES

ROZENCHTEIN, Merim – on Sept. 2, 2002, late of 39 Thurman Rd.
MERGUI, Esther – on Sept. 3, 2002, late of 98 Peckham Ave.
STARR, Morris (Moe) – on Sept. 3, 2002.
SHERKIN, Hilda – on Sept. 4, 2002, late of 4266 Bathurst St.
GRUENSTEIN, Joshua – on Sept. 4, 2002.
SOLOMON, Martin – on Sept. 7, 2002.
PEARL, William – on Sept. 6, 2002, late of 82 Palm Dr.
KARPUL, Ida – on Sept. 8, 2002, late of 6250 Bathurst St.
GALFENBOIM, Nicolay – on Sept. 6, 2002, late of 601 Finch Ave. W.
ZLOTKIN, Max – on Sept. 9, 2002.

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Sports & Leisure

If you have played any social bridge, you are probably familiar with the feeling of frustration that comes from being dealt bad cards all night long. You cannot do much except sit there as the opponents keep bidding and making games and slams. The luck of the deal plays a major role in who wins and who loses when bridge is played socially.

Bridge with Gitelman

Tournament bridge gets around this problem by using what is known as duplicate scoring. In duplicate bridge, the same deals are played at several different tables. Each partnership's results are compared only with the results of other partnerships that were dealt the same cards. In duplicate bridge, it is possible to be dealt a lot of horrible hands and still be a winner – all that matters is that you score better than the other players who were dealt the same horrible hands that you were.

This deal took place at the recent World Bridge Championships in Montreal in an event called the World Open Pairs – the biggest and most prestigious duplicate bridge tournament of them all. The main lesson of this deal is that the form of scoring is not the only thing that makes duplicate bridge different from social bridge – the strategies of the two games can be different as well.

North
♠ Q73
♥ 10852
♦ 82
♣ AQ95

South
♠ A2
♥ AKJ973
♦ AK94
♣ 6

I became the declarer in six hearts after East opened the bidding with a weak 2-bid in spades (suggesting a good six-card spade suit and roughly 5-10 high card points). The opening lead was a spade. I tried the ♠Q from dummy, but East covered with the ♠K. I won my ♠A and played the ♥A and ♥K. West had been dealt a singleton heart and East started with a doubleton ♥Q. What now?

Playing social bridge, this would not be much of a problem. I could ruff my two diamond losers in the dummy and lose only a spade trick at the end to make my slam. As this was a duplicate tournament, I did not play this way. I held my breath and finessed the ♣Q! When I exhaled, the finesse had won. I was able to discard my ♠2 on the ♣A and claim my contract with an overtrick!

Yes, it is true that I would have gone down in my slam contract if the club finesse had lost. In fact, my play risked more than 1000 points for a 30-point overtrick. In a social bridge game, that would be madness. However, in duplicate bridge all that matters is beating the other pairs who were dealt the same cards as my partner and myself.

Given that I was playing in the World Championships, I expected most partnerships to bid to 6♥ with these hands. In order to have chance to score better than these pairs, I knew I had to go all out and try to win 13 tricks.

P.S. My partner (Brad Moss from New York City) and I finished in 14th place. That may not sound too good, but given that more than 250 of the world's best pairs played in this event, it is not bad at all!

Fred Gitelman is one of Canada's most successful tournament bridge players. His Las Vegas-based company, Bridge Base Inc., is a world leader in the development of educational software for bridge. You can find out more about Fred and his company through www.bridgebase.com. Fred's columns will appear once a month. Questions and comments from readers are welcome, but we cannot guarantee a personal response.

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By PHIL JACOBS
Baltimore Jewish Times

BALTIMORE — Tamir Goodman once wrote in his seventh-grade yearbook that his dream was to play professional basketball for Israel's top team, Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Now his dream has come true.

According to Steven Heumann, Goodman's friend and attorney, the 20-year-old basketball phenomenon has signed a three-year contract with Maccabi Tel Aviv, Israel's most prestigious basketball team and a force in European basketball.

"The first thing that came to my mind was baruch HaShem [blessed is God]," said Goodman. "There is no other way to look at it. Without HaShem's blessing, this never would have happened.

"Everyone has a special talent in the world. With me, it is basketball. Whatever your talent is, it is your job to develop it and bring Godliness to it. I've had a lot of ups and downs, but it is so clear to me what HaShem has given me an opportunity to do."

Maccabi Tel Aviv plays an 82-game schedule and competes in three different leagues, including the Israel League, the Adriatic League and the Euro League. Maccabi Tel Aviv finished in the final four of the powerful Euro League last year, and won it outright the previous year.

In the first year of the deal, Goodman may be loaned to Hapoel Galil Elyon to give him more playing time, Heumann said. The team plays in the same Israel League as Maccabi Tel Aviv.

It's a common practice within European basketball for teams to loan players within divisions, Heumann added.

Part of the deal is that Goodman, an Orthodox Jew who is considered a popular role model in the United States and Israel, will not be required to play or practice on Shabbat.

"There is a clause in his contract that he is not required to participate in team activities that require him to desecrate the Sabbath or any other Jewish holiday," Heumann said.

Heumann believes this is the first time such a clause has been inserted in a professional basketball contract.

He also said Goodman will likely be the first player in at least a decade to wear a kippah during Israel League games.

Financial terms of the contract were not released, but Heumann said "this is a good contract for him. It is in line with other young European star-calibre players for first-time contracts."

Practice will start later this summer.

Goodman, a six-foot-three guard, captured the attention of the global basketball world when international media outlets featured the Talmudical Academy junior for both his athletic skills and commitment to Judaism.

He initially considered attending the University of Maryland, College Park, but opted out when there was a question over the school respecting his Shabbat observance.

He then attended Towson University, but he parted company with the team after the basketball coach, Michael Hunt, allegedly threatened him with physical harm following a game last December. Goodman, a sophomore, finished the school year at Towson under scholarship, completing his courses.

In trips to Israel, Goodman has been flocked by thousands of children and young adults. He has put on skill demonstrations and then delivered discussions on the week's Torah portion. He has even appeared on Israel's most popular television talk show, speaking fluent Hebrew.

"Everything that has happened to me has been a 100 per cent brachah [blessing]," Goodman said recently. "Even what happened at Towson, and that's so behind me, was a brachah.

"I'm not bitter about anything," he said. "Again, I see this all as God's plan for me. I guess I'm a trailblazer. Some people felt that after Towson, it was a sign for me to get out of basketball, that maybe it wasn't right for me. But that isn't the case. God has a special plan for me, but it's my job to develop the plan.

"I'm not an amazing person," Goodman said. "I'm just following God's plan."

Maccabi Haifa advances in Champions League soccer

By DORON BERGERFREUND
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

GRAZ, Austria — Maccabi Haifa has turned a decade-old dream into reality, becoming the first Israeli team to qualify for the prestigious European Champions League, along with 31 other clubs that are the cream of European soccer.

In a pulsating second-leg encounter with Sturm Graz of Austria, Maccabi Haifa drew 3-3, good enough for a 5-3 aggregate win.

The match was full of drama and excitement, as the Austrians took an early lead from an Eddie Bosnar free kick in the 11th minute that went through the wall and beat diving goalkeeper Dudu Awat.

Despite the early setback, Haifa maintained its composure. Giovanni Rosso scored an equalizer, putting the ball under the Graz goalkeeper, Heinz Webber, from a sharp angle on the right in the 27th minute. The score remained even up to halftime.

Haifa received a real fright in the second half when Imre Szabics made it 2-1 for the hosts in the 58th minute. To make matters worse, Ayegbeni Yakoubu, who was a real thorn in the Graz defence, was sent off in the 68th minute after he clashed with a Graz defender who was breaking forward on the counter-attack.

Things got really desperate when Guenter Neukirschner scored Graz's third in the 73rd minute, and Haifa looked as if it would collapse completely.

But as the Austrians threw everything into attack, a clever counter move by Haifa saw Rosso, who was again the inspirational player for the team, set up a move from the left that ended with Adoram Keisi sneaking in and blasting the ball into the top of the Graz net from close range.

Two minutes later, parity was restored as Bosnar, who scored the first goal, was sent off for a foul on Nenad Prelja.

That put Haifa back in the driver's seat again, but only temporarily.

Graz threw caution to the wind and left its defence wide open in the final minute of the match, to allow Raimondas Zautautas to put Walid Badir behind Graz's defense with only Webber to beat.

Badir rounded the keeper and made no mistake, scoring the equalizing goal. Even with four minutes of extra time, there was no doubting the result and the historic achievement Haifa registered in the annals of Israeli soccer.

"This is a very happy moment, what more can I say," club chairman Yaakov Shahar stated after the match.

Following the game, Shahar travelled to Monaco for the groups draw, which saw Haifa draw perennial powerhouse Manchester United as its next opponent in Champions League play.

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High Holy Days, Jews and courage

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

After the Holocaust, a very uncomfortable view began to surface regarding the intransigence of North American Jewry and its questionable efforts to help rescue the Jews of Europe. In his book, *The Scared and the Doomed*, M.J. Nurenberger calls this period and state of mind "a collective Jewish paralysis."

This point of view also received enormous press in the 1960s and 1970s due to such publications as *Perfidy*, by Ben Hecht – a book that slammed mainstream Jewish leadership and its "insufficient" reaction to the mass murder of Europe's Jews.

This thesis was, and is, very painful, as it cuts to the essence of our self-image as a kind-hearted and caring people. It poses the question: if indeed the Jews of North America did not aggressively respond to the pleas of European Jews during the Holocaust, what does this say about our Jewishness? When Jewish sages state that to be a Jew is to care about others, are those who do not care still Jews?

Fifty-seven years after the Holocaust, the same question can still be asked: are Jews today rising above that "paralysis" and responding to the needs of others, when called upon? Clearly, there are Jews in every generation whose courage blossoms when a Jewish life is in peril. The names Tress, Dunkelman and Feld-Carr remind us that Jewish soldiers are everywhere.

But what about *amchah*, the others? What about the regular shul-going Jew? And what about Jewish organizations? Can Jews and people in distress rely on them? Can we rely on Jewish organizations in general to lead us down a courageous road?

As the new year begins, these questions must be asked by every Jew. We must stand before God, bare our souls and truly determine whether we are working toward enhancing the lives of others and growing as Jews.

We must aggressively go through the painful process of personal and communal introspection to determine if we are fighting anti-Semitism and racism. Are we rescuing Jews imprisoned because of their Jewishness? Are we acting in a decent, empathetic fashion in our places of work, at restaurants or on the street? We must ask ourselves: are we fighters for Judaism and are we pursuers of peace?

In 5763, perhaps, we the members of the Toronto Jewish community should make a commitment to speak loudly at every simchah about imprisoned Iranian Jews. Let us also collectively pledge to assist the Jews of Argentina and gather the courage to travel to Israel to be with our Jewish family on the front lines.

Let us all agree that we will fight injustices levelled at any person weaker or poorer than us and live up to the Jewish imperative that says: "A person who runs to do just, good and kind deeds attains life, success and honour" (Proverbs 21:21).

Every Jew in 5763 can fight a valiant fight, especially when the risk is greatest. We are a hearty people. Every Holocaust survivor who fought in Israel's War of Independence will attest to that. May this be a year when any collective paralysis dissipates and the radiance that emanates from the Jewish people shines brighter than ever. Acceptance, wisdom and brotherhood and sisterhood should permeate our homes.

Shimon [the son of Rabban Gamliel] says: "It is not what one says, but rather what one does that makes all the difference in the world" (Pirkei Avot 1:17).

Peace in Israel. Peace in the world. Shanah Tovah.

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CHINESE CHICKEN SALAD

12 oz. cooked, shredded chicken	Dressing:
10 cups romaine lettuce, torn in bite-size pieces	3 tblsp. rice vinegar
1 cup bean sprouts	3 tsp. salad oil
4 green onions, chopped	2 tsp. sesame oil
1 cup crispy chow mein noodles	1/4 tsp. salt
1 small can mandarin oranges, drained	1/2 tsp. pepper
4 tblsp. toasted slivered almonds	1 tsp. white sugar

Dressing: Combine vinegar, oils, salt, pepper and sugar until well combined. Mix salad ingredients in large bowl and toss with the dressing just before serving. Serves 4.

WE NOW SELL MATTRESSES!
See opposite page for this week's specials.

About Life

Dear Ella,

I have a problem with my brother. He is 38 and has just been through his second failed marriage and is always in and out of jobs. In a word, he is irresponsible. My problem is that he blames everything on my parents and how they raised him.

Though my parents had a rocky marriage and were separated twice, they never gave up and got through some very difficult times. Granted, they were not the best role models and there were emotional issues, but we always had a roof over our heads, food in our stomachs and nice clothes.

My brother is constantly blaming them for what his life has become, using not-so-subtle digs and sometimes, all-out accusations. I can't stand being in the middle of this. Help!

Enough Blame

Dear Enough Blame,

Your brother sounds like he has a whole barrage of issues he needs to deal with, the first of which is to take responsibility for his own life. All parents leave their mark when raising their children. I'm sure it couldn't have been all bad, but your brother seems to have focused on the difficult times which allows him to blame them for the direction his own life has taken. It is always easier to blame others than to take responsibility for yourself.

It sounds to me like it is time your brother gets professional help. He needs to work though his issues that seem to be hindering him from moving forward with his life instead of living in the past.

At 38, he needs to be able to stand on his own two feet and be accountable for the path he is taking. Apron strings aren't that long. At some point they snap.

As for you and your parents, you could probably use someone to vent to and help you through this as well. Guilt is a very strong emotion and if you are the victim of someone who knows how to work guilt well, it can be devastating.

This is really your brother's problem. He is just taking you all along for the ride.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN *or e-mail at eb@cjnews.com But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 33.)

Feast of Booths

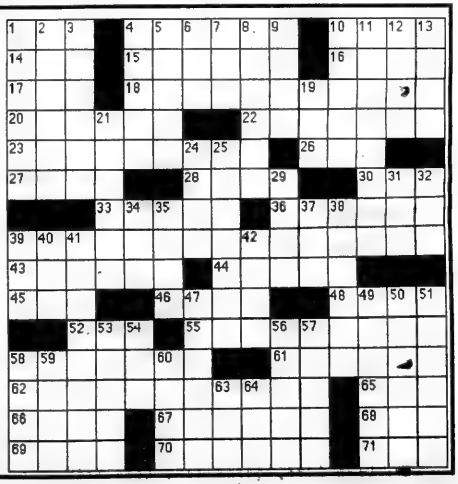
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across

1. Esq. prof.
4. Ashkenazi Booths!
10. Entertainment providers
14. Mouth, in Metullah
15. " Were man __ ____ as phoenix" – Shakespeare (As You Like It)
16. New currency
17. Presidential nickname
18. One of two carried about congregation, Feast of Booths!
20. Cheers' regular
22. Come back, Little Sheba Booth!
23. What the Israelites ate in Sinai, with so much Quail and such
26. Number of weeks, Roman year
27. 21st letter, Hebrew alphabet
28. 1st letter
30. 12
33. Prefix meaning limit or end
36. Show off, in Paris, e.g., a Booth!
39. Three plants, Festival of Booths (!)
43. New Yorker cartoonist Booth (!)
44. Moses, forbidden to ____ the Land
45. Erie Canal mule of song
46. Prefix: either inflexible or fierce
48. Neck back
52. Not, in Netanya (with 'necessarily')
55. What the people are, at the Feast of Booths (!)
58. Aaron, to Moses
61. Israelites needed to do this, having escaped the Egyptians
62. What Israelites were doing 40 years, while living in Booths (!)
65. My light, in Eilat
66. 40 Down, in summer form
67. First rower
68. Solomon mined it
69. Abraham's beloved
70. Lashon rah, in English (abbrev.)
71. Airline

Down

1. Imitations
2. Town of Amos' birth
3. Prefix meaning heat
4. Siamese cuisine
5. " __ ___ Them", Pink Floyd
6. Shore or near-shore crustac.
7. Coolidge
8. Greek patricide wanderer, in France
9. Adam's third son
10. Matisse
11. What the Golden Calf was
12. Edges, in Latin
13. Like a female porcine
19. Israelites didn't discover it, alas!
21. Teacher
24. ____ Camera
25. They merge one sound into another
29. Howard
31. Girl's Hebrew name, meaning light
32. Boy's Hebrew name, meaning wolf
34. What the Quails of Sinai also gave
35. Wingless bird
37. ____ of law (abbrev.)
38. Moses saw the Bush ____ fire
39. Exempli gratia, pluribus
40. Can be herbal
41. Can be done with an IRA
42. Forty ____ in Sinai, in Spanish
47. Relating to the ankle
49. Moses gives out space in Sinai for trial Booths !)
50. Can it play in _____?
51. Brother(s) of assassin Booth (!)
53. Toward the future, in Afula
54. Gigabyte or quatrillion (acronym)
56. Antelope
57. Homophone of an M-G-M founder
58. Circumcision
59. Rock, in Segovia
60. Selfs
63. Levin
64. ___ tropo



Looks like you can, in fact, please all of the people all of the time.

►**THE 2003 E-CLASS.** No matter what your tastes, there's something distinctly appealing about the new Mercedes-Benz E-Class. A quick glance reveals a sleek new look that projects an attitude more common among sport coupes than luxury sedans. But make no mistake, the E-Class is definitely a luxury sedan – its roomy cabin and spacious trunk can attest.

►A more thorough look at the E-Class reveals the revolutionary Brake-by-wire Sensotronic Brake Control system. Not to mention, airbags so advanced, they inflate according to the weight of the occupant and the severity of impact.

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We're stronger together.

A Special Community Report

UJA-FEDERATION

We're stronger together.

Jewish Life in Toronto... How it all Began

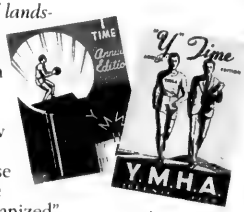
The following are pivotal pieces that together made up the landscape of early Toronto Jewish life, and prove from early on that we stand stronger together.

Keeping count during a past UJA Federation Campaign

In the 1880s, the Jews of Eastern Europe, living under oppression and persecution, set sail for a new way of life. Many settled in Toronto.

An early planning meeting for what would become the Northern Y

The majority of *landsmanshaften* were formed by individuals from the same *shtetl*, or village, and, other than a few scattered synagogues, these *landsmanshaften* symbolized "organized" Judaism in Toronto at the time.



Early programs from the Bloor "Y"

But the societies also symbolized our sacred responsibility for each other and our understanding that collective caring and collective strength go hand in hand. As the years went by, several other organizations sprang up in Toronto to raise money for various needs.

Toronto's Jewish Mayor, Phillip Givens, joins a UJA Mission to Israel

Toronto's first Jewish Y on Brunswick Avenue

In 1917, Toronto's first Jewish Federation – The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies – was incorporated, replacing the unorganized collection of individual charities raising funds for their own causes. The Federation's primary responsibility was fundraising for what was to become United Jewish Appeal.

Mass RALLY

MAPLE LEAF GARDENS

SUN., MAY 16th - 8.15 p.m.

● Come and proclaim your solidarity with the Provisional Jewish Government in Palestine

We have waited for this day for 2,000 years

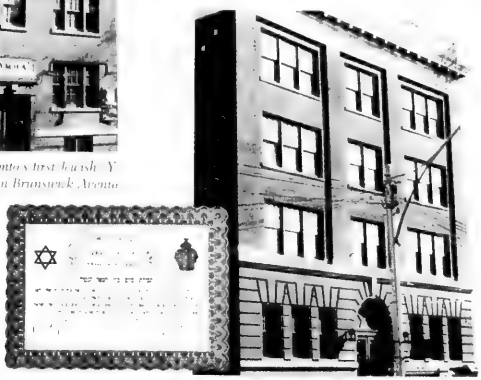
● Come early and participate in the event of historical importance!

Noted Speakers Will Address The Meeting

Doors open at 7.15 p.m. No solicitation for funds

Sponsored by the United Zionist Council of Toronto

A promotional flyer for a 1948 pro Israel rally at Maple Leaf Gardens



The Talmud Torah stood shoulder to shoulder with the Brunswick Ave "Y"

The following pages stand as a testimonial to the Jewish community of Toronto. From the 19th century, into the new millennium, the people of Jewish Toronto have passionately rallied around the needs of their community and the State of Israel.

Whether it's the past, present, or well into the future, there is one indisputable fact that we have learned from our history as Jews: we are stronger together.

We're stronger together.

The Great Depression brought about important changes in Toronto's Jewish community

Unity During the Depression

They say that in every cloud there's a silver lining. In the Jewish Toronto of the 1930s, the Great Depression consolidated community philanthropy. Toronto established the United Jewish Welfare Fund in 1937, incorporating the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, Talmud Torah, the United Palestine Fund, and other organizations.

The Welfare Fund, now UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, served as a unifying force for local Jewish organizations, creating the machinery needed for institutional and financial unity.

Standing up to Nazism

Hitler's reign of horror united North American Jews, bringing Toronto Jewry together from every stream. A Jewish conference was formed to promote a cooperative effort against Nazism.

The conference elected a committee in the spring of 1933 which led to the creation of the League for the Defense of Jewish Rights, under the leadership of Rabbi Samuel Sachs and Shmuel Meir Shapiro, editor of the *Hebrew Journal*.

Toronto's Jewish community led the Canadian fight against Nazism as its League for the Defense of Jewish Rights went on to join similar organizations in Montreal and Winnipeg.

Toronto Jewry led the Canadian effort to fight Nazism

A baseball game helped unify Jews and make them feel "safe at home"

1933 Christie Pits Riots

One of the most devastating, yet crucial, events in early Toronto's Jewish history started with a baseball game and ended with a riot at Christie Pits at the corner of Christie and Bloor.

Two hundred Jewish teens confronted swastika-carrying neo-Nazis in the same year in which Hitler came to power.

After the game, which was won by Harbord Collegiate, these same youngsters tried – in vain – to intimidate the Jewish ball players and even threatened them physically.

The riot was a rallying cry for Toronto's Jewish community, galvanizing Jews in a way that would be vital for the community's survival and success.

Coming Together at Bloor and Spadina

In 1953, a key component of Jewish life in downtown Toronto was established with the construction of the Jewish community centre, popularly known as the South "Y" at the corner of Bloor Street and Spadina Avenue.

Moving from its original incarnation on Brunswick Avenue next to the Talmud Torah, the Bloor "Y" has, for almost 50 years, served the cultural, recreational, and even the social assistance needs of Jews and non-Jews alike. Now the Bloor "Y" is being transformed into the new, modern Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre.

"Historically, the whole downtown area of Toronto has been the home to the Jewish community. The Bloor JCC is the corner of that whole community," says David Green, Chairman of the Miles Nadal JCC Capital Campaign.

Jewish Life Moves North

As Toronto's Jewish community continued to grow and prosper, it moved north and new facilities were needed to accommodate this migration.

On Sunday, December 7, 1958, public officials and prominent members of the Jewish community attended a groundbreaking for the "Y" – now the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (BJCC) – at Bathurst north of Sheppard. Toronto's Jewish Mayor, Nathan Phillips, expressed pride during his civic greetings.

It was clearly a building whose time had come. In April 1961, more than 20,000 men, women, and children came to visit the new facility. Finally, on May 1, 1961, the Northern "Y" opened at a cost of $2.5 million with an initial membership of 7,300. Now, with plans underway for Jewish Toronto Tomorrow's Central Campus, the BJCC will be a focus for a new world-renowned Jewish cultural, educational and recreational centre.

The 1958 groundbreaking for the new Northern "Y"

In a Class By Itself

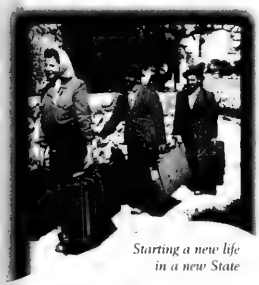
Historically, Toronto's Jewish community has been recognized as a worldwide Jewish centre of academic excellence. That reputation has been earned, in no small measure, because of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT).

Founded in 1960 as a co-ed Jewish community high school, CHAT - until the 1979-1980 school year - occupied one wing in the Associated Hebrew Schools building on Neptune Ave. Eventually, CHAT made the move to its own facility on Wilmington Avenue, with ever-increasing enrollment.
On May 27, 1999, the expanded Anne and Max Tanenbaum Education Centre, a Jewish Toronto Tomorrow project, officially opened on the Wilmington Campus.

Today, CHAT, North America's largest Jewish community high school, with over 1,400 students at two branches, is preparing for its eventual place on the 50-acre Vaughan Campus, another JTT initiative.

Today, CHAT boasts more than 1,400 students in 2 locations

We're stronger together.



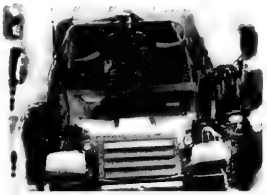
Starting a new life in a new State

1948 - At Long Last!

It was anything but business as usual at a session of the Provincial State Council in Tel Aviv at 4:00 p.m. on May 14, 1948. On this date, just hours before Shabbat, the council members were about to proclaim a State. The State of Israel. The first Jewish State in 2,000 years. On Sunday, May 16, 1948, thousands of Toronto Jews flocked to Maple Leaf Gardens for a massive rally sponsored by the United Zionist Council of Toronto. "I remember marching along College Street as a proud member of the Jewish community, celebrating the establishment of the new State of Israel," says Mira Koschitzky, who was 12 at the time. "I'll never forget the wonder, excitement, and goodwill of that evening."

1967 - The Six Day War

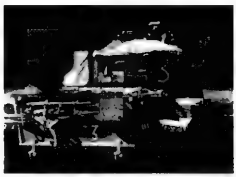
On May 15, 1967 during aYom Ha'atzmaut parade in Jerusalem, Israeli leaders received the news: Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser was in the process of deploying heavy military forces in the Sinai following three weeks of tensions that had built up between the two sides. The Israeli Defense Forces responded with a lightning attack on the Egyptian Air Force, leading to Israel's eventual victory in the Six-Day War, when Jerusalem was re-unified.



"The Kotel is ours!"

"I cried with joy and relief when I saw on television that Israel had reclaimed the Kotel," says Holocaust survivor, Anita Ekstein. "In fact, I can still cry about that feeling of pride and joy I felt back then, even today, over 30 years later."

1973 - The Yom Kippur War



Toronto Jews waited and worried during the Yom Kippur War

At 2:00 p.m. on Yom Kippur, 1973 - the Egyptian and Syrian armies began a coordinated offensive attack against Israel in the Sinai and Golan Heights.

Jews all over the world worried about Israel's survival and the unthinkable possibility of defeat, which Israel eventually averted, marching within kilometers of Damascus.

Toronto Rabbi Henry Hoschander remembers being in the middle of his Shabbat sermon at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, when news of the war came.

I announced it to the regation, and you could concern. The first es recite a psalm, regular

1998 - Celebrating Israel's 50th

The Night of a Lifetime was just that

1998 was a year to remember! In fact, it's a year that Israel will never forget, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Toronto's *Israel at 50* initiative – the largest celebration of Israel's Jubilee outside of the State itself. The Israel at 50 Consortium organized a Chanukah kick-off event at Queen's Park in December, 1997; *The Night of a Lifetime*, a spectacular production at the National Trade Centre in April, 1998, and The Israel Pavilion at the CNE in August of that year, which was visited by more than a million Torontonians.

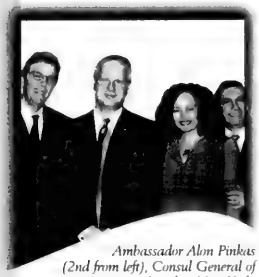
Our own three tenors, Cantors Ya'acov Motzen, Paul Kowarsky, Benjamin Maissner

The 2002 UJA Walk with Israel brought out 25,000 participants

Toronto Walks With Israel

Few things remain the same over the course of three decades, but the Toronto Jewish community's commitment to Israel has not only remained consistent, it has increased year-to-year. One of the most visible symbols of that commitment is the UJA Federation Israel Walkathon. Starting in 1970, with little time for planning and virtually no pre-publicity, the first-ever walkathon raised $55,000 toward UJA Federation. The Walkathon, which is to Walk with Israel, was an immediate hit, and an institution was born. The 2002 Walk with historic heights with an unprece participants, and over $

We're stronger together.



Ambassador Alon Pinkas (2nd from left), Consul General of Israel in New York, joined UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 Chairs Howard Sokolowski (left), Ronnie Appleby (right), and Hinda Silber, Chair of UJA's Women's Campaign & Advocacy, at the Campaign launch

Answering Israel's Call

On September 27, 2000, months of Palestinian strategic planning gave birth to the beginning of a wave of violence against Israel that continues today.

Over 600 people have been killed by Palestinian terrorism, and over 4,000 have been wounded. In August 2001, Toronto's Jewish community, motivated by a request from Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, quickly set the wheels in motion to assist the people of Israel.

Led by the tireless efforts of Chairs Michael Bregman and David Koschitzky, Campaign 2002 – Israel Now and Forever - raised over $50 million, $6.5 million more than the previous year with gift increases designated for hard-pressed Israeli social services.

Moshe Arens, Senior Advisor to Israeli PM Sharon, is flanked by Chairs of Campaign 2002 - Israel Now and Forever - Michael Bregman (left) and David Koschitzky.

As Israel's emergency worsened, community mobilization efforts intensified for UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003, chaired by Ronnie Appleby and Howard Sokolowski.

The severity of Israel's situation compelled organizers to begin the emergency campaign in April, 2002, four months ahead of schedule.

Spurred on by Jewish Toronto's deep commitment to Israel, Campaign 2003 has already reached historic heights, buoyed by gift increases averaging 53%.

Expressing Israel Solidarity

Unprecedented generosity is not the only way in which our community demonstrates its devotion to Israel. Thousands of Torontonians have visited Israel on UJA Federation solidarity missions to literally stand side-by-side with the residents of our beleaguered Jewish nation. Toronto has sent more people than any other North American city over the past two years.

Enjoying a UJA Mission to Israel are (l-r) Michael Buckstein, Yossi Tanuri, and Stephen Goldhar

(l-r) Harvey Naglie, Ronnie Appleby and Michael Feldman recently visited an IDF soldier at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital

Ian Zagdanski and his son, Jordan, in Jerusalem.

Israel Now Consortium

In today's Toronto, the Israel Now Consortium dramatically exemplifies the Jewish community's devotion to Israel. The Consortium, chaired by Julia Koschitzky, consists of over 100 Jewish organizations advocating for Israel, under the auspices of UJA Federation and Israel's Consulate General.

Consortium members represent the entire religious and ideological spectrum of the community. Over the past year and a half, 30,000 people have participated in Consortium-sponsored

Over 10,000 people participated in the 2002 Yom Ha'atzmaut march organized by the Israel Now Consortium

Jewish Toronto Tomorrow:
Daring to Dream

Mayor Mel Lastman, (bottom centre) joined the JTT groundbreaking ceremony at the Kiever Shul

Sunday, April 16, 2000: Jewish Toronto's approach to philanthropy changed dramatically and the way was forged for ambitious renovations to our community's landscape.

At the Kiever Shul in downtown Toronto, Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT), was officially launched.

Jewish Toronto Tomorrow encompasses three components: the Annual UJA Federation Campaign; the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, housing over $115 million in endowments; and, visionary Capital Projects on three campuses.

JTT takes the unique approach of making dreams come true by partnering interested philanthropists with community organizations, which are planning projects to meet growing community needs.

The JTT capital initiatives serve three burgeoning geographic centres of Jewish population.

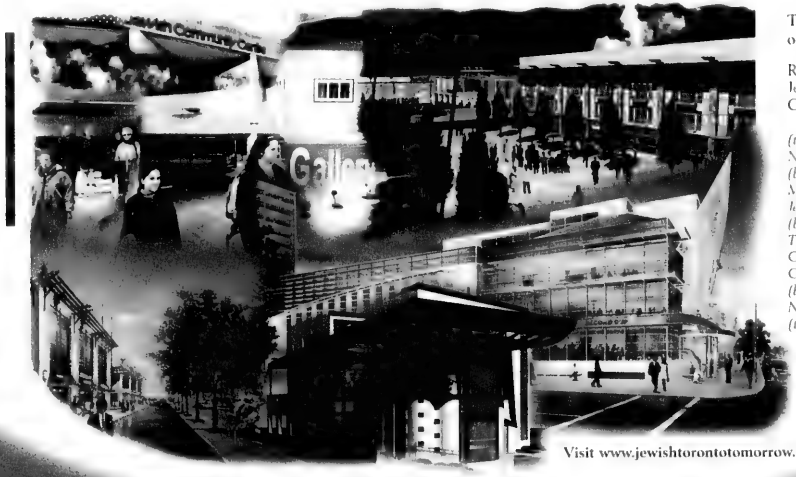
Progress on the downtown campus is well underway with the transformation of the aging Bloor JCC into the new state-of-the-art Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, and construction of the new Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, at the University of Toronto.

The central campus in the Bathurst–Sheppard corridor will transform the existing Bathurst Jewish Community Centre into one of North America's pre-eminent facilities for Jewish culture, education and recreation.

North of Steeles, a 50-acre parcel of land at the corner of Weldrick and Bathurst will become the new northern campus for York Region's Jewish community, Canada's fastest growing.

Philanthropic innovation is the key to JTT's success. Not only are enthusiastic donors coming forward, they're getting together to create other pioneering enterprises such as:

- The Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund (JVPF), chaired by David Lawee, Ken Tanenbaum and Mark Waldman.
- Women's Venture Philanthropy, chaired by Rhonda Richer and Karen Basian
- Family Philanthropy Forum, chaired by Michael Shulman



The Shape of Things to Come:

Renderings for the new Jewish Toronto Tomorrow Campus Projects

(top right) Northern Campus (bottom right) Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre (bottom centre) The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life (bottom left) Northern Campus (top left) Koffler Gallery on the Central Campus

Visit www.jewishtorontotomorrow.net

Since its inception in the 1880s, Toronto's Jewish community
has put aside individual differences and beliefs to galvanize as one determined entity.
Regardless of the particular era, Toronto Jewry has shown a unique unity and determination
to succeed in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.
Together we helped a community grow and flourish and together
we helped the dream of Israel become a reality.
Whether it was the 1800s, the 1900s, or now in this new millennium,
it is our pride, tenacity and unbreakable bond with Israel
that has, and will continue to ensure the growth and success of
Jewish Toronto well into the future.
One thing we, as Jews, have learned throughout the ages is that we're stronger together!

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- *Vice Chair of the Board - Leslie Gales*
- *President, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto - Allan G. Reitzes, Ph.D.*

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This Week

National

A sense of *bashert* in conviction of rabbi's killer. ***Page 3***

Brampton shul hires permanent rabbi. ***Page 14***

Montreal chief admits police unprepared for Concordia riot. ***Page 25***

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Jake Epstein plays Joey's stepson on Degrassi. ***Page 36***

Buggy ride is the best way to tour Amish country. ***Page 37***

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Veteran referee has seen the great boxers. ***Pages 46***

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A week of mourning: old wounds, new atrocities

Last week, with the arrival of Yom Kippur, many Israelis commemorated the 29th anniversary of the Yom Kippur war. At right, a woman kneels at the grave of her son who fell in that war. Three days later, a suicide bomber struck in the heart of downtown Tel Aviv killing six people and injuring scores more. At left, a member of Zaka, the Victims Identification Unit, inspects a shattered window for pieces of human flesh. In a poignant irony, the family of one of the bombing victims donated his kidney to an eight-year-old Palestinian child. *Please see story on page 34.* ***[Israel photos]***

Film exec defends Hitler mini-series

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Peter Sussman, a top executive at Alliance Atlantis, the Toronto-based company behind an upcoming mini-series on Adolf Hitler, says it will not offend Jewish viewers.

"I'm confident of our ability to do it right," he said in a recent interview. "I feel totally comfortable, though I'm aware of the sensitivities."

The working title of the two-night, four-hour series is *Hitler*. It's scheduled to be broadcast next May on CBS in the United States and a Canadian network yet to be determined.

Filming in Prague and Munich is set to begin in November. The shoot will take 10 to 12 weeks.

> ***'Audiences should see why he fooled the country'***

The $15- to $20-million dollar (US) production will be adapted from British historian Ian Kershaw's critically acclaimed biography, *Hitler: 1899-1936: Hubris*, published last year.

The series, which ends in 1933, the year Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany, will be "purposeful and engaging," said Sussman, who heads up Alliance Atlantis' entertainment group.

But critics claim it will humanize Hitler and, by ending in 1933, leave out some essential aspects of his Nazi regime: the Nuremberg Laws, which defined Jewishness in racial terms and disenfranchised Jews, and the Final Solution, which caused the deaths of six million European Jews.

Irving Abella, a York University historian and former president of Canadian Jewish Congress, has expressed concern.

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Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Shemini Atzeret
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Al Qaeda tested chemical weapons in Iraq — please see page 34

The News in Brief

Canada

Record Turnout

TORONTO — More than 7,000 people attended High Holy Day services put on by the Jewish Russian Community Centre (JRCC) at six Greater Toronto Area locations, the highest number since the JRCC began holding services in 1987. The centre, run by Chabad-Lubavitch to serve the 40,000 Russian Jews in the GTA, credits "several months of hard work," including phone calls, advertisements, Russian and English billboards and a Russian-language television commercial, for the turnout.

Israel

Security Fence

JERUSALEM — Israeli defence contractor Elbit will build an electronic security fence around Jerusalem. The first phase will be three miles long and cost $5 million (US), Israel Radio reported. Elbit has built similar barriers in Gaza and along the Lebanon border.

Vaccinations Begin

JERUSALEM — Israeli health officials began vaccinating hospital staff against smallpox last Wednesday. The move is the first step toward fulfilling a Security Cabinet decision to vaccinate some 15,000 security, health and rescue personnel who would comprise the "first response" teams should Iraq launch a biological attack on Israel.

Council Established

JERUSALEM — Palestinian officials have reportedly set up a council in east Jerusalem to administrate civilian affairs. According to Israel Radio, Sari Nusseibeh, the top Palestinian official in Jerusalem, has named a 28-member council that has set up 10 administrative offices in east Jerusalem. Members meet regularly to run such affairs as health and education, the report said. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert denounced the move as "camouflage for subversion," adding that the Palestinians are not entitled to administer services provided by the municipality.

Evacuation Plan

JERUSALEM — The mayor of Ramat Gan, which was hit by Iraqi Scud missiles in 1991, said he will evacuate the city if Baghdad threatens to strike Israel again. Zvi Bar said he was making plans for the evacuation of the city's 125,000 people to a "tent city" in the south of the country, *Yediot Achronot* reported. In the 1991 Gulf War, 9,000 apartments in Ramat Gan, near Tel Aviv, were damaged, including 100 that were destroyed.

World

Papon Outcry

PARIS —France's justice minister is seeking legal grounds to overturn the surprise release last week of Nazi-era war criminal Maurice Papon. Dominique Perben said he was doing so because of the outcry against the release. A French appeals court ruled Papon, 92, was too old and sick to serve out his 10-year sentence. The high-ranking Vichy regime official began serving the sentence in October 1999 after being found guilty of helping deport 1,560 Jews to Nazi death camps in World War II.

Al Qaeda Link?

NEW YORK — An Al Qaeda member has been identified as one of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl's killers, the Associated Press reported. The identification was made by a Pakistani held but not charged in the kidnapping of Pearl, who was killed earlier this year after admitting to being Jewish in a video made by his captors. If true, it would be the first Al Qaeda link to the killing.

Denial Ruling

SYDNEY — The Australian Federal Court last week ordered a Holocaust denier to purge his Australia-based Web site of material saying the Holocaust never happened. It also ordered Fredrick Toben not to publish any such material anywhere on the Internet. In the first Australian decision on hate and the Web, the court ruled Toben's Web site was illegal under Australia's racial discrimination laws.

Ryerson Art Exhibit Draws Complaint

TORONTO — Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, investigated a complaint last week from a Ryerson University student about artwork at a campus gallery that contained the words "Death to Israel."

The work also included images of the destruction of the World Trade Center, a portrait of Osama bin Laden and excerpts from the Christian Book of Revelations.

The display, by artist Iain Cameron, a part-time member of Ryerson's faculty of communications and design, began with the question "Justice will be done – or will justice be done?" and had a representation of the anthrax note sent to U.S. journalist Tom Brokaw that included the text "Death to American/Death to Israel."

In a letter to Ryerson president Claude Lajeunesse, CJC Ontario chair Ed Morgan asked that the display be removed prior to the Sept. 20 date it was scheduled to be dismantled. "This specific problem will be of short duration, [but] we believe that the core issues that inform this matter will have a longer lifespan," Morgan wrote.

"We find it difficult to imagine a context where 'Death to America' or 'Death to Israel' is appropriate, unless the context was critical of these hateful and violent statements. The exhibit, however, does not seem to express such criticism."

Ira Levine, dean of Ryerson's faculty of communications and design, said that as an American and as a Jew, he had no problems with the display. "It is essential to make a distinction between hateful ideas and an artist trying to come to terms with them. The artist is trying to deal with the reality that there is such hatred in our world," he said.

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A sense of *bashert* in conviction of rabbi's killer

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

For Penina Rosenblum, the end of a very long, painful ordeal came at a particularly significant time on the Jewish calendar.

After 16 years and four trials, Steven Tielsch was finally convicted on Sept. 13 – erev Shabbat between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur – of murdering Rosenblum's son Neil, a young rabbi from Toronto who, during a visit to Pittsburgh, happened to be, to use a shopworn phrase, in the wrong place at the wrong time.

But the long-awaited conviction "came at the right time," Penina Rosenblum, a retired teacher at Eitz Chaim Day School, told *The CJN* in an interview at her North York home. "The verdict came just before Yom Kippur, and in a way, it was to atone for Neil's death. God felt this was the time."

The Rosenblums, longtime members of B'nai Torah Congregation, are observant. Arthur Rosenblum, a businessman, rises at 6 a.m. each day to learn Torah before heading off to work. Neil, or "Nuti," as he was affectionately known, was the third of their five children and a graduate of Ner Israel Yeshiva in Thornhill. He was a student at its kolel when he was shot down in cold blood.

Then just 24 and the father of a month-old baby girl, Neil and his wife were visiting his in-laws in Pittsburgh before Passover in 1986. While returning from synagogue the night of April 17, in the predominantly Jewish district of Squirrel Hill, he was stopped by a stranger in a car who asked for directions. When Neil, clad in traditional Orthodox garb, approached, a passenger in the car pumped five bullets from a .380 calibre machine gun into the young rabbi's chest and stomach. He died hours later while undergoing emergency surgery.

But before losing consciousness, he was able to identify the vehicle as a dark-coloured Corvette. For years, that was the lone piece of physical evidence, but nothing came of it after hundreds of black and blue Corvettes and similar-looking sports cars were checked.

For two years, it seemed as though police forgot about the case, or had closed the book on it for lack of leads. Even a $50,000 (US) reward, raised between donors in Pittsburgh and Toronto in the weeks following the murder, failed to yield a clue, let alone a suspect.

Rabbi Neil Rosenblum

Then, in 1988, a break: Sanford Gordon, a heroin addict who was being held in the Allegheny County Jail on drug possession charges, told his lawyer and investigators that his cellmate, Tielsch, had been bragging about having killed, or "whacked," a rabbi or "a Jew [expletive]."

Tielsch was being held in the county jail on federal drug trafficking charges. (He still faces prosecution in a separate drug case.) Gordon, who is Jewish, reported that Tielsch had made numerous anti-Semitic remarks and had scrawled swastikas on his forehead. Another star witness, a money launderer, recalled the same behaviour by Tielsch in 1991.

Gordon, prodded by detectives to seek more information, said Tielsch told him that three weeks after the shooting, he had been stopped by a state trooper on the highway while driving a black Corvette, with the gun still in the car.

But authorities did not act on Gordon's information, and the case lay dormant for another 12 years until the Pittsburgh police force's cold case squad took it over. Local officials speculated the slaying was a random

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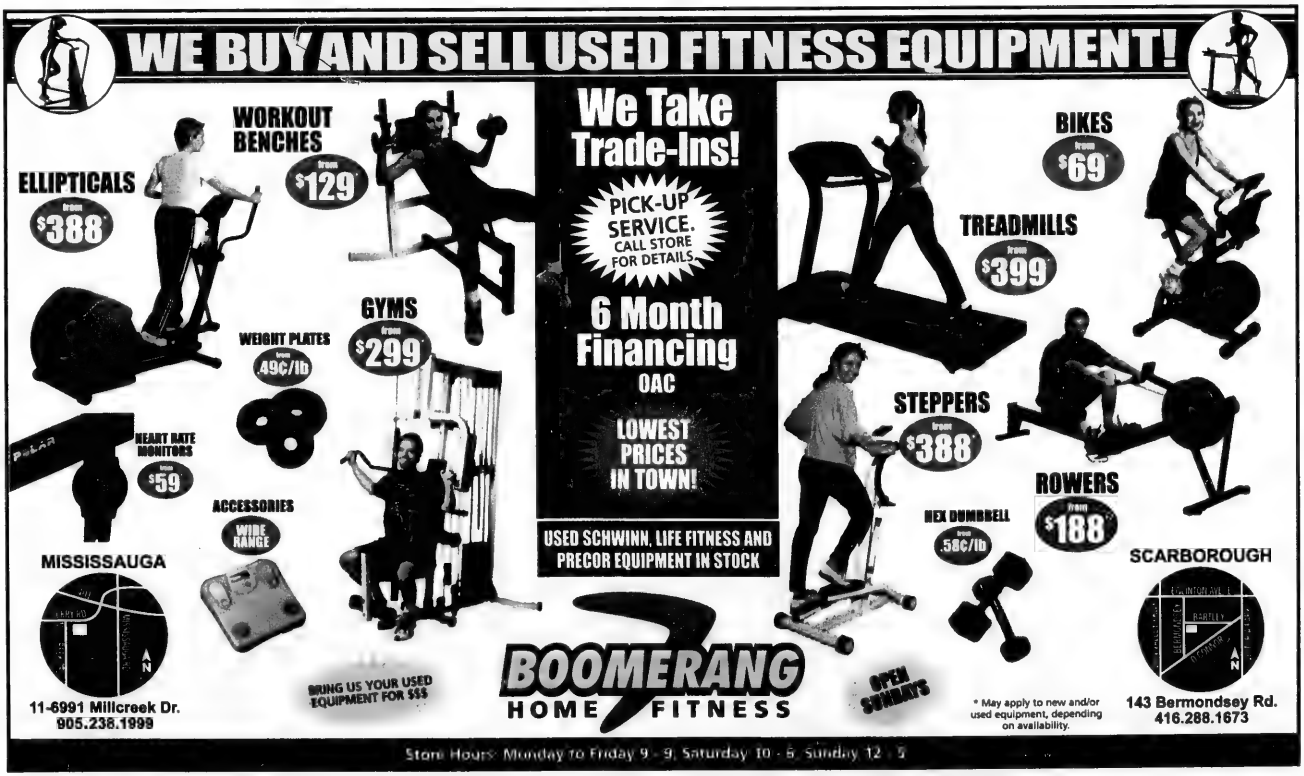
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Greater Toronto Area

An eventful weekend

While many of us were celebrating the holiday of Sukkot Sunday, events around the globe unfolded, as they usually do, at a swift pace. Certain thoughts regarding three of those events came to mind.

* * *

In Berlin, Germany's incumbent chancellor Gerhard Schroeder was re-elected to office, albeit with a reduced majority.

As of this writing, voter returns suggest Schroeder's Social Democratic Party and the Christian Social Union, the party of his main challenger Edmund Stoiber, received approximately the same number of votes, just under 40 per cent each, of the ballots cast.

But Schroeder's ability to cobble a coalition with the Greens party, taking advantage of the popularity of that party's high-profile flag-bearer, Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, as an anchor for a new government, will tip the parliamentary scales in Schroeder's direction.

Though the incumbent, Schroeder began the race well behind his challenger, Stoiber, in the polls. But Schroeder's campaign turned sharply around when he abruptly – and many observers added, cynically – made the impending U.S. offensive against Saddam Hussein, the key plank of his platform.

Schroeder promised the electorate that under no circumstances, would German soldiers join the fight against Saddam Hussein, even if there were a Security Council mandate to do so.

Schroeder's promise was wildly popular with the voters. He seized on it and deployed it to its fullest, most strident hilt.

As a result of the frequently bellicose manner of Schroeder's electioneering, *The Wall Street Journal* recently reported that "Berlin's relationship with Washington is now so poor that analysts say the Bush administration has virtually written off Germany as a major partner in the near future."

Just as the campaign was drawing to a conclusion, Schroeder's Justice Minister, Herta Daeubler-Gmelin, further ignited simmering American sensibilities by comparing George W. Bush to Adolf Hitler.

Schroeder's electioneering put him squarely at odds with the entire western world, all of which is at least willing to confront Saddam under the authority of a UN-sanctioned resolution.

With the campaign concluded, observers will be watching Schroeder to see if he will come down from the high anti-American perch on which he placed himself and his government. If he does, it will speak ill of him as a sincere, trustworthy person. If he does not, it will speak ill of him as a sincere, trustworthy ally. Either way, the western world and certainly the United States, will now look upon Gerhard Schroeder, and perhaps even the German electorate, in a new, clearer, starker light.

* * *

In Washington, some senators, speaking with the regular roster of Sunday morning political pundits, strongly suggested that Israel ought not to retaliate against Saddam if struck by the Iraqi tyrant.

"If Israel responded to an attack, no Muslim nation... could support the U.S. effort against Iraq, even behind the scenes," Senator Joseph Biden, chair of the senate's foreign relations committee, said.

American policy-makers, just as they did 10 years ago, are once again asking Israel to forfeit its inherent right of self-defence.

"Any retaliation by the Israelis...," said Senator Richard Shelby, ranking Republican on the senate intelligence committee, "would be perceived as fighting side-by-side with the Israelis against all Arab interests, and the war could spread."

The senators could not have been less subtle. They were pressuring Israel, in effect, to let Saddam strike its people at will. Does anyone doubt he will try to do precisely that if he believes the end of his hold on power is imminent?

It is inconceivable that Israel should be expected to assuage the sensibilities of nations who, for the most part, want to see the Jewish state eliminated. It is inconceivable that Israel should be expected, in effect, to confer on those very same nations, a veto over its own right to act in its self-defence.

* * *

In Ramallah, Neil MacDonald of the CBC once again demonstrated Sunday night his one-sided, anti-Israel reportage, constantly infusing his personal biases into what should be objective, or at least attempted objective, on-the-scene news reporting.

"Israel's prime minister believes that peacemaking is best done at gunpoint," MacDonald offered early in the report, his voice dripping with his poisonous sarcasm, his personal disdain for Ariel Sharon evident with every word.

Not only was MacDonald's statement obviously an opinion and not fact, it was completely untrue. Sharon has stated repeatedly that he would never negotiate with the PA under the threat of terror, never sit down with them at the point of a gun.

The IDF was not "peacemaking" in Ramallah; it was trying to rout out terrorists. But the truth was irrelevant to MacDonald, just as the context for the IDF's presence in Ramallah, namely, the preceding day's Palestinian terrorist strikes, was also irrelevant for him.

Our taxpayer dollars underwrite his blatant anti-Israel propaganda. As the Canada-Israel Committee has often pointed out, it is well past time that taxpayers voice our displeasure with such unconscionable behaviour.

—*MBD*

SeeJN

SING-A-LONG FIDDLER: The audience were the stars Aug. 29 at Harbourfront Centre, as hundreds dressed up in their favourite shtetl garb at a special sing-a-long screening of *Fiddler on The Roof*, sponsored by the Miles Nadal JCC.

[Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications photos]

Greater Toronto Area

Dormant bank accounts may hold hidden treasures

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Some two dozen current and defunct Jewish organizations may claim long-forgotten money being held in dormant bank accounts across the country.

They are listed on the Bank of Canada's searchable Web site at http://ucbswww.bank-banque-canada.ca/. The site allows anyone to find out whether they have funds in a dormant account waiting to be claimed.

The site lists thousands of individuals, organizations, schools and clubs. Searchers may type in a name or a word, or even part of a name.

Included are instructions on how to make claims online, and who can make them.

Bank accounts which are untouched for 10 years are transferred to the Bank of Canada. The same goes for certified cheques, money orders, deposit receipts and bank drafts that are never cashed.

Dormant accounts of $500 and over stay at the Bank of Canada indefinitely. Anything under that becomes the property of the Receiver General after 20 years.

A *CJN* search turned up several Jewish groups with forgotten accounts. Among them are:

• Associated Hebrew Schools is listed as having $106.73 in a North York bank account, last accessed in 1982. The account is subject to prescription, or being taken over by the Receiver General, on Dec. 31 of this year.

• A listing of "Parent Associated Hebrew School," possibly the parents' association at the school, has a forgotten balance of $472.44, last accessed in 1989, at the Toronto Dominion Bank at 808 York Mills Rd.

• The United Israel Appeal is listed with a dormant balance of $639.54 at a Royal Bank of Canada in Saskatoon, unclaimed since 1989.

• The "Yiddish Drama Company" is listed with an unclaimed balance of $953.08 at the Royal Bank at 885 Sheppard Ave. W.

• The "United Synagogue Graduating Class" may claim $290.95, dating back to 1989, at the Bank of Nova Scotia, 2901 Bayview Ave., North York.

• The National Council of Jewish Women in Nepean, Ont. has $205.18 waiting to be claimed at a Bank of Nova Scotia in the Ottawa suburb.

• The "Toronto Jewish Soccer Club" has an unclaimed balance of $153.80, last accessed in 1987, at the Toronto Dominion Bank branch at Don Mills and York Mills.

• The "Willowdale Orthodox Jewish Congregation" may claim $136.89 at the Toronto Dominion Bank at 141 Adelaide St. W. in Toronto.

• "State of Israel Coupons" is shown with a balance of $206.93 at a Royal Bank branch in Saskatoon.

Other Jewish organizations with unclaimed accounts may be found at the site by using such keywords as Jewish, synagogue, B'nai Brith and Israel.

HONOURING HEROISM: Associated Hebrew Schools middle school students presented a cheque for $1,000 to the Toronto Fire Department in honour of the heroism of New York City firefighters on 9/11. Pictured (from left) are: firefighter Gregg Corden, students Alexandra Cuperfain and Robyn Deverett, district fire chief John Nearing and Danilack middle school Hebrew principal Rabbi Pinchas Brumer.

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on the passing of

SARAH RUMACK ז"ל
Associated Hebrew Teacher for 46 years

EPHRAIM BLATT ז"ל
Associated Hebrew Teacher for 36 years

JACK GOLDFEIN ז"ל
Associated Hebrew Teacher for 18 years

Their love for Jewish Education and devotion
to the children of our School will not be forgotten.

We extend our sincere sympathy and condolences
to the families.

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Greater Toronto Area

No deadline seen for Israeli troop withdrawal

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Erez Weiner

Israel will remain in the Palestinian autonomous areas until terrorism is uprooted and Israelis feel safe again, an Israeli infantry commander suggested in a military briefing here recently.

Lieut.-Col. Erez Weiner told UJA Federation that Israel will not be bound by any deadlines to withdraw its forces from the West Bank.

That is the consensus in Israel, the commander of the Dochifat battalion said.

Weiner, who commands about 600 troops, has taken part in two major offensives in the West Bank since late March – Operation Determined Shield and Operation Determined Path. The objective of these operations was to stamp out Palestinian terrorism.

The function of his battalion – stationed in Ramallah, the site of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's headquarters – is to prevent terrorists from infiltrating Jerusalem and the settlements around it.

During sweeps into the Palestinian heartland, one soldier in his unit has been killed and 41 others have been wounded.

Expressing pride in his troops, he said: "They all know the importance of what they're doing – protecting Israel, their families and the Jewish nation... from crazy fanatics."

A fairly young man who wears a knitted kippah, Weiner described the current Palestinian terrorist campaign as Israel's "second war of independence."

"In 1948, we suffered attacks on our cities, and this is happening again," he observed.

Israel's unilateral withdrawal from southern Lebanon, which took place in May 2000, encouraged the Palestinians to launch their latest uprising, Weiner said.

"They were sure we were weak, like a fruit falling from a tree. But we've shown them, and ourselves, that we can collect ourselves together."

Israelis will be more than glad to lay down their arms, "but if we're attacked, we'll fight back. We'll show them we're unbeatable. The Romans are gone, but we're still here."

Weiner suggested that Israeli operations in the West Bank have been reasonably successful. "We've been able to stop almost all attacks." But he quickly added that the Israeli army must remain vigilant. "This terror, this evil, must be cut down."

The Palestinians may never love the Israelis, "but they'll learn to respect us."

According to Weiner, Israel has no desire to control or rule them. "We're in the [West Bank] because we have to be there."

If Israel does not respond forcefully to terrorism, the contagion will spread, he warned.

Israel is willing to give the Palestinians responsibility for their day-to-day affairs, but it insists on maintaining a security umbrella in the West Bank, Weiner said.

He said the Palestinians are beginning to realize that terrorism has not brought them tangible benefits.

Outlining a process whereby Israel can resume bilateral negotiations with the Palestinians, he said the first step is to win the war. Once terrorism has been crushed, Israel should seek out a credible partner.

"Eventually, we'll find the right partner," he said, dismissing Arafat as an interlocutor. "He's already part of history."

In Ramallah, Weiner disclosed, his troops found drugs and maps of Palestine without Israeli cities and towns.

And in Arafat's besieged compound, they stumbled upon guns, bombs and documents authorizing the Palestinian Authority to fund suicide bombers.

Weiner, whose Nachal brigade supervised Israel's unilateral pullout from the western part of south Lebanon, implied that the withdrawal had been a mistake.

"We retreated not because we lost, but because we weren't strong enough as a nation," he said, stating that public opinion had forced Israel out of Lebanon.

"I wasn't proud of our withdrawal."

Weiner predicted Lebanon will flare up again as Israel's major war front, since Israel will not tolerate Hezbollah attacks for much longer.

He also cast doubt on whether the fortified fence Israel is currently constructing along the length of the West Bank will be effective.

"Fences have never helped," he noted, referring to France's Maginot Line of fortifications built between 1929 and 1940 along the French-German border. "The best way to deter the enemy is to be strong. We're building a fence because it'll give people a sense of safety."

Sooner or later, he said, the Israeli army will have to smash the terrorist infrastructure in the Gaza Strip, adding that Israel has resisted doing so out of concern for casualties on both sides.

Weiner called a U.S. attack against Iraq a necessity, for Israel and the free world.

"This guy – Saddam Hussein – is a bad guy. Take him down when he's small, before he gets stronger."

Weiner acknowledged that Iraq poses less of a threat to Israel today than during the 1991 Gulf War, when it launched Scud missiles at Israeli cities.

Parents learn to 'let go' of kids who abuse

The following is the third in a series of articles on drug abuse in the Jewish community. All the names have been changed.

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Deborah is a pretty, dark-haired mother who doesn't know if she'll ever see her son alive again, but she believes she could probably find him somewhere on the city streets – in the area around Jarvis and Church.

Once a week, Deborah joins a group of eight or nine women who are either addicts or family members of addicts. They meet at JACS Place – a storefront at 858 Sheppard Ave. for Jewish alcoholics, chemically dependent persons and significant others. The women's group comes together for understanding and support.

Within the four lavender walls, anonymity is sacred so that the group can discuss their weekly experiences with honesty and candor.

Deborah knows there are probably no easy answers to why this has happened to her son and her family, or to what might happen next.

But right now, Deborah says she has to close the door to him if he tries to come home. Even if it means that the next phone call could be from the police telling her her son has been found dead.

He has to hit bottom, she says. Otherwise, he comes home only when he needs money to bail him out of a crisis and then he goes on to his next binge.

Because he is over 18, Deborah's son can sign himself out of every recovery program his parents find for him. They can't force him to stay and he doesn't seem interested in being cured.

Drug Abuse in the Jewish Community

"His addiction is destroying our family," Deborah says. "For too many years, I have had no time for my husband or my other children. My self-esteem was crushed, my dreams destroyed."

Deborah and the other women who meet regularly say JACS has offered them an anchor and a foundation to help them cope.

By talking among themselves, they have learned to look for patterns in the addicts' behaviours and in their own responses. They discuss issues that consume them, knowing their concerns will remain undisclosed to outsiders.

The women agree that it seems much harder for their men to speak openly about family problems.

Deborah says, for example, that her husband is still too angry to discuss the issues.

Lilly, an addict who has been clean for several years, says the regular support group meetings "help pierce through the shame that comes from community and personal denial

> *The next call could be the last*

and the guilt that somehow we are to blame for our addictions or for the addicts in our lives."

The myth that "Jewish women are supposed to be better than everyone else means that when we suffer from problems, the fall is so much greater," she says.

Miriam is a petite woman who hardly looks her age. She currently has custody of her grandchildren.

"My daughter and her husband have lost everything – their business, their house, even their children," she says.

Miriam stopped bailing them out of their ongoing financial troubles recently because she believes that if she constantly helps them, they will never recover.

Her daughter ran away from home when she was 12 years old. The police found her and brought her back, but she then dropped out of high school and every other program her mother put her in.

While their daughter was growing up, Miriam and her husband didn't understand that drugs were consuming their child's life.

"We thought you either had good kids or bad kids, and since we believed we had a good kid we thought the problems would just go away with time," she says.

Last year, Miriam found drugs in her daughter's home and realized she had a big problem on her hands.

"My daughter now blames me for not helping her," Miriam says. But as hard as it is, Miriam is convinced that she can't answer her phone calls.

"My daughter needs to understand that she is powerless over the alcohol and drugs that are controlling her life. Otherwise she will never recover," Miriam says.

Joanne is a young adult who grew up with parents who were stoned most of the time.

"Everyone thought my mother was the ideal PTA mom," Joanne says. "She would pick me up from school and stop to chat with the other mothers."

But Joanne remembers that her parents would come home and close the door to their bedroom.

"We were left to bring ourselves up. There was no homework time or bedtime," she says.

Continued on page 14

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Dry Bones

SADDAM, I'M GONNA COME OVER AND TAKE YOU OUT!
HAH!
YOU AND WHAT COALITION?
ME AND NO COALITION
HMMM
THIS IS NOT THE ANSWER I WAS LOOKING FOR.

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Hypocrisy that catches one's breath

Last week, two Palestinian terrorists murdered seven Israelis and injured scores more. One of the terrorists struck in the very heart of Tel Aviv, the most populous of Israel's cities, at noon, the busiest, most congested time of the business day. It was not only to murder the largest number of people possible that the terrorist struck then and there, it was also to send the unmistakable signal to Israelis that terrorists can strike anywhere in the country, that no Israeli is safe.

As every other moral, self-respecting, democratic country would do in the same circumstances, Israel struck back at the body whose responsibility it was, and is, to prevent the attacks, in this case, the Palestinian Authority (PA) and its leader, Yasser Arafat. It laid siege to his compound, demanding he hand over a group of men suspected of involvement in terrorist actions against the Jewish state. With his refusal, Israel began methodically to demolish his compound.

It was not only to punish the PA for its duplicity, if not direct involvement, in the terror and for its cynical disregard of its duty to prevent terrorism against Israelis, that Israel struck at Arafat's compound. It was also to send the unmistakable signal to the Palestinian people that their leadership would be held accountable.

As of this writing, the destruction of the compound has ceased, but the wanted men have not been handed over, and thus the siege remains. Israel, however, has sent in food, medical supplies and clothing to Arafat and his minions.

Arafat was able to leave his confinement in Ramallah, Israel said, but would not be able to return.

Lest there be even the slightest doubt about Arafat's responsibility for and culpability regarding Palestinian terrorism, the following was reported Monday in *Ha'aretz*: "Arafat offered [to Egyptian and Jordanian interlocutors] to rein in the various armed groups responsible for terror attacks against Israeli civilians in exchange for an end to the IDF's siege of his Ramallah compound. PA officials who communicated with Jordanians said the proposal includes an undertaking by Arafat to restrain armed militants including Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade and the armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad."

Whether Israel's actions have actually boosted Arafat more than they have Israel's ultimate security is a legitimate question for debate. But not legitimate is the question of Israel's right to strike at him. By his own words he has proven the justice of Israel's case. When it suits his purposes, Arafat is fully capable of "restrain[ing]... Fatah's Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade and the armed wings of Hamas and Islamic Jihad." With the fate of his Ramallah headquarters hanging in the balance, it apparently now suits his purposes to do so.

Thus, the condemnations of Israel emanating from various quarters are not only unjustified, they are a hypocrisy that catches one's breath.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani (Hamid) Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

Rabbi corrects record

I would like to correct an error which I made in response to a question from Frances Kraft for the article "Intermarriage may preclude membership at shul" (*CJN*, Sept. 12), about intermarried couples and their membership in synagogues.

I stated incorrectly that Orthodox synagogues would accept a Jewish person as a member while not permitting the non-Jewish spouse to be a member. I had stated that this was the policy of our shul and many other Orthodox shuls. In fact, I was incorrect on both accounts: it is not the policy of our shul, nor is it the policy of any of the Orthodox shuls in Toronto with which I subsequently consulted.

The accurate position of these Orthodox shuls is that intermarried Jews are not permitted to be members of the shul.

Rabbi Reuven Tradburks
Toronto

* * *

What hurt the most

I recently went to the Toronto Centre for the Arts, where Benjamin Netanyahu was speaking to an audience about the current situation in Israel. I did not buy a ticket; I brought an Israeli flag. I stood outside the centre with about 100 pro-Israel lobbiers waving my flag, singing and chanting to demonstrate my unconditional support for the State of Israel. While hundreds of anti-Israel protesters were spitting at us, throwing bottles, hailing Hitler and chanting that six million Jews were not enough to die, I could not help but notice two Jewish women standing in the area assigned for anti-Israel protesters, holding a sign that read: "Jewish Women Against Israeli Terrorism."

I could handle the fact that 10 Arab teenagers promised to break my face after the demonstrations. I could also handle being spit upon. However to see two, so terribly misinformed, Jewish individuals call the IDF's actions "terrorism," now that hurt me.

Eric Freedland
North York

* * *

More women needed

The idea of asking 20 respected Jewish leaders to write about books that influenced them was a good one (Rosh Hashanah Greetings Section, *CJN*, Sept. 5). But only three of the 20 leaders are women. This is extremely unbalanced and fails to represent the Jewish community as a whole. What message is *The CJN* sending to young Jewish women?

Judy Saul
Richmond Hill, Ont.

* * *

Claim against Claims Conference

Somebody finally spoke out, thank you! ("A Survivor's claim against the Claims Conference," *CJN* Rosh Hashanah Greetings Section, Sept. 5). I cannot tell you the physical and mental pain this is causing me 58 years after the Holocaust. I have just received my payment for slave labour. How many times have I called, applied, was sent to psychiatrists, and finally gave up claiming what was so rightly mine. The torture and the nightmares were just not worth it and I am not alone feeling this way.

The money that I received makes me feel ashamed of what the American Claims Conference is doing to us survivors. Not only did we live through horror, and survive, but we are constantly reminded that we are not in the right place at the right time to apply for the different funds distributed. We simply had to get on with our lives and turn our backs to this "blood money."

I trusted our own American Jewish negotiators to act on our behalf, and I am disappointed. Just to remember in the last year how many times I have called and broken down, crying hysterically because my questions were not understood and never satisfactorily answered.

I am one of the youngest survivors. How long do you want to delay this? This money is not even enough to purchase my headstone. So who do I thank for it?

I have learned that there is no justice in this world. Let's see if we can still right all the wrongs and give the few Holocaust survivors some better days for the remainder of their lives. We all deserve it.

Olga Verrall
Toronto

* * *

Views were author's alone

In a recent article regarding the Claims Conference ("A Survivor's claim against the Claims Conference," *CJN* Rosh Hashanah Greetings Section, Sept. 5), reference was made to the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) and to myself.

I would like to clarify that the views expressed in that article were entirely the personal views of the writer.

Paul Shaviv
Director of Education, CHAT

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

Reflections on A.M. Klein's 30th yahrtzeit

A.M. Klein, considered one of the pre-eminent Jewish writers of the last century, died in August 1972. To mark his 30th yahrzeit, The CJN *asked for submissions about Klein from two young writers who are exemplars of a new generation of Jewish Canadian talent and who both acknowledge a great debt to Klein. Here B. Glen Rotchin and Harold Heft are attempting to grapple with Klein's tragic silence and his unexpected withdrawal from the world.*

Unwriting Myself

From *The Imagined Journal of A.M. Klein*
By B. Glen Rotchin
August 1951

To the end that my glory may sing praise to thee and not be silent.
O Lord my God, I will give thanks unto thee forever. –The Second Scroll

What more is there to say, and where exactly have I arrived? To praise God, is that the only thing to do? Then what of this scroll unrolled, come to an end, a stop, a period – truth be told – an emptiness, a silence. Worse still, a question: Either God is or is not. And not another praise, nor curse, nor word, nor punctuation will suffice to conjure His presence.

Bessie is in the living room typing the last of it. Her tac-tac-tacking behind the wall insults the quiet. It intrudes with a Morse code of desperation and helplessness, fills the cold night air along Querbes Avenue with the insistent SOSing of a sinking ship. Faces appear out of the bookshelf. I hear the quickly fading cries of ice-filled lungs, tongues swollen stiff. God, when will You arrive to free them? How shall they open their blue lips to sing Your praise?

What praise will do? I brought you music and poetry. Danced before you like King David turning shame to honour in Your name. Debased myself in some eyes, feeling lifted aloft on the wings of Divine egolessness. As I write this, Jerusalem quakes and the Ark of your new State totters, as it always has. I will not try to right it. Refuse to repeat well-known mistakes. How can I go on stumbling toward Your dream like a biblical ox?

I did Your bidding. Cursed the community its golden calves. Now I am weary, my mind is shattered like your famous Ten Words. O God reveal Yourself. My hiding place has always been the rock, a craggy formation of words. I have seen You pass, the back of your head. But it is not enough right now. Show Yourself, full-faced, *panim el panim*, let me know the secrets behind the words. Those secrets for which Akiva was martyred, stripped of his skin, layer from layer, his insides become outsides, the outer his inner-being, and he was indistinguishable from meaning itself, from Torah, from pure spirit. His torture was his liberation. You revealed Yourself before, to my predecessor, that Master of Letters, and now I ask the same for me. Even as we speak I can feel the parchment of myself peeling away, unscrolling.

Presently, I must admit the glory was not Yours, it was mine all along. The song was for myself, my own edification. The beauty I pursued was merely an investment on which I expected return. To see my words make a difference. To hear the hosannas of my peers. Thus was Your Name made profane.

Words are false, even the choicest, sweetest ones, mere illusions, constructions of how we want to appear, the mark we want to leave. But these can not matter. Only You are eternal. You stunned Job into silent awe, contrasting the narrow boundaries of his existence with the limitlessness of the universe. Suddenly, he realized the same unfathomable laws which govern the movements of nature are sovereign over Man. Reality is not the contest of tiny personal claims. It is a sweeping continuum, undeniable as it is unchangeable, fluid and shifting as tidal consciousness. What are we? Long-extinguished stars that appear as luminous traces of our own deaths. The ghost-writer is ghost. The poet is landscape.

If life is form then death is content. Could this be Your secret? The one exposed with the great Akiva's final revelation, his body opening like a many-petaled flower for the morning sun. Every creative act is simultaneously a death sentence. The artist seeks but one thing, the perfect unison of form and content. Enraptured by the sounds, smells, tastes and visions of the world, he delights in his corporeal self. He thinks corporeality equivalent to ultimate being and so idolizes the material. But no incarnation of material can fuse form and content in an unending embrace joining humankind with Divinity. Only in the denial of materiality can essence surface like a submerged bathescope. Only in the liquid buoyancy of transparent selflessness can the pure soul rise up to You in holiness.

And so every word I ever wrote is leaden, sinking – a stain, an ombre, every letter a shadow footprint on a snowy page. I have espoused, opined, editorialized, rhapsodized, mused, debated and analyzed with only one goal in mind, to shape a self, a somebody. But arguments are a fool's wardrobe. To think that one can create oneself from the costumes of idea – laughable. A trick of words does not touch reality. They are amusements, avoidances, diversions from the singular truth. These repulsive skins I have grown must go, must be shed. These disguises of selfhood I've spent a lifetime creating and justifying with cleverness and craft must be effaced.

There is only One
question.
Either God is
or is not.
I am not God.
God is.
And so I
am
not.

The bureau is swept clean. Two erasers sit on the corner like pebbles on a hardly visited headstone. There is also a saucer and teacup. Below the rim, a thin, brown horizon line where golden liquid evaporated to sky. Fingers reach for the handle's seraphic curl, a letter flourish, the outer curve of an ear. The hand and ear do not meet. They are held in time and space between being and not being. And this is where God sees fit to leave them. Suspended in grace.

* * *

The Poet Klein Editorializes

By Harold Heft

A.M. Klein reacts to Alexander Bercovitch's death in an editorial in the Canadian Jewish Chronicle.

I

Not even do the proven myths
rise up today – there to crystallize
phosphorescent around the fading sigil

of his absence. Where are the lesser
poets to fashion his hauntings
out of the ashes or crypts or

the dreams of daughters? I know
all the words, they are mine to write.
But still,

under the too-gentle leanings
of this mountain do every two
snow flakes seem exactly alike today

each falling along the same route
as the last, softly uttering
the same note,

falling in perfect symmetry
beneath the next. Every pupil
is saturated with familiarity.

II

I inhale repetition and
settle beneath this new stretch
of winter. I allow the earth-cloud

to envelope the points of my body,
to mould to the
heavy darkness of my suit.

My gloved fingers
comb this temporary desert
searching for the single unique jewel

that fell yesterday. The jewel
masquerading as snow flake, falling
among us always

too early, expressing too fragile
a season, destined to melt
instantly into the still-warm earth.

Or is it the sudden dark spot on the pavement
evaporating an instant after impact? The
weightless jewel for which

guilty children in flight
abandon the design of games to chase,
ruddered by inarticulate tongues

still young enough to know
to hunger
for the single original flake.

III

The truth is I have known such precious
originals. There may be but one
per season, sometimes less. They cling

to their descent – most masterful
divers – only so long as the wind
will support. Call it partnership, uneven

and binding. This one dreams
dangerous landscapes ascending
toward heaven, while the multitudes,

together, breath the earthward winds.
This one, in falling, tilts into the
light, freely reflecting colours beyond

all spectrum, while others
refuse to yield
even the colour green.

IV

The truth is
I knew this one. The [illegible]

I was tired of being

only exactly what I am,
an arranger of words. And so
did the artist paint me – tired –

broken down
to the million elements and angles that is
a life. A cheek,

they say, is only
a cheek. But in the sweep of his
brush this cheek was at once every second

it had lived to surround my mouth,
contain air and words and food, blood
and veins and tissue. The few strands

at the tip of his brush
knew each kiss
this cheek had ever gladly accepted

and each scrape of dull blade
it had endured. And
above the cheek rested my

left eye, undead, complete, a perfect
copy of itself, perfectly
of my life,

contained in my head and containing
all vision and sight. But my right eye
was for insight, gaping,

roaming, lolling
exploding in its yearning
to escape this

tilted head. And there, beside me,
a book, my own, and
my wife, buoyant.

V

Crudely I asked if this face I saw
was me, and the artist raged
that it mattered not whose face it was, that

I now owned, after all, a
Bercovitch! Still does that painting hang
singular before me,

mocking disintegration. Still
does it present itself only in
fragments

and each day a different fragment
juts itself into my consciousness, surrounds
me as my mind wades under it. In

each
particular does the whole of
the artist's mind congeal

like the memory of unformed marble
around the rippling muscles
of a flawless statue.

VI

And that is where the incomplete
is exposed. The immortality we seek
is in that which we take,

not in what we leave behind. It is
in the debt for marble chipped away,
not in the value

of the remaining statue. Still,
from somewhere beyond this
sameness of winter do vapours

rise up, as from sub-
terranean rivers,
and swim, undetected,

across the sky, seeking always
purer forms of themselves, while we,
together beneath his gifts, recline.

B. Glen Rotchin is a writer in Montreal and Harold Heft is a writer in Toronto.

Whence now?

I am writing this column on Sept. 10, one day before the anniversary of the unhappy events last year that changed our history so radically.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

A year ago, on Sept. 11, I found myself in Israel, on one of the kibbutzim on the northern border between Israel and Lebanon. There was a television set stationed near the entrance to the kibbutz and, as I stopped to see what was on the screen, I was shocked to see an airplane smash into the World Trade Center in New York City.

I suggested to my friends who were with me on my Israeli trip that I was witnessing a turning point in world history. Unfortunately, I was all too correct. The world has not been the same since.

I cannot let this day go by without remembering the past and trying to look to the future. Somehow I feel that before Sept. 11, 2001, we were all somewhat innocent about events in the world, but now that innocence has dissolved in the acid of reality.

In earlier days, there was still a sense of unlimited optimism and trust, but since then both have dissipated and fear has taken their place.

The majority of Canadians and Americans do not look at tomorrow with the kind of confidence that once was theirs.

We fear that what happened yesterday might happen again, and might be even worse. All guarantees have gone, and certainties have melted away. Times are more demanding of all of us, whether we are Jews or Gentiles.

Does this mean that the future is dark? Not necessarily. But it does mean that we have a special obligation to contribute to the commonweal and, especially, to help fortify the future of Israel and our people in general.

The time has passed when we could afford to stand aside and take a vacation from life. But this can no longer happen. We are all together in a boat that is threatening to sink, and none of us can afford to disregard the challenges that lie before all of us.

Those who stand aside when they can help us are traitors to the common fate. That is a strong statement, but I know of no other way of conveying to my readers the urgency I feel about our standing together and pooling our forces to secure a better and more hopeful tomorrow.

We cannot leave this task to others without contributing something in effort, money, time and prayer. It is as complicated and, at the same time, as simple as that.

What are we thinking?

Will Rogers, a folksy American comedian and wry commentator on the foibles of humanity, began his routine with "All I know is just what I read in the papers" and went on to skewer what he had read. Well, I read in the Sept. 7 *Globe and Mail* that a majority of Canadians think the United States is at least partly to blame for Sept. 11 because of its own foreign policy.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

To be exact, 15 per cent felt the United States bears all of the responsibility and 69 per cent felt it bears some responsibility for the kamikaze terror. This fact – if it is a fact – is not just shocking, it's horrific. That 84 per cent of Canadians feel that something the U.S. government did justifies the murder of more than 3,000 people by lethally deluded nutbars is too ugly to bear.

But there's more. The first paragraph of the *Globe* article reads: "A vast majority of Canadians believe the United States bears at least some responsibility for the Sept. 11 attacks because of U.S. policies *in the Middle East and around the globe*, according to a *Globe and Mail*/CTV poll" (italics mine).

What is one to think? That Canadians came to this conclusion because they weren't thinking about support for dictators, but about the United States' defiant support for Israel? But wait. Turn the page and see the exact wording of the question asked of 1,003 Canadians:

"How much responsibility do you think the Unites States, with its policies and actions, bears for the terrorist attacks on them?"

Missing from this question: the words "in the Middle East and around the globe." Why not give people a choice? A question such as "Which countries were responsible for the terrorist attacks" may have elicited a totally different response.

So what did I read in the papers?

I read that Canadians still do not get it. Somehow a smugness has settled on us – the idea that "We are always even-handed, never favouring one side (Israel?) over another," or "We are not warmongers, only those guys down south, who got what they deserved."

I also read that the *Globe and Mail* may be shading its reporting so that what is said is not quite what is reported. The question does not include the Middle East, but the *Globe* report does. Was there another question asked later? Can the *Globe* see into the minds of the respondents?

It is a sad day for Canada if 84 per cent of its citizens believe that U.S. policies, however much we may disagree with them in their particulars, justified the joyous murder of innocents – and that no attention should be paid to the millions across the world who actually celebrated that holocaust in the sky.

What are we thinking? Are we angry at U.S. support for Saudi Arabia, the obvious backstage villain in this absurd theatre of slaughter? Or was it a bad day for softwood lumber? Are we so deluded by the Rick Salutins and Naomi Kleins of this country that we cannot recognize when an action is evil in and of itself? Are we again blaming the victim? Have we lost sight of the cruel nature of regimes that propagate hatred rather than light?

We can criticize the American government for its policies that coddle dictators of the most monstrous kind, or for not reacting to the spread of distorted Islamic doctrines. But Canada, no less than the United States, stands guilty of sitting on its hands when it comes to outspoken denunciation of such regimes.

Yet with all this, we strive to make our children merciful people. To make them literate. To show them the strengths and weaknesses of our system. To speak out when we fail, and to support the good in all of us.

The wicked are not so. And there is wickedness abroad. We must say so – and stoutly resist the seemingly eternal urge to blame the victim. After all, that was the technique of the Nazis. Are we to adopt their stance?

On Sept. 11, did a war kill thousands of soldiers, fighting on equal ground? No indeed, these were thousands of civilians murdered. If we are to assign blame, let it be where such blind hatred is nourished, in newspapers, classrooms, homes, secret cells and minds twisted by fanaticism. That is where the responsibility lies.

Averting the severe decree

On the High Holy Days, the Machzor tells us that we can "avert the severe decree" through tshuvah (repentance), tefillah (prayer) and tzedakah (charity).

Some would say that tzedekah really means charitable acts or righteous deeds. Technically, that's true. Functionally, though, it's come to mean giving money to registered charities. If it truly meant righteous deeds, next year on Yom Kippur, I'd like to fold over a tab on a pledge card that would commit me to a certain number of hours of community service instead of a certain dollar amount.

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

Don't get me wrong. I believe in giving money to worthy organizations. Every Friday night, my wife and I ask our three-year-old daughter to drop a coin in her tzedakah box. When it's full, we let her help decide where it will be donated. (Knowing how sophisticated children are these days, little Cari will probably have questions about how to maximize her tax advantage and how she might claim her one-year-old brother Noah as a dependant.)

As much as I believe in giving to charitable organizations, though, I despise the pressure I feel at this time of year about giving. And more than that, I dislike giving automatically to some organization because I gave last year.

I never liked the fact that my former shul pitched me on the High Holy Days. Sure, I folded over a tab on the card in time for the usher to pick it up in order to avoid the embarrassment of not folding over a tab while hundreds looked on. But I felt like a hostage. I didn't feel good about the giving. I felt that making the appeal for funds in shul on the holiest day of the year was opportunistic and that it cheapened the act of giving. I felt like I had no choice but to give.

(I have a childhood memory of my late father begging me not to play with the pledge card, lest I accidentally or mischievously commit him to an unaffordable gift to the JNF.)

I always thought that synagogues should do a better job attracting people throughout the year and then make the appeal for funds on Hoshanah Rabah or Rosh Chodesh Iyar. I suspect that idea wouldn't fly, though.

Next best from my perspective would be credible, meaningful appeals by mail. I changed my mind this afternoon, though, when a local synagogue (not ours) sent a beautiful, albeit unsolicited, calendar to our home. The envelope included a letter from the rabbi asking us to consider sponsoring the calendar for $12. The envelope also included an invoice indicating that we now had a balance of $12 owing to the synagogue.

That's a pretty full-service pitch. They asked us for money and then said yes on our behalf. Perhaps they've already paid it, too!

As for other Jewish giving, I am feeling my annual angst about the community's annual federation campaign. The campaign is underway; we haven't been called yet, but we likely will be by the time you read this. I should declare that I served as the local federation's marketing and communications director for a year and a half, ending two years ago, and was an active volunteer with the federation's predecessor organization. I do believe in a central, annual operational campaign. But I will confess that my wife and I have been giving less generously than we have in the past and likely won't be increasing our gift this year.

What we will do is take a much closer look at other charities, Jewish and otherwise, who may not have the resources to find us or pitch us. We've decided that we want to gain control of our giving and learn more about our giving options. We want to feel as if we're really making a difference. We want to give the modest amount we can afford to charities to accomplish as much as possible.

Giving money to charity should be an extremely conscious act, each time. It shouldn't be an annual, automatic, robotic gesture. If it's not sincere, if you're not truly present in the act of giving, have you really fulfilled the mitzvah? Are you "averting the severe decree" or just the canvasser's second phone call?

Contact Stuart Slayen at stu_column@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

No sign in sight that intifadah is ending

By the bloody standards of the second Palestinian uprising, which enters its third year on Sept. 28, the past few weeks until last week had been relatively quiet. But on Sept. 18 and 19, the brittle lull was abruptly broken with back-to-back suicide bombings near Afula – the first such attacks since Aug. 5, when nine Israelis were killed in a bus near Safed – and in Tel Aviv. The latest bombings claimed the lives of seven more civilians.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Prior to these jarring events, Israelis had been subjected to a daily barrage of violent incidents, but the fatalities were minimal and, of course, there were no suicide bombings. From Aug. 5 to Aug. 18, Palestinians launched 17 mortar attacks, 19 grenade attacks, six missile attacks and 47 shootings, all directed at the Israeli military outposts in the territories.

During a two-week period up to mid-September, the mayhem continued, this in the face of a limited ceasefire in Bethlehem and Gaza in which Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had no faith. In the gravest incidents, two Israeli soldiers were killed in Gaza, a hotbed of Palestinian militancy; a Merkava tank, the pride of Israel's armoured corps, was ripped apart by a blast, the third such tank to be destroyed since the spring, and police foiled a plot to detonate a car bomb laden with 1,300 pounds of explosives. Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters strafed a bomb-making factory in Gaza and Israeli troops arrested and killed still more Palestinian terrorists in the West Bank.

As the Jewish High Holy Days approached, a Kassam rocket hit a home in the western Negev, mortar shells fell on Israeli settlements in Gaza, Palestinian gunmen fired at soldiers in Nablus and at civilians in Hebron and an Israeli force rumbled into Gaza yet again to conduct a search for suspected terrorists.

It is abundantly clear that the intifadah, which broke out after Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat rejected Israel's sweeping peace proposals at the Camp David summit, has not run its course. During the first six months of this year, 238 Israelis were killed and 1,935 were wounded in 1,071 attacks, a 90 per cent increase compared to 2001. As of last week, 619 Israelis and about 1,500 Palestinians had been killed in the fighting, which was ignited by Sharon's controversial visit to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, but which was actually inspired by Israel's unilateral withdrawal from southern Lebanon. A survey shows that 38 per cent of Israel's dead have been slain inside Israel (excluding all parts of Jerusalem), 35 per cent in the West Bank, 18 per cent in Jerusalem and nine per cent in Gaza.

By sharp contrast, the first intifadah, which lasted from 1987 to 1993, claimed the lives of 1,162 Palestinians and 174 Israelis.

The much higher casualties in the current intifadah stems from the fact that it often resembles a war rather than an insurrection. To crush the uprising, Israel has jettisoned its previous policy of restraint, and now deploys heavy military equipment, such as tanks and jets, to contain the Palestinians. In two major thrusts into the West Bank, Operation Defensive Shield and Operation Determined Path, Israel has reoccupied Palestinian towns, which had been ceded to the PA under the Oslo accords.

The Palestinians have also escalated the conflict, having transformed it into something of a people's war. But in the most significant change, they have rolled out a powerful weapon to which Israel does not have an effective answer – the suicide bomber. "Never in the history of the Arab-Israeli dispute has Israel faced such a complex and difficult problem as the suicide bombings," wrote Ze'ev Schiff in a recent piece in the newspaper *Ha'aretz*.

Suicide bombings, which began in 1994, a year after the Oslo process was unveiled and just months after U.S.-born Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein murdered 29 Palestinians in a Hebron rampage, have exacted a terrible physical and psychological price. Since January, 204 people have been killed in suicide attacks, more than twice the number in 2001. Although suicide bombings account for less than one per cent of all attacks, they have caused approximately half the casualties, from the Park Hotel Passover massacre in Netanya in March, which killed 29 people, to the bus bombing in northern Israel in June that left 17 Israelis dead.

Suicide attacks were initially the preserve of two Islamic fundamentalist groups, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which reject Israel's very existence and seek to create an Islamic state in historic Palestine. But of late, the secular Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, an offshoot of Arafat's Fatah faction, also has turned to suicide bombings, which have struck deep into the heart of Israel.

As one observer succinctly observed, the suicide bombing has become the Palestinian version of a "smart" weapon, a strategic equalizer some Palestinians are simply unwilling to relinquish. "We don't have F-16s or Apache helicopters," Abdelaziz Rantisi, a Hamas spokesperson, said. "We believe this weapon creates a kind of balance…"

Polls suggest that suicide bombings have the support of most Palestinians and the majority of non-Palestinian Arabs. Such is the sentiment in the Arab world that even Naguid Mahfouz, the Egyptian Nobel laureate in literature who supports Egypt's 1979 peace treaty with Israel, defends suicide bombers. As he put it in an interview with the *New York Times* on Sept. 14: "They are people defending a cause by sacrificing with their souls, and this is the highest level of noble resistance."

Suicide bombings have set back the prospects for peace, having hardened Jewish public opinion in Israel. Nearly two-thirds of Israeli Jews are in favour of a two-state solution within the context of a lasting peace agreement. But Israeli Jews have become increasingly suspicious of Palestinian intentions, which is hardly in the interests of the Palestinians, besieged by blockades and curfews.

Tapping into this sombre mood, Gen. Moshe Yaalon, the new chief of staff, declared that the current Palestinian leadership "does not recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state and is trying to destroy Israel in stages." Yaalon, who is skeptical of the land-for-peace formula and thinks that the conflict with the Palestinians is far more serious than the possibility of an Iraqi strike on Israel in the event of a U.S. attack against Iraq, believes that the Israeli army can subdue the Palestinians militarily. It will be recalled that Dan Shomron, the chief of staff during the first uprising, ruled out the possibility of a military solution.

In addition, the suicide bombings have tarnished the image of the Palestinians – who have gained very little from the intifadah – and prompted the United States to call for a new Palestinian leadership. Concomitantly, the bombings have led to a more tolerant American attitude toward Israel's armed incursions into Palestinian towns. As a result, Washington has given Israel a virtually free hand to combat Palestinian terrorism, which the Bush administration appears to equate with global terrorism.

Cognizant of these developments, some Palestinian leaders have denounced suicide attacks as counterproductive. Sari Nusseibeh, the president of Al Quds University and the PA official in charge of Jerusalem affairs, circulated a petition last spring demanding a halt to the cult of suicide bombers. And in an amazing commentary, Abdel Razak Yehiyeh, the senior Palestinian security official who negotiated the Aug. 18 Gaza/ Bethlehem truce, has described the bombings as "murders for no reason" and as "a mistake from both a moral and a tactical point of view."

Last month, the PA tried to forge a united position on suicide attacks, but radical elements, from Hamas on down, rejected the proposal. Earlier this month, Arafat, who has lately come under unprecedented criticism from Palestinian parliamentarians, condemned "every act of terror against civilians" in Israel, but not in the territories.

Given the absence of an official Palestinian decision to formally outlaw suicide bombings, Israel's insistence that the Palestinians must lay down their arms before bilateral political talks can be renewed and Sharon's hard line on a permanent settlement, the chances of achieving a comprehensive and durable ceasefire are exceedingly slim.

Seeing no light at the end of the tunnel, Israel has begun to take extraordinary measures to combat the Palestinians – from building a fortified fence along the West Bank and razing the homes of bombers to exiling their families and stripping Israeli Arabs with direct ties to terrorists of their citizenship. And in another new twist, Israel is using the current show trial of Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti, accused of fomenting and organizing terrorism and defended by a Jewish lawyer, to discredit the present Palestinian leadership as led by Arafat.

Sharon, who absolutely refuses to deal with Arafat and compares him to Osama bin Laden, has excoriated the PA as "a gang of corrupt terrorists and assassins." The Palestinians have branded Sharon's government as "a coalition of terror and a gang of killers."

The bitter rhetoric suggests that the intifadah, despite war weariness on both sides, is still going strong, and that a semblance of peace is still a long way off.

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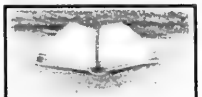
Jewish Life

Honouring HaShem a little longer

By RABBI REUVEN TRADBURKS



Rabbinic Reflections

The story is told of Rav Chaim of Brisk (as told by his grandson, Rav Soloveitchik, recorded in *Pninei Harav*) that the shul would honour Rav Chaim on Simchat Torah by giving him the Torah for the first hakafah, for the first dance around the bimah with the sefer Torah.

Now the Talmud says that one who is given the Torah to read and does not make the brachah is cursed. Rav Chaim understood this to mean that one who is given the Torah and gives it back is expressing lack of love and honour for the Torah – as if to say, "Thanks for the Torah but I don't want it" – and hence is cursed.

Well, Rav Chaim felt that this applied also to giving the Torah back after holding it for the hakafot. It would be a lack of respect to hand the Torah off to someone else – like saying, "I've had enough of the Torah, you take it." So he would never give the Torah away after his hakafah; he would wait for someone to take it from him.

Meanwhile, the people were reluctant to take the Torah from Rav Chaim, believing that he wanted to keep holding it. He would wait for them to take it, while they would wait for him to give it up when he was ready. On occasion, he would hold the Torah for the entire seven hakafot.

Simchat Torah is the holiday of love of the Torah. We dance with the Torah, we sing, we give honour to the Torah.

There are other customs that express this love of the Torah and reluctance to run away from it.

The halachah states that one is not permitted to run on Shabbat, except to run to shul or to learn. When you leave shul at the end of the services, you are not to take a giant step out of shul, as if to say I can't wait to get out of here, but rather should leave at a normal pace.

After an aliyah to the Torah, the person stands by the Torah while the next person has his aliyah and only after that aliyah does he step down from the bimah – as if to say, "I don't want to run away from the Torah, let me stay near it a bit longer."

Adon Olam at the end of the services on Shabbat expresses a similar feeling – "I will sit down for a moment at the end of the service, as if to say I am sorry it is over, I could stay here a bit longer."

Havdallah at the end of Shabbat is stretched a bit to express the reluctance to leave Shabbat, the desire to hold on a bit longer.

Shemini Atzeret and Simchat Torah are not only us singing our love of the Torah – the midrash says this is HaShem asking us to hang around just one more day, after all the holidays, to allow us to express to him that we part only with reluctance and for Him to tell us that it is also only with reluctance that he leaves us.

Chag Samayach.

Rabbi Tradburks is the spiritual leader of Kehillat Shaarei Torah Congregation in Toronto.

The enigmatic figure who helped win WWII

***Tuxedo Park*, by Jennet Conant**
Simon & Schuster, 2002, $39.50

Books
Bernard Baskin

He helped win World War II and saved thousands of lives. He was honoured by U.S. president Harry Truman and British prime minister Winston Churchill. But I had never heard of him, and doubt if you have.

Alfred Lee Loomis was a many-sided and astonishing personality. Born into a prominent New York family, he rose quickly in the 1920s to become one of the most powerful figures in finance. Handsome, charismatic, and brilliant, he was one of the few major investors to pull his money out of the stock market before the crash of 1929. During the first few years of the Depression, Loomis became one of the richest men in America.

Yet, his true passion was science. In 1926, Loomis bought an abandoned stone mansion in Tuxedo Park about forty miles north of New York City. There he created a private scientific playground where he could pursue research in fields ranging from physics and chemistry to psychology, physiology, and biology. Tuxedo Park had been developed in the late 19th century as a private resort for New York's financial and social elite.

Regarded at first as an "eccentric dabbler," in time, through his passion for scientific investigation and his generosity, Loomis was able to cajole famous personalities to his well-stocked laboratory. These included Niels Bohr, Enrico Fermi and Albert Einstein.

In the 1930s, British scientists were at the cutting edge of radar technology. They fashioned the megnetron, a small copper disk that emitted short-wavelength pulses of extremely high power that could probe much farther and resolve details far finer than any previous system. With financial assistance from Loomis and the help of scientists at his radiation laboratory, more than 100 different radar systems were devised.

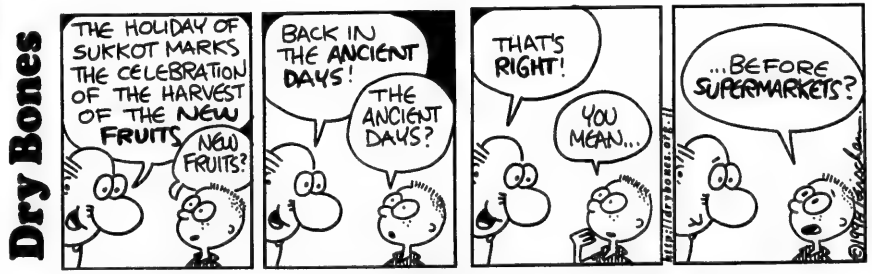
Loomis, who had more then his share of cars and yachts, purchased Hilton Head Island in South Carolina as his private game reserve.

By the spring of 1941, Loomis found himself pressed into service on another scientific front. A series of revolutionary discoveries in nuclear fission had American and British scientists whispering about the possibility of constructing a bomb of enormous power. Fearing that the Germans might already be ahead of them, they appealed to Loomis to spur the U. S. government into action. Working closely with influential fellow scientists, Loomis successfully prodded the government to proceed quickly with the development of the atomic bomb.

Unfortunately, Loomis's domestic life was not as harmonious as his scientific enterprises. His beautiful, high-strung wife was depressive and often ill. Loomis increasingly distanced himself from her and their three young sons.

His eventual divorce, in a more puritanical era than our own, led to social ostracism. He lived out his life in relative obscurity, hastened into oblivion by the intense desire for privacy that had always kept him out of the limelight.

The author, known for her magazine journalism, is the granddaughter of James Conant, the longtime president of Harvard University who was close to Loomis as a friend and colleague. Her account is continually engrossing. Long after the story is over, the elusive and enigmatic persona of Loomis lingers in memory.


Dry Bones
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NEW FRUITS?
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THE ANCIENT DAYS?
THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU MEAN...
...BEFORE SUPERMARKETS?

Jewish Life

Simchat Torah foods on the Web

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It doesn't have famous foods like latkes or blintzes or hamatashen. But on the final days of Sukkot and the holiday of Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah, we have some lovely things to eat. And the lack of Jewish superstar foods means inspired cooks have lots of room to create new and tasty traditions for these holidays. Today, we'll sample some old and new holiday foods.

This Friday, the seventh and final day of Sukkot, is called Hoshana Rabah. Hoshanah Rabah comes 10 days after Yom Kippur and shares some traditions with the Day of Atonement **[http://www.ohr.org.il/ask/ask208.htm#Q2].** The chazzan wears white and chants Yom Kippur prayer tunes. And in honour of both holidays, we eat kreplach, triangular pockets of dough with meat or other stuffing.

Actually we eat kreplach in honour of three holidays, Yom Kippur, Hoshanah Rabah and Purim. All three holidays share a common theme: atonement. Because of divine atonement, we were saved during the days of Mordechai and Esther. On Yom Kippur eve, we recite the *Viddui* – confession in expectation of our atonement. And "on Hoshanah Rabah we have high hopes that such atonement has been granted" **[http://www.spiral.org.za/spipvt/sukkot.htm].** The Nishmas site says we eat kreplach because the meat symbolizes judgment, which is clothed in kindness (symbolized by the dough) **[http://www.nishmas.org.il/minhagim/hoshraba.htm].**

Now that you know the reason, you can take your pick of 13 kreplach recipes in the Jewish Food Archives, including beef, kasha, chicken liver and cheese **[http://www.jewish-food.org/recipes/favindex.htm].**

When Hoshanah Rabah ends, the holiday of Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah begins. During Simchat Torah, we complete – and restart – reading the Torah aloud in the synagogue.

The UAHC's Jewish Parent Page says you can learn a lovely lesson while baking a Simchat Torah Challah – with dough shaped like the Hebrew letters *lamed* and *bet*. The Web site explains that "the last word in Deuteronomy is Yisrael and the first word in Genesis is *Breishit*. If you take the final letter of Yisrael – the *lamed* – and the first letter of *Breishit*, the *bet*, and put them together, they spell *leib* in Yiddish and *lev* in Hebrew, which means heart. The midrash tells us that the Torah is the *lev* – the heart of the Jewish people" **[http://www.uahcweb.org/educate/parent/0203.shtml].**

The Jewish New Year Web site provides a suggested menu and recipes for an entire Simchat Torah meal. Start with Caribbean Fish followed by Spinach Salad, Roast in Apricot Sauce and Jerusalem Kugel, and top it off with Strawberry Rhubarb Pie **[http://jewishnewyear.com/jewishnewyear.com/holidays/tishrei/4811].**

Penny Eisenberg has these three suggestions for your Simchat Torah table: *biscotchos* (Sephardi Crunchy Orange Almond Cookies), Grilled Spiced Citrus Chicken Kebabs with Fruit and Orange Crèpe "Scrolls." To make a scroll, you "place two crèpes right next to each other on each plate, so that they look like Torah scrolls. Stick the slivers of orange rind into the top and bottom of each roll to look like the Torah poles" **[http://www.pennyeisenberg.com/recipes/rec_index.html].**

Joni Schockett says that Simchat Torah is a joyous holiday, particularly for kids – a time for them to sing, dance and even be called up to the Torah. She feels it is the perfect time to prepare some delicious treats that parents and kids can work on together. On the Schockett menu: Best-Ever Chicken Fingers, Carrot Raisin Pineapple & Almond Salad and Jumbo Apple Raisin Spice Cookies **[http://shik.com/167].**

All too soon, the holidays are over and you are faced what to do with your lulav and etrog **[http://www.ohr.org.il/ask/ask169.htm].** Many people don't simply throw a lulav in the garbage but place them on top of the synagogue's Torah ark. Others save them until Passover and place them in the fire while burning the chametz.

As for the etrog, don't throw it away. Eat it! Try recipes for Citron Cake, Etrog and even Candied Etrog Peel **[http://www.cyber-kitchen.com/rfcj/category.cgi?category=SUKKOT].** Or if you'd prefer to drink it, try the recipe for "Etrog Vodka" **[http://www.motleystew.com/recipe.asp?RID=191].**

L'chaim! And have a happy (and tasty) holiday.

Mark Mietkiewicz writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

The creation of Israel did not change borders

MYTH:

The creation of the State of Israel in 1948 changed political and border arrangements between independent states that had existed for centuries.

FACT:

The boundaries of Middle East countries were arbitrarily fixed by the western powers after Turkey was defeated in World War I and the French and British mandates were set up. The areas allotted to Israel under the UN partition plan had all been under the control of the Ottomans, who had ruled Palestine from 1517 until 1917.

When Turkey was defeated in World War I, the French took over the area now known as Lebanon and Syria. The British assumed control of Palestine and Iraq. In 1926, the borders were redrawn and Lebanon was separated from Syria.

Britain installed the emir Faisal, who had been deposed by the French in Syria, as ruler of the new kingdom of Iraq. In 1922, the British created the emirate of Transjordan, which incorporated all of Palestine east of the Jordan River. This was done so that the emir Abdullah, whose family had been defeated in tribal warfare in the Arabian peninsula, would have a kingdom to rule. None of the countries that border Israel became independent until this century. Many other Arab nations became independent after Israel.

Source: Myths and Facts – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict *by Mitchell G. Bard, http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org*

Statement on intermarriage

The following statement is presented by the Va'ad HaRabbanim of Toronto (the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of Toronto) in response to the article, "Intermarriage may preclude membership at shul," by Frances Kraft, CJN, *Sept. 12.*

Intermarriage poses the single greatest threat to the continuity of the Jewish people. Forty years ago, intermarriage was relatively unheard of. Today, to our pain and anguish, it has become commonplace.

We grieve for every Jew we lose to intermarriage. However, legitimating mixed marriages by granting synagogue membership has not, does not and will not stem the tide of assimilation.

It is a contradiction in terms to be a member of a Jewish congregation while at the same time choosing to marry out of the Jewish faith. Membership in a Jewish congregation requires that all members of the family are Jewish, according to the tenets of Torah and Halachah.

May this holy season in the Jewish calendar provide for a renewal of commitment on the part of all of the Jewish people. We pray that HaShem heal the breaches within our community, and that "the [wandering] children return to their borders."

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Greater Toronto Area

Brampton shul hires permanent rabbi

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Nancy Morris, recently installed spiritual leader of Temple Har Tikvah in Brampton, is not a newcomer to the congregation.

As part of her placement at Leo Baeck Rabbinical College in London, England, she was a student rabbi at the temple for the past year.

Rabbi Morris, 40, grew up in the Reform movement in Montreal, where she had her bat mitzvah and confirmation at Temple Emanu-El.

She received a master's degree in Jewish studies at McGill University and then went on to law school.

"While at university, I looked at Judaism on an intellectual level, but while working briefly as a lawyer, I became more and more involved in the religion.

"I began to regret not attending rabbinical school. Now I feel I've done the right thing with my life," says Rabbi Morris, who was ordained in July.

She says that as one of the temple's first permanent rabbis, she is happy to give the congregants a sense of continuity.

For most of Har Tikvah's 25-year history, she says, the 50-family congregation has had a different student rabbi every year.

"As a student, for example, I performed a baby naming, and now I'll be here to watch that child grow.

"It will give the congregants a sense of confidence that they have a community with a long-term rabbi. They'll also have a profile in Brampton, which has a hugely ethnic and diverse community," she says.

She plans on running a number of multi-faith events in order to make other communities aware that there is a Jewish community in Brampton.

The congregation, which started as a group of close-knit families who wanted their own community in Brampton, "is incredibly devoted to the temple. Because there are so few people, there is a real family feeling."

Rabbi Nancy Morris

Many teachers at the Hebrew school are parents of students in the school, she says, "so they have a real investment in the school. They want the kids to get a positive feeling about Judaism."

During Rosh Hashanah services, for which they drew a "good crowd," she said, she talked about the idea of a family-oriented congregation.

"Har Tikvah already has a great basis for inclusiveness, but I would like us to become a beacon for other congregations. I want to see all types of families included in our congregation, so people will say 'Brampton is very inclusive.'

"I would like us to look outward and have other families join us. In Brampton alone, there are about 1,000 Jewish families. We need to reach out to those unaffiliated Jews who live here."

In addition to the two monthly Shabbat morning services, she plans to start a monthly Friday night family service, as well as adult discussions and adult Hebrew classes.

Har Tivkvah's youth group is an untapped resource, she says. "It's made up of a bunch of kids who are excited about doing things Jewish. I would like to see them putting together programs and leading services. They need to be kept involved so they'll stay with the temple.

"I don't want to unilaterally decide what is good for the congregation, however. I'm going to distribute a survey so members can tell me what they are looking for in a temple."

Drug abuse in the community

Continued from page 7

Eventually Joanne and her siblings were taken in by a relative until their mom went into recovery.

Today Joanne thinks she is a better person because of what she went through. But when she was little, she remembers going into the closet and just crying.

Anita is an addict who initially joined an Alcoholics Anonymous group that met in a church for support.

"But I felt so uncomfortable in a church. I couldn't go back," she says.

Leah, the wife of an addict, agrees. She says she could barely bring herself to JACS because she was afraid she might know someone.

On the other hand, Leah says she would never have gone into a non-Jewish place.

The hard part was coming in. Now, she relies on her weekly meetings.

"Counsellors have taught me that addiction, like cancer, is a disease; that there are steps that can be applied to help me deal with the sickness; and that overcoming denial is part of the solution," Leah says.

"This may not be the life I would have chosen for myself," she adds. "But no one ever said life would be easy."

The JACS helpline is 416-410-5227.

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Yad Vashem memorial service

About 500 people attended The Canadian Society for Yad Vashem's memorial service held recently at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial at Earl Bales Park. As part of the ceremony, 11 societies and synagogues laid wreaths at the monument, Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich of Beth Sholom Synagogue gave a dvar Torah, and Cantor Louis Danto sang *K'El Maleh Rachamim*.

Stephen Spitzer/Big Dipper Communications photos

legacy of life

Phil Granovsky 1921 – 1995

Behind every successful campaign is a tireless and determined leader. When it came to the welfare of world Jewry, few were quite as committed as **Phil Granovsky**.

"Phil was truly an exemplary leader," recalls **Julie Koschitzky**, who couldn't say no to her friend and mentor when he asked her to take over his post as World Chair of the Keren Hayesod Board of Trustees in 1992. "He was a great Jew who saw Israel and the rest of the Jewish world as an extension of his family. And he led not just with words, but he put his actions behind every campaign launch, whether in Toronto, in international leadership reunions, or even in the presence of prime ministers of Israel."

It was Phil who led the charge to bring planeloads of Jews to Israel from Ethiopia and the former Soviet Union. It was Phil who negotiated land for Toronto's first community cemetery. It was Phil who actively promoted the concept of community ownership of the Canadian Jewish News. And it was always Phil who was one of the first to declare his gift to a UJA campaign or his commitment to a worthy cause.

"If Phil thought something was right, he did it and acted upon it and then everybody followed his example," says Koschitzky. "We all relied on him. He had a sharp mind, a very warm and generous heart, a good sense of humour, and tremendous vision."

If someone needed his help, Phil was there. Over the years, he headed up UJA campaigns, United Israel Appeal, Keren Hayesod, B'nai Brith's Wilson Heights Lodge and Adath Israel Synagogue, in addition to being a Board member of the Jewish Agency and United Way. He made more than 100 trips to Israel, where he met with everyone from mayors, presidents and prime ministers to sabras and new immigrants.

"Phil was his own guy," says his brother **Irving**, who runs Atlantic Packaging Products Ltd. "If he believed in something thoroughly, nothing stopped him."

True, it wasn't easy being a family man and running a successful business when the Jewish world kept calling on him for his wisdom and guidance. Phil's youngest daughter **Maxine** recalls their Toronto home being constantly abuzz with phone calls and parlour meetings, and she loved getting caught up in the excitement. Although her father was in poor health for most of his life, community work gave him tremendous energy, she says.

Phil Granovsky and sister Sia as children.

"The big motivating factor for my father was to help others," says Maxine. "He liked to question things – nothing was ever black and white. He liked to be in the thick of things and loved meeting people who made a difference. And he was a very bright man, so it was wonderful for him to have a part in shaping Israel. My love of Israel and my Jewish pride come from my parents."

Phil's wife **Shirley** admits she didn't know what she was getting herself into when she met a dashing young man at a summer resort for singles in Port Carling, Ont., in 1945. They were married a few months later, just as production began on a paper bag business called Atlantic Paper Products Ltd. started by Phil and his father. In 1960, Phil was enticed with the possibility of a business deal with a supermarket chain if he became chairman of UJA's Paper Division. He wanted the business so badly that he signed on – and the rest, as they say, is history.

Despite his long absences from home, Shirley supported Phil completely. Some of her fondest memories include flying with a planeload of Soviet Jews from Budapest to Israel – "I spoke Yiddish so I was the only one who could converse with them," she laughs – as well as the 1989 dedication of the Phil Granovsky Family Auditorium in the northern Israel community of Kiryat Shemona.

"Whatever Phil did it was for self-fulfillment, not for honour," she says. "The results gave him satisfaction." This is no better reflected than in the endowment Phil left to **UJA Federation**, the Philip and Shirley Granovsky Family Fund. This unrestricted fund shows Phil's incredible trust in the community, leaving decisions to UJA as to where the money is most needed at any given time. Phil's selfless legacy continues to help countless people in the community every single year.

If you have a suggestion for future Legacy of Life profiles, please call Perri at 416.631.5728.

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto
UJA Federation

Jewish Toronto

29 missions...and counting

TORONTO - **UJA Federation** is sending three more solidarity missions to Israel next month, bringing the organization's total number of missions to 29 in the past 2 years.

Since October 2000, UJA Federation has sent more people to Israel to show their support and solidarity than any other North American community.

"We made the missions to Israel a central and integral part of UJA Federation's strategy in assisting Israel through its current crisis," says **Ronnie Appleby**, chair, along with **Howard Sokolowski**, of Israel Emergency Campaign 2003. "UJA Federation is not just about fundraising, but doing whatever we can to help Israel, and being there now is the best statement we can make," adds Appleby.

The way in which missions support Israel's citizens was clearly evident to mission participants.

"It's amazing how much I was thanked for being there by every Israeli I met. You don't realize how much your presence means to Israelis, until you go there," observes **Ellen Richmond-Isakow**, a recent participant on her first – but not last – UJA Mission.

As for **Sharon Goelman** and her husband, **Louis**, visiting Israel, as a show of support, recently took precedence over their original vacation plans.

"For my birthday, and our 40th wedding anniversary, my husband and I were going to go on a big trip somewhere, maybe even a cruise," says Goelman. "But I suddenly realized, 'how can we go any place but Israel where they need us right now?' That was it. We went on a UJA Mission before Pesach and it was an exhilarating, invigorating, incredible experience," adds Goelman.

(L-R) Jordan Zagdanski and his father Ian, lay a wreath for the victims of the Moment Cafe bombing during the recent UJA Federation Prime Minister's Mission

From **October 5 to 10, UJA's Special Gifts Solidarity Mission** – chaired by **Harvey** and **Barbara Naglie** - will be exploring Israel's dedication to the security of its citizens and visiting the Israel Crisis Management Centre, which helps victims of terror.

From **October 13 to 20**, Canadian health-care providers will see how their Israeli colleagues deal with crisis on **UJA's Medical-Dental Mission**, chaired by **Drs. Irv Gottesman**, **Howard Price**, **Brad Strauss**, and **Zion Sasson**.

And the **UJA Federation-Israel Bonds Solidarity Mission** on **October 20-24**, chaired by **Barry Zagdanski**, **Colin Lewis**, **Dodi Weill**, and **Paul Silvertown**, will meet with Jerusalem mayor, **Ehud Olmert**, and help to comfort Israel's victims of terror.

visit www.jewishtoronto.net

The sky's the limit for Toronto YAD

TORONTO - UJA Federation's Young Leadership Network (ages 25 to 45) may have a new name, but it continues to lead the way in Toronto, and across Canada.

Chaired by **Leanne Spier** and **Alison Himel**, the Young Leadership Network is now known as the **Young Adult Division**, or "YAD," and the name change makes perfect sense.

YAD, in Hebrew, means "hand" and that's what the division is all about - a "hands-on" approach to making a difference.

Young people are becoming increasingly involved in the Jewish community locally and nationally, especially when they can assist Israel.

In fact, a new YAD project for a group of young adults from across Canada will provide them with more information and understanding of Israel's situation.

Hands On Toronto volunteers recently cooked breakfast for members of Toronto's homeless community.

The initiative will feature a monthly conference call, a three-day visit to Ottawa in November for a special seminar, Israel education, and meetings with government officials.

"YAD is a wonderful way for people who want to be proactive to get involved," says Himel. "There are so many things one can do to contribute, and it's a tremendous way to connect with others."

"Toronto YAD is definitely the leader"

"Toronto is clearly the largest growing Jewish community in Canada," says **Brian Tanner**, Chair, along with **Jessica Cooperman**, of YAD's Telethon Division.

"There are so many young, intelligent, successful professionals whose specific skills and talents we are benefiting from in terms of philanthropic activity. Whether they're lawyers, marketing professionals, doctors, or social workers, they all bring their unique skills to their area of interest," adds Tanner.

Leadership opportunities are plentiful through YAD, whether helping out with a one-time event, serving on a social planning or fundraising committee, or participating in an ongoing project with a community agency or charity.

Richard Diamond, immediate past chair of the National Young Leadership executive, feels that Toronto's potential is unlimited.

"Based on my travels around the world, it's clear that Toronto has the potential to be tops in Canada for young leadership development," says Diamond.

One of YAD's most successful programs is **Hands on Toronto (HOT)**, through which young men and women take a proactive, "roll-up-the-sleeves" approach by, for example, painting the apartments of financially disadvantaged community members, and helping to feed the city's homeless.

Dr. Betty Gerstein, Chair, along with **Michael Long**, of YAD's Hands On Toronto initiative, has seen quite an evolution in Toronto's young leadership over the past few years.

"Toronto YAD is definitely the leader," says Gerstein. "We have the support of UJA Federation and its annual campaigns, we have gung-ho, highly motivated volunteers, and, of course, we have the incredible Toronto Jewish community behind us."

To get involved or for more information, contact Naomi Cohen at 416-631-5698 or ncohen@ujafed.org

Wonder where The Lions are?

It's been a record-setting year for the **Lion of Judah** program.

The Lion of Judah has symbolized courage, strength and majesty in Jewish tradition. Today, the Lion of Judah pin symbolizes philanthropic leadership on behalf of Jews around the world.

Seventy new Lions – contributing a minimum of $5,000 to the annual **UJA Federation Campaign** - have come aboard since April when **Serena Koschitzky** and **Ray Rubin** assumed leadership of **Toronto's Lion of Judah** initiative.

Serena Koschitzky

Ray Rubin

"I came aboard because my husband and I have long supported UJA and the work it does. This year, I wanted to give my own gift like many other women who give on their own," says **Karen Meyer**, one of the new Lions.

Rubin attributes the Lion of Judah's tremendous success to the need for women to know they're improving the lives of Israelis in crisis.

"These women are responding to the crisis in Israel in a beautiful way," she says. "They're just digging in hard, and doing whatever they can. They want this opportunity to make a difference, and they've really stepped up to the plate."

Koschitzky agrees.

"These volunteers, and UJA in general, are what drive this initiative forward," says Koschitzky.

"We are very encouraged by the number of new Lions, and we're so happy that there will be a new generation of Lions down the road who will set a strong example for their children," adds Koschitzky.

The **Lion of Judah Luncheon** will be taking place on **Tuesday, October 22**, at the **Four Seasons Hotel** with guest speaker **Captain Sharon Feingold**, an IDF spokesperson.

Jewish Toronto

Final campaign push begins with telethons

TORONTO - UJA Federation's latest round of **Israel Emergency Campaign** telethons between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur has added $500,000 to the campaign total.

The campaign now stands at nearly **$56 million**, with almost **$19 million** in new gifts designated for Israel's emergency needs: assistance to victims of terror, expanded security for pre-school children, and support for Israel's vulnerable.

With less than two months to go, the final campaign push is underway with volunteers calling thousands of donors whose gifts are still outstanding.

For **Charles Ticker**, the situation in Israel is serious enough that he decided to take part in his first **UJA Federation** telethon with daughters **Joanna**, 16, and **Sari**, 14, both students at CHAT.

The Tickers happened to volunteer at the September 11 telethon; a coincidence not lost on Charles.

Charles Ticker, along with daughters Sari, 14 (left), and Joanna, 16, (right) worked the September 11 UJA Federation Israel Emergency telethon.

"It was an amazing coincidence," says Ticker. "But when I thought about it, I figured what better way to honour the victims of September 11, than by helping Israel, which itself has been an ongoing victim of terror for two years," he says.

For three other CHAT students, participating in UJA telethons is a source of pride.

Melissa Levine, **Emily Berkowitz**, and **Robyn Kirshenblatt**, all 17 years old and in grade 12, have been attending telethons since they started high school.

For Kirshenblatt, the telethons take on a special significance.

"I have cousins in Israel, and they're just not happy," she says. "Because of the current situation, they have no freedom. They never go out at night. They know I work these telethons to help them, and all the people of Israel, and they're so honoured and happy to know that I care."

For Levine, what started out as a chore, is now a pleasure.

"In grade nine, I did this because I had to," she says. "Now, the older I get, and the more I understand what's really going on in Israel, the more I feel that I must do this – that we all should – because Israel really needs us."

Berkowitz feels that the people she calls all want to help, but some of them need "a bit of encouragement."

"It feels great to help everyone understand exactly what's going on in Israel," she says.

*The **next set of telethons** is taking place **October 15-17** and **October 27**. To register, please call Donna at 416-635-2883 ext. 320.*

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I am going to be called 'Mommy' again

A memorial marks where the Dolphinarium disco once stood.

By Natasha Mozgovia, Yedihot Ha'Haronot, 28.07.02 -

In the summer of 2001, pain over the loss of her 14-year-old daughter **Masha**, who was killed in the **Dolphinarium** disco suicide bomb attack, caused **Olga Tagiltsav** to lose the fetus she was carrying. After repeated tries, she managed to become pregnant again. Now, she's cradling a baby boy; her sadness is tinged with joy.

"I'm so happy," says Olga, her voice trembling. "It's amazing, this gift from heaven coming after such a difficult 14 months, when no-one called me 'mommy'. The graveyard silence that had pervaded my home since the day of the attack was unbearable. It pains me that Masha is not here with us, but I am inundated with joy. My heart is torn between pain and happiness. I wanted a girl, but I was afraid that every time I looked at her, I would see Masha. I'm glad it's a boy, and that, at long last, there will be someone to call me 'mommy'."

Today, despite her joy, Olga's heart is still uneasy. "I am afraid to look ahead," she admits sadly. "No-one in Israel has insurance, and it is impossible to make any plans. When we immigrated to Israel, I dreamed of becoming a grandmother, and here I am suddenly starting all over again. I'm afraid to think how this child of mine will grow up."

Every two weeks, she goes to visit her daughter's grave in the Netanya cemetery. "Up to now, I haven't been able to make peace with the fact that she's no longer with us. I speak to her every night, before I go to sleep. When my son is a little older, I'll tell him that he had a sister and how much she would have loved him.. I want to have another child – a girl. I'll call her something similar to Masha – Michelle."

UJA Federation kicks off new community initiative

Lt.Col. Erez Weiner, commander of an elite IDF unit, recently spoke at the home of Sandy and Lionel Waldman, at the invitation of Mark Waldman, vice chair of UJA Major Gifts Division. Weiner's appearance is the first in an ongoing initiative by UJA Federation to promote greater understanding of Israel's situation among Jews and non-Jews alike. Joining Weiner are (back row, L-R) Mark Waldman, Lt. Col. Erez Weiner, and Lionel Waldman, (front row, L-R) Elana Waldman, Tali Weiner, and Sandy Waldman.

JEWISH TORONTO IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Slain rabbi's mother feels no sense of closure

Continued from page 3

thrill killing, but never discounted the possibility that it was a hate crime.

Tielsch was finally arrested in February, 2000 and charged with Rosenblum's slaying. His first trial ended with the jury deadlocked 11-1 for conviction. Another hearing also ended in a mistrial, this time, 10-2 for conviction. Last May, a third trial ended with the jury stalemated, 8-4 for acquittal.

Officials conceded that the time lapse, the credibility of the star witness and a parade of unsavory characters as witnesses made it difficult to convict Tielsch.

But in an unprecedented move, District Attorney Stephen Zappala, facing criticism for continuing his pursuit of Tielsch despite three mistrials, ordered a fourth trial. Eyebrows were raised, but legal scholars said there was nothing in the law to prevent another trial.

The prosecution streamlined its tactics, used fewer witnesses and ended the trial in six days, less than half the time of any of the three previous trials. Its main argument was that this was a murder motivated by hate. As Zappala put it, "Neil Rosenblum died because of his religion." He sought a first-degree murder conviction.

On Sept. 13, after deliberating for 21 hours over three days, the jury delivered its verdict: Tielsch, now 40, was found guilty of third-degree murder – not premeditated, but done with malice and recklessness.

"I was definitely relieved," Penina Rosenblum recalled in a measured tone. "It was a very long haul. We're grateful it's over and we're happy that justice was done."

The Rosenblum family has been asked to read a victim impact statement at Tielsch's sentencing, scheduled for Nov. 13. He faces up to 20 years in prison. (His lawyer plans to appeal).

"We're not out for blood," said Penina, "but we certainly feel he should be punished in a way that will be a deterrent. He took my son's life. It was practically unbearable to look at him."

The Rosenblums attended each trial. At the fourth, PowerPoint presentations enabled the prosecution to project grisly crime scene photographs on a large screen for the jury and spectators to see. So graphic were parts of the presentation that the couple had to leave the courtroom at times.

Asked whether the conviction has brought a measure of closure to the family, Penina Rosenblum smiles.

"Others have asked me that. You don't have closure over a loss of a son. When you lose a child, there's never closure."

Attending the trials was "very, very difficult. But you do what you have to do," she said with resignation. "We did it for him. Sometimes, what you have to do is not so easy. But you survive and go on."

There's also a sense of bashert – predestination – about all this.

For one, Neil's brother Elly wound up marrying Neil's widow's sister, Chaya, a year after the murder and the couple has seven children.

And Neil's young daughter, Bayla, is now 16, and lives with his widow, Manya, who remarried two years after the murder and lives in Passaic, N.J.

"Whatever is done is a design from above," Penina said. The murder has even strengthened the family's already unshakable faith. "We have emunah."

Penina even sees meaning in the 12-year delay between the first notice of Tielsch and his arrest.

"We assumed the case was closed. But I believe it was brought back to life again. It was meant so Neil shouldn't be forgotten."

These days, Arthur and Penina are enjoying their 29 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. "It's a brachah" Penina said of the large brood. "But it doesn't compensate for the loss. We're blessed, but the emotion is still there."

Her son "was a tzaddik. After he was gone, we became aware of so many good deeds he did in his own quiet way."

Before she hands over a photograph of her murdered son, she slips it into a plastic pouch. "You see?" she smiles. "I'm still protecting him."

– With files from CJN *wire services*

OPENS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6TH!
OPEN HOUSE: 1:00-3:30 PM

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Where
Jewish Discovery Place Museum, off the lobby of the BJCC (416) 636-1880 ext. 390. Check our monthly calendar (posted outside the museum) for activities and hours.

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BJCC

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PRESENTS

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1. "Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One" - Does the God of the Jews really exist? *Monday, October 7, 2002*
2. Forget what you learned in Hebrew School – What is Judaism <u>really</u> all about? *Monday, October 14, 2002*
3. The Disappearing Diaspora – What's going on? *Monday, October 21, 2002*
4. Inter-dating and Inter-marriage - Is there anything more important than "falling in love"? *Monday, October 28, 2002*

All sessions begin at 8:00PM

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JACK BORDAN, Ing, M.Sc, LLD
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FIRST DEAN OF ENGINEERING, SIR GEORGE WILLIAM U.
VICE-PRESIDENT, CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL (SAR-EL CANADA)

THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS INVITED TO HEAR THIS INSIGHTFUL TALK!

As an educator at Concordia University since its beginning, Jack Bordan watched as the wave of pro-Palestinian hostility overtook the university.

This is also an opportunity to find out more about Canadian Volunteers for Israel.

Light Refreshments — No Charge

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2002 AT 7:30 P.M.

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CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

SAR-EL CANADA

Former Ezrath Nashim leader to be honoured

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Renee Rubinstein, who served as president of the Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital Ezrath Nashim in Jerusalem for more than 10 years, is being honoured by the organization at an upcoming concert and silent auction.

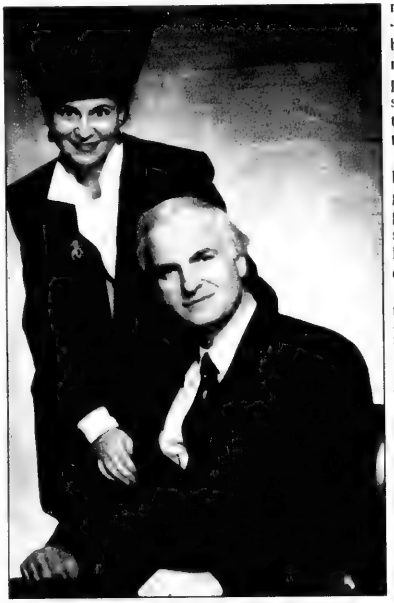
During her presidency, Rubinstein "was personally responsible for the growth of the chapter from a handful of volunteers to a viable organization which has made an invaluable contribution to the growth of the Herzog Hospital," says concert chair Riva Rotenberg.

The annual gala concert, which features violinist Moshe Hammer and the klezmer band Beyond the Pale, and the silent auction will be held Oct. 17 at the Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts.

The evening will also mark the establishment of the Eli and Renee Rubinstein Fund to Assist Israeli Victims of Terror at the Temmy and Albert Latner Israel Centre for the Treatment of Psychotrauma at Herzog Hospital.

"Over the past year, Israelis have learned to live in a reality of terror and violence on a daily basis," Rubinstein says. "The recent increase in terrorist attacks and the number of their victims has affected every one of us."

Rubinstein cites a news release from Dr. Danny Brom, head of the Latner Institute, which stresses the need for the psychotrauma centre.



The Renee and Eli Rubinstein Fund to assist terrorist victims has been established at the psychotrauma centre at Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem.

"Post-traumatic stress disorder is becoming a society-wide phenomenon in Israel. Much of the Israeli public is constantly bombarded by the sight of terror, violence and disaster through the media, which increases the effects of trauma," Brom writes.

Herzog Hospital has been a leading provider of psychiatric and geriatric services in Jerusalem for the past century. It is also a leading research centre in geriatrics, especially in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

Jan Babins, executive director of the Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital says that "Renee Rubinstein is being honoured for her years of dedication to Herzog Hospital and the Jewish communities of Toronto, New York and Jerusalem."

Rubinstein was born in New York City. She attended Brooklyn College and received a degree in English literature. She then worked in a nursing home as the head of recreation in New Jersey.

She came to Toronto 28 years ago after she married Eli Rubinstein, a professor of Jewish philosophy at the University of Toronto who later joined the family business H & R Developments and Property Management.

She has volunteered in a recreation program for seniors and is now a volunteer with the Meals on Wheels program at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

"All my life I was interested in helping the elderly," Rubinstein says. "This is hands-on in meeting the elderly. Many of the people I see need a good word to give them a lift. I spend my time speaking to them about their families.

"I believe that I get more out of my volunteer work with older people than they do. Becoming involved with the Herzog Hospital combined my desire to be connected to the elderly and to help Israel at the same time – it was a good partnership."

Reflecting on her 10 years as president, Rubinstein commends former executive director of Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital Shula Robin as "my inspiration." She adds that it was Robin who thought of having an annual fund-raising concert. "And it's become a major event."

She also credits psychiatrist Dr. Stanley Greben, who worked to establish links with the Latner Centre.

"I admire his vision, intelligence and menschlichkeit," she says, adding that it was Greben who spearheaded the work for the treatment of psychotraumatic patients in Israel who are not funded by the government.

For more information on the gala concert and tribute to Rubinstein, write to the Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital, 3101 Bathurst St., Suite 606, Toronto, Ont., M6A 2A6, or call 416-256-4222.

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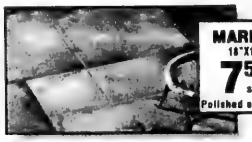

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On Campus

U of Calgary scholar studies Israeli civil society

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Michael Keren, a visiting professor at the University of Calgary, has written "the forgotten story" of Israel's "civil society."

A civil society, explains the Tel Aviv University scholar, is one in which ordinary citizens and voluntary associations have room to express their concerns within the context of national politics.

"Israel has always been preoccupied with grand issues of national security," he says, "but this did not prevent the development of a civil society whose story is important and worth chronicling because it represents the ongoing effort by Israelis to live a civilized, democratic life amid imminent security constraints."

A political scientist, he decided to throw light on the complex relations between Israeli civil society and the state by writing a biography about the renowned civil rights lawyer Amnon Zichroni. Keren's book, *Zichroni V State of Israel*, was published this year by Lexington Books.

Zichroni's career, he observes, reflects the history of a country fighting for its survival while coping with such difficult questions as the legitimacy of conscientious objection and civil disobedience.

Citing examples, Keren mentioned the civil rights of Arabs and Jews, freedom of religion and of the press and the right of convicted spies and traitors to a fair trial.

Keren, in Calgary thanks to a Canada Research Chair in Communications, Culture and Civil Society, is the author of several books.

His first book was entitled *Ben-Gurion and the Intellectuals: Power, Knowledge and Charisma* (1983).

Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, believed that intellectuals should play a key role in building the new nation. "He expected writers to compose the epic of Jewish revival in the modern era, biblical scholars and archeologists to strengthen the ties between modern Israel and its ancient past and scientists to engage in defence-related projects."

Asked if, as some contend, Ben-Gurion was Israel's greatest leader, Keren replied: "His greatness in proclaiming the state, leading Israel to victory in the War of Independence and setting its governmental, industrial and educational foundations can hardly be questioned.

"To me, however, Israel's greatest prime minister was Ben-Gurion's successor, Levi Eshkol, who oversaw the transformation of Israel from an inward looking, collectivist, security-conscious state to an open, democratic, peace-seeking civil society."

Keren was formerly director of the Ben-Gurion Research Institute and Archives at Kibbutz Sde Boker, where Ben-Gurion lived out his final years and is buried. "I spent two years there going over Ben-Gurion's private papers, which include thousands of diary pages, hand-written letters, notes, speeches and other documents which serve as a main source for scholars working on Israeli history."

Keren's second book, *The Pen and the Sword: Israeli Intellectuals and the Making of a Nation-State* (1989), charted the decline of influence of intellectuals in Israel. "Today, writers, scholars and teachers are hardly influential at all," he said.

His third book, *Professionals Against Populism: The Peres Government and Democracy* (1995) is based on Shimon Peres' private papers. It is an analysis of his tenure as prime minister from 1984 to 1986. "I argued that the Oslo accords were, to a great extent, an outgrowth of Peres' special relations with Israel's technocratic elite."

Peres' second term in office, following Yitzhak Rabin's assassination in 1995, was a pale imitation of his first term. "I believe by then the arena was already dominated by new elites objecting to his notion of Israel as a modern technological state living in peace with its neighbours."

Keren's fourth book, *Political Literature in the Twentieth Century* (1999), analyzed major novels such as Thomas Mann's *The Magic Mountain* and Franz Kafka's *The Trial*. His objective was to study the message of civility conveyed by those seminal novels.

His fifth book, *History of Political Ideas*, published last year, was a survey of Western and non-Western political theorists. "I attempt to introduce Israeli students to questions of right and wrong in politics that are not necessarily confined to any given place and time. The book's call not to abandon universal criteria of right and wrong under any circumstances indicates quite accurately where I stand politically."

Keren's latest book is *International Intervention*, which he co-edited with Don Sylvan. It deals with the moral and practical dilemmas facing countries intervening in states – Rwanda, Bosnia, Somalia – where atrocities have been committed.

Keren, the former chair of Tel Aviv University's department of political science, was at one point head of the Institute for the Study of Jewish Press and Communication, now known as the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Center for the Media and the Jewish People.

"The centre's main goal is to save the Jewish press, which has flourished since the 17th century, from oblivion."

In Calgary, Keren is working on several projects, notably a book about Canadian intellectuals.

"To me, Canada represents an interesting attempt to maintain a degree of civility in a world in which the term 'civility' itself has become a source of ridicule. I hope to explore some of the cultural roots that account for this attitude, as well as the contribution of Jewish intellectuals to Canadian political life."

He and his wife, Shlomit, an historian, have three children, all of whom live in Israel.

A graduate of Hebrew University and the University of Minnesota, Keren was born in Jerusalem in 1944. He served in the Israel Defence Forces from 1962 to 1965.

His parents, Hermann and Gerda Horn, were German Jews from the Rhineland and East Prussia, respectively. He was a medical doctor, as is Keren's brother, Yoav, while she worked in a medical clinic before becoming a homemaker.The couple immigrated to Palestine in 1933, the year Adolf Hitler was appointed chancellor of Germany. In Palestine, they went through what Keren describes as "a hard adjustment process," but in time they became true Israelis.

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HOURS:

Sun. Oct. 20	Noon - 4:00 pm
Sat. Nov. 2	7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Sun. Nov. 3	9:30 am - 10:00 pm
Sat. Nov. 9	7:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Sun. Nov. 3	9:30 am - 10:00 pm
Mon. Nov. 4 - Thurs. Nov. 7	
	9:30 am - 4:00 pm
	6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Fri. Nov. 8	9:30 am - 1:00 pm

Calendar of Events

Special Advance Program
Sunday, October 20, 1:00 pm

MICHAEL OREN speaks on his new book **Six Days of War: June 1967 and the Making of the Modern Middle East.**

Sponsored by the Zukerman Family Foundation. $10

Opening Night Presentation
Saturday, Nov 2, 8:00 pm

JOHN LOFTUS speaking on **The Truth About Terrorism**
Sponsored by Canadian Friends of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Reception at 7:00 pm. $15

Sunday, Nov 3
10:30 am BENNETT MURASKIN speaks on his new book, **Humanist Readings in Jewish Folklore.** Sponsored by Morris Winchevsky School, United Jewish People's Order and Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism. Bagels at 10:00 am. Free

12 noon Meet the Authors Shmooze with **SOPHIE STRANSMAN**, author of **Mama and Her Mitzvahs and Gethin James**, publisher of Candles in the Wind by Gregory Kanovich.

1:30 pm PROFESSOR N. N. SHNEIDMAN, author of **The Three Tragic Heroes of the Vilnius Ghetto** will speak on Their **Resistance and Survival**. Sponsored byMasada Chapter and Farband of Lithuanian Jews. $3

3:30 pm BILL STERN, author of **You Don't Have to be Jewish - a film buff's commentary on a selection of 'Jewish' films**. With special guests, folk singer Jerry Gray, author Morley Torgov and film critic Gerald Pratley. Program introduced by Mordecai Ben-Dat, editor of The Canadian Jewish News. Sponsored by The Canadian Jewish News. $5

8:00 pm Significant Moments in Jewish History with **HENRY AUBIN**, author of **The Rescue of Jerusalem** speaks on **The Alliance Between Hebrews and Africans in 701 B.C.**; **PROFESSOR ERIC LAWEE**, author of **Isaac Abarbanels Stance Toward Tradition speaks on Sephardic Experience 1492: Crisis, Exile and Reconstruction**; PROFESSOR ALLAN LEVINE, author of **Scattered Among the Peoples: The Jewish Diaspora in Ten Portraits** speaks on **The Dreyfus Affair: The Terrible Beginnings of 20th Century Anti-Semitism.** Sponsored by The Albert J. & Temmy Latner Jewish Public Library. $10

Monday, November 4
10:30 am and 1:30 pm KAREN LEVINE, author of **Hana's Suitcase** with Fumiko Ishioka, curator of the Children's Holocaust Education Centre in Tokyo and George Brady. See the Suitcase. For schools and adults. Students $1 / Adults $3

8:00 pm ROSALIE WISE SHARP, author of **Ceramics, Ethics and Scandal- The Rosalie and Isadore Sharp Collection** speaks on **Ethics, Prejudice and Judaica. Slide Presentation and Talk**. Sponsored by Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University. $5

Tuesday, November 5
10:30 am The Magic Pan performed by Dr. Abraham Shore Shearim Hebrew Day School Sara and Sam Hennick Education Centre. Based on Latkes, Latkes, Good to Eat by Naomi Howland. Students $1/Adults $3

1:30 pm KAREN LEVINE, author of **Hana's Suitcase** (see Monday, Nov. 4)

8:00 pm ALAN MORINIS, author of **Climbing Jacob's Ladder** speaks on **One Man's Journey to Rediscover a Lost Jewish Tradition (Musar).** Sponsored by Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning and Leck Lecha-Jewish Meditation. $5

Wednesday, Nov 6
10:30 am The Magic Pan (See Tuesday, Nov 5)

1:30 pm NANCY-GAY ROTSTEIN, reads from **The Horizon and Beyond- Poems** Selected and New. Free

8:00 pm **SONDRA GOTLIEB**, author of **Dogs, Gardens, Houses, Foods and Other Addictions** speaks on **Life With a Jewish Flavour.** Sponsored by Na'amat Canada $5

Thursday, November 7
10:30 am -SOPHIE STRANSMAN, author of **Mama and Her Mitzvahs** speaks on **Growing up Jewish in Cabbagetown.** Free

1:30 pm DR. MAVIS HIMES, author of **The Sacred Body - A Therapist's Journey,** speaks on **Is There Life After Cancer?: The Impact on the Family.** Sponsored by the Miriam Alkin Memorial Fund in support of Jewish Education. Free

8:00 pm VIVIAN JEANNETTE KAPLAN, author of **Ten Green Bottles,** speaks on **Vienna to Shanghai, Journey of Fear and Hope**. Sponsored by The Chinese Cultural Centre of Greater Toronto. $5

Saturday November 9
8:00 pm Two New Faces of Jewish Fiction with **JON PAPERNICK**, author of **The Ascent of Eli Israel and Other Stories** and **NANCY RICHLER**, author of **Your Mouth is Lovely.** $10

8:30 pm RABBI HOWARD ADDISON, author of **The Enneagram and Kabbalah** will speak on **Reading Your Soul Through the Enneagram and Kabbalah.** Sponsored by Jewish Health Alliance: A Social and Professional Network for Health Care Providers. $10

Sunday, November 10
10:30 am JUDY GORDON, author of **Four Hundred Brothers and Sisters** speaks on **A Story of Two Jewish Orphanages in Montreal 1909-1942.** With Myer Gordon,an alumnus of one of the homes speaking on his personal experience. Sponsored by Upper Canada Lodge, B'nai Brith. Bagels at 10:00 am. Free

11:00 am BARNEY DANSON speaks on his new book **Not Bad for a Sergeant - The Memoirs of Barney Danson.** Sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section. Free

At the Miles S. Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave.
11:00 am Bagels and Launch of Parchment, Canada's only journal of contemporary Canadian Jewish writing. Readings by selected authors. Free

11:30 pm DEBRA DANILEWITZ, author of **Memories and Reflection of My School Years,** an interactive book for children and parents. All ages $1

1:30 pm TROIM KATZ HANDLER reads in Yiddish and English from her books **Simcha-Love Letter Poems.** Sponsored by Committee for Yiddish, UJA Federation, Kultur Geselshaft, Friends of Yiddish and the Workmen's Circle of Toronto. Supported by Lipa Green Endowment Fund. $3

3:30 pm DR. MORRIS SCHNITZER, author of **My Three Selves: A Memoir,** speaks on **An Epic Holocaust Journey for Survival**. Introduced by **PROFESSOR SEYMOUR MAYNE**. Sponsored by Canadian Society for Yad Vashem and Parchment $3

3:30 pm WALTER PITMAN speaks on his new biography **Louis Applebaum - A Passion for Culture**. With a mini-musicale featuring harpist Erica Goodman, oboist Lawrence Cheryney and Temple Sinai Cantor, Gershon Silins, baritone. Sponsored by Temple Sinai Congregation. $5

4:30 pm J. J. STEINFELD'S new play **My Father Gave Me Hannah Arendt's Eichmann in Jerusalem for My Twentieth Birthday** read by Barry Bender and Produced by Lil Blume

8:00 pm ROMA LIGOCKA -The Girl in the Red Coat in Steven Spielberg's Schindler's List - speaks on her new book **The Girl in the Red Coat.** Sponsored by Toronto Hadassah-WIZO. $10

Parking and Entrance to Book Fair Free ~ Programs Subject to Change

The Bookmark program, a part of Flex, Koffler Gallery's art intervention program has asked artist participants to create and randomly distribute original bookmarks at Jewish Book Fair

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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Sept. 30, is deadline for Oct. 10 issue and Monday, Oct. 7, is deadline for Oct. 17. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Sunday, Sept. 29

SUKKOT CELEBRATION

Morris Winchevsky School invites you to its annual community Sukkot celebration at 10:30 a.m., Camp Naivelt, Celebrating the Harvest and Sharing a Tradition. Family fun, including building and decorating the sukkah. Call **Maxine Hermolin** 416-789-5502 for directions and more information.

EVE AND LILITH

Temple Kol Ami in Thornhill features **Rabbi Debra Landsberg** of Temple Emanu-el speaking on Eve & Lilith: What the First Women Can Tell Us, 8 p.m. at Indigo Book Store, Yonge and Highway 7.

Monday, Sept. 30

ABOUT DIABETES

The Jewish Diabetes Chapter, Canadian Diabetes Association, meeting focuses on Diabetes: Diet & Exercise. Guest speaker **Nuryt Raif**, registered dietician, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

Tuesday, Oct. 1

CHUG HATANACH

Chug HaTanach meets at 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue to study the book of Ezekiel, Chapter 21, led by **Yehudah Lipsitz**.

Wednesday, Oct. 2

GOLDEN CIRCLE GALA

ORT Toronto's Golden Circle Award recipient, renowned film and stage personality **James Earl Jones,** is honoured at the dinner gala for his work to promote and support literacy and educational programs, starting at 6:30 p.m. at the Four Seasons Hotel. Special guests include **Molly Johnson, Christopher Plummer** and Canada's counsul general in New York, **Pamela Wallin**. For tickets, ORT Toronto 416-787-0339.

VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

Fulfil your desire to help Israel with your own hands by volunteering to serve on an IDF supply/maintenance base for at least 2 weeks. To find out about the Sar-El program, attend the information session at 7:30 p.m. at 788 Marlee Ave., Canadian Volunteers for Israel, 416-781-6089.

JUDAISM AND GENDER

Judaism, Gender and Sexual Ethics, a 4-lecture series at Beth Tzedec Congregation, begins with York University **Prof. Rachael Turkienicz** discussing Was Eve a Side Effect of Creation: Adam, Eve & Lilith With Some Modern Implications, 7:30 p.m.416-781-3511.

Thursday, Oct. 3

TROLLOPE AND THE JEWS

Prof. Harvey Kerpneck, department of English, St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, first session of his course, Anthony Trollope and the Jews, 7:30 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple. For more information, phone **Anne** at 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

POETRY & PHOTOGRAPHY

Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum presents the exhibit, A Seed in the Pocket of Their Blood, with a public reception, 7:30 p.m. in the foyer. Special guest is **Rafi Aaron,** curator and poet for the project. Exhibit runs at the museum until spring 2003.

And What Else Is New

PHENOMENAL WOMEN

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Continued on page 23

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Continued from page 22

sages of **Adrienne Gold**, CTV television personality combine for a powerful and entertaining evening. Emcee **Dr. Esther Libman**. Sunday, Oct. 20, at 8 p.m. at the City Playhouse, Bathurst and New Westminster. For tickets 905-764-1818, ext. 371 or 416-785-1107. Silent auction at 7 p.m. featuring art pieces and jewelry by women artists.

INSTALLATION DINNER

Beth Tzedec Sisterhood opening installation dinner, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 6:30 p.m. Entertainment. Pre-paid reservations to the synagogue office by Monday, Sept. 30. 416-781-3511.

MEANING OF THE TORAH

Come and discuss the Meaning of the Torah by going through it line by line, Sundays at 2:15 p.m. at the Riverdale Shul, 179a Danforth Ave., beginning Oct. 5. For information, **David Bender** 416-465-4377.

READ HEBREW CANADA

This October/November, Jewish adults will gather in thousands of locations across North America to learn to read Hebrew. Learn how to follow synagogue services, to be more involved in your children's Jewish education, or simply enhance your own ties to Judaism. Five free 1½hour lessons available for beginners and intermediates. Classes begin at Pride of Israel Synagogue Sunday, Oct. 6, 11 a.m. Call 416-226-0111, ext. 10. Sponsored by the National Jewish Outreach Program.

STRATFORD TRIP

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section, trip to Stratford to see *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, Tuesday, Oct. 29. Bus leaves Council House at 9:30 a.m. and returns 7 p.m. Information/registration 416-633-5100.

HEBREW PROGRAMS

Offered at the Miles Nadal JCC. 416-924-6211.

Two-day Hebrew marathon Sundays Oct. 20 and Oct. 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Instructor **Nurit Gruber**.

Hebrew 1 (beginner) Tuesdays, Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26, Dec. 3, 10., 8-9:30 p.m. Instructor **Nurit Gruber**.

Hebrew 3, Thursdays Oct. 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21, 28, 8-9:30 p.m. Instructor **Esther Benari-Altmann** at 8-9:30 p.m.

HOSPICE VOLUNTEERS

Improve the quality of life for individuals with a terminal illness. Be part of a professional, volunteer team. Training begins Oct. 27. Call Circle of Care 416-635-2860.

AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

Queen's University department of history presents **Prof. Dalia Ofer** of Hebrew University of Jerusalem. A lecture, Between Solidarity and Dismemberment: The Family in the Ghettos During the Holocaust, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m., Watson Hall, Room 517. A seminar, New Research on the Victims of the Holocaust, Wednesday, Oct. 2, 10 a.m., Watson Hall, Room 222.

ART CLASSES

Drawing and painting classes, all levels, Thursdays, 1:15-3:30 p.m. Oct. 3-Dec. 5, at Beth Sholom Synagogue. To register, call **Terri Sugar-Keyfitz**, instructor, 416-487-7244.

YIDDISH CLASSES

To learn conversational Yiddish, 10-session semester, beginners and intermediate classes at Adath Israel Synagogue. All classes completely modified. Limited space. **Louis Gula** 416-495-0919.

JF & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups and workshop. Information/registration, **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Developing a Successful Parenting Plan, a workshop for couples in the early stages of separation or divorce who want to establish a parenting plan based on their children's needs, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Promenade Mall, suite 313.

The Challenge of Anger for Women, 6-session group for women to learn how to express their anger in an assertive, non-aggressive way., Thursday, Oct. 3, 7:30-9 p.m., Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St.

Teen Anger Management, a 6-session group for teenagers 13 and up to help them deal with their anger in appropriate and acceptable ways. Introductory night to assess suitability of teen participants, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 7-8:30 p.m., Lipa Green Building, six-week group begins Tuesday, Oct. 8.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Baycrest Centre's W.A. Café needs experienced volunteers for various times. If you have had experience in the catering industry and working on a cash register, volunteers are needed Monday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Thursday, 12:30-4:30 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. If you would like more information or would like to set up an interview, call 416-785-2500, ext. 2572.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors general meeting Thursday, Sept. 26, at 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Topic: Making Memories Come Alive, with **Sid Gladstone**. For information **Tammy Parker**, 416-635-2860.

Seniors Volunteer Showcase, Monday, Oct. 7, 1-4 p.m., North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge St. Visit interesting displays, talk with representatives from communal agencies. Also, from 1:30-2:30 p.m., you can attend a free ABC's of Fraud Program and learn more about frauds and scams and how to protect yourself on the phone and at the door. 416-631-6117.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Sept. 26. video movie; Sunday, Sept. 29, Simchat Torah dance party, music, light supper, 7 p.m.; Oct. 3, free evening of discussions and jokes; Oct. 8 Tuesday, day trip to the Muskokas; Oct. 10, lecture by **Aton Glazer.** For information, **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Calla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama Oct. 9, 23; Saturday dances Oct. 12, 26; Sunday dances Oct. 6 and 20; Niagara Casino Oct. 17; Atlantic City trip Nov. 3-6, $50 cash (US) in casino bonuses. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m., in the boardroom, Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

New Horizons Simchat Torah party, Sunday, Sept. 29, 6 p.m., at 3565 Bathurst St. 416-256-1892 **Edith Lazer.**

Young at Heart Seniors Miami vacation at glatt kosher Saxony Hotel, with meals or efficiency. Free full breakfast and much more. **Helen** 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Origins and Development of the Yiddish language, **Richard Bassett**, Tuesday, Oct. 1, 10-11:30 a.m.

Low Vision Interest Group session III, Letting Go and Moving Forward. Video Focus on Feeling, Tuesday, Oct 1, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Personal eye care consultant checks and adjusts eyeglasses, Tuesday, Oct. 1, noon to 1:15 p.m. Facilitator **Nadine Walman.**

The Armchair Traveller, alternate Thursdays starting Oct. 3, 10-11 a.m. Instructor **Brian Prosserman.**

Fit Yourself In, a fun to fit workshop on intimate apparel sponsored by Canadelle and Sears, Thursday, Oct. 3, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Beginning Jewish Meditation, 6-week program beginning Tuesday, Oct. 22, at 7:30 p.m. with **Chashi Skobac**. Presented by Downtown Jewish Learning Council. Register.

Carlebach & Beyond Choir with composer/conductor **Ken Rabow**. Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m., 8 sessions Oct. 15-Dec. 3.

A new infant program has opened at the JCC, led by **Suzanne Gemmell-Freeman** and geared to babies aged 3-14 months. Registration is underway.

CYCLE-A-THON: The second annual Bathurst Jewish Community Centre In-door Cycle-A-Thon proved to be a success with over 65 participants raising over $19,000 for the fight against breast cancer. Seen holding the cheque are event co-chairs Rhea Wolfowich (left) and Nadine Cowan.

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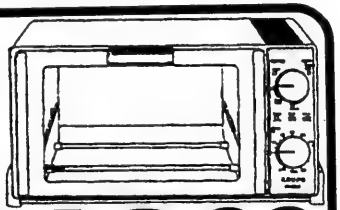

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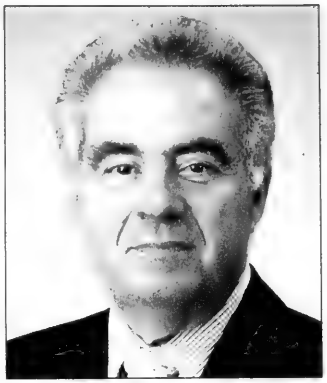
Coast to Coast

CIC chair Wilder rides the 'sea of change'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter


Joseph Wilder

WINNIPEG —When terrorists struck the United States on 9/11 last year, it was said the world had changed.

The complacency and frivolity of the Clinton years, it was argued, gave way to concerns about life and death issues.

As national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), the Jewish community's lobbying arm on Israel, Joseph Wilder noticed a similar "sea change" in Canada as well, particularly as it concerned the Jewish community.

Prior to the terrorist assault in America, the local Jewish community was burdened by "a tremendous apathy," he said. The ritualistic UN condemnations of Israel failed to galvanize the community and so, facing a path of least resistance, the Canadian government didn't get too exercised as well.

On campus, students were something of "a lost generation...ill-prepared to speak out (on the Mideast) and not as viscerally engaged as their parents."

That all changed on 9/11 and even before, with the onset of the Palestinian intifadah, Wilder believes. In an interview from his office in Winnipeg, Wilder reflected on the state of Canada-Israel relations and speculated on what lies ahead.

Wilder contends the Jewish community has, since the onset of the intifadah, become more aggressive in making its views known and has been given the resources by community fund-raisers to enable it to take a more proactive position. Its budget has jumped by 75 per cent and four new staffers have been added.

It has sought meetings with Canadian policy-makers, including Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and the two most recent Foreign Ministers, John Manley and Bill Graham, during which, "We have not minced words. We have frank conversations."

Canadian policy-makers have been greatly influenced by 9/11 and the U.S government's response to it. The U.S. view (shared by the CIC) that "terrorism is terrorism" whether perpetrated by Al Qaeda or groups headquartered in Palestinian territories, seems to have gained traction, he suggested, and Israel's plight, beset by repeated suicide bombings, seems to parallel the U.S. experience as well.

The result can be seen in Canadian policy, Wilder suggested: Graham was not averse to "pointing the finger" at Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat during a visit to the area, and telling him he must put an end to terrorism.

Canada has also moderated its pronouncements on the Middle East while its votes on UN Mideast resolutions have shifted to a position less critical of Israel

In light of the international war on terrorism and the suicide bombings besetting Israel, Wilder believes there has been more of an acceptance that "Israel had little choice but to deal with it in some way, to root it out."

In the wake of 9/11, Canada has also stopped talking about a "cycle of violence" in the Middle East and there has been less talk from government spokespeople of "moral equivalency" between the Israeli and Palestinian cases, though from the Jewish community's perspective, there is still room for improvement, he said.

(At the CIC's annual policy conference in March, Graham drew a round of boos when he criticized Israel for causing "innocent civilian casualties" that he said prejudiced the prospects of peace.)

In trying to be balanced and not offend Palestinians, Canada has not gone as far as it should in taking a stand against votes that are one-sidedly against Israel, Wilder stated.

But there has been an improvement. Where, a few years ago, Canada would have voted in favour of resolutions criticizing Israel while adding an "explanation of the vote," lately it has abstained. On Aug. 5, Wilder noted, Canada abstained "in a particularly putrid [General Assembly] resolution presented by the Arab bloc."

In a subsequent meeting with Graham, CIC pressed its point that "If you see evil, you can't turn away from it or abstain from it...We point out it's not even-handed to vote for a resolution that blames Israel for all the evils in the Middle East."

There have been bright spots in Canada's position vis-a-vis Israel, Wilder said.

At Durban two years ago and later at a meeting in Geneva of the UN Human Rights Commission, Canada stood up to blatant anti-Israel agitation. Canada, he said, "acquitted itself nobly."

A divergence of opinion on "settlements," which Canada views as illegal and an obstacle to peace but which the CIC views as the ancient patrimony of the Jewish people, remains, Wilder said.

Nevertheless, "I'm encouraged to believe Canada is a friend of Israel, and the Jewish community leadership has a relationship with the government that allows them to express their views at any time and Canada is open to being persuaded.

"Canada," he continued, "retains its long-standing core commitment to Israel's safety and security within recognized borders. Canada's support is rooted in fundamental moral values."

Coast to Coast

Chief admits police unprepared for Concordia riot

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Montreal police chief Michel Sarrazin has reportedly conceded to the Jewish community that his department was unprepared for violent protest against Benjamin Netanyahu earlier this month at Concordia University.

At a closed-door meeting Sept. 13 with the Montreal Jewish Community Security Co-ordinating Committee (MJCSCC), Sarrazin said the police failed to properly evaluate the potential for violence in the demonstration against a Sept. 9 speech by the former Israeli prime minister, the MJCSCC announced in a statement.

Meeting held with Jewish community group

Sarrazin is also said to have told the committee that an internal investigation into the police response is underway and that an interim report was to be made public by last Friday.

Police are also reviewing tapes of the violence along Bishop Street and de Maisonneuve Boulevard and inside the Hall Building and there may be more arrests in addition to the five already made, the chief reportedly told the MJCSCC, a joint body of Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada.

Sarrazin also reportedly said that an investigator has been assigned to work with the MJCSCC to look into reported acts of aggression against Jews during the demonstration.

A spokesperson for the Montreal police, Luc Belhumeur, confirmed that the meeting betweem Sarrazin and the MJCSCC took place, but would not disclose what was said.

Belhumeur said the police are not making any public comments about the Sept. 9 events at Concordia until "the analysis of the [police] operation" is released.

At the meeting, the security committee demanded an explanation for police actions the day of the violence and a "clear guarantee" that anyone who broke the law during the demonstration would be arrested.

"The demonstrators had announced weeks before that they would do anything they could to stop the former prime minister from speaking... The police did not properly secure a perimeter around the Concordia premises nor access to the Hall Building for event participants, despite having promised that it would do so in pre-event meetings with Hillel, our committee and other Jewish community leaders. The deplorable results were there for all to see," said group co-chair Rabbi Reuben Poupko.

Numerous Jewish students and other members of the community were punched, kicked, spat upon or intimidated as they sought to enter the building, the MJCSCC said.

"We won't rest until we know that those who violated the Criminal Code are charged with their crimes," said Rabbi Poupko's co-chair, Saulie Zajdel.

The group also hopes to meet with the RCMP and Concordia's security office to discuss their roles in the Sept. 9 events at the university.

Anyone with information about such incidents is urged by the group to report them in detail and without delay to either CJC or B'nai Brith.

Sara Ahronheim offered her eyewitness account of being caught up in the chaos. "To enter the [Hall] building, we had to make a giant circle around it to get to a supposedly safe entrance. We had to walk right through a volatile protest by hundreds of Palestinians and their supporters in keffiyahs, with flags, screaming vitriolic hate.

"Once having run this gauntlet, we waited patiently outside the Bishop Street entrance, held back at the gate by security and police. After about an hour, they started admitting us inside, but it was too late because a huge group of Palestinian demonstrators had appeared in our midst.

"I was fortunately right at the entrance, and as dozens of violent protesters pushed their way to the front, I tried to get through. Right next to me appeared the ringleader who tried to push his way in. The cop in front of me punched him in the face while pulling me through the gate at the same time."

Other Jews, she said, got stuck behind the gate and were "abused" by the demonstrators. After the riot squad entered the building to clear the demonstrators inside, they made those who had come to hear Netanyahu run for the auditorium, she said. "It was the scariest feeling because I knew these people wanted to hurt me and anyone who supports Israel or is Jewish."

After the speech was cancelled and the participants were allowed to leave the auditorium, Ahronheim said she herself once again face to face with the protesters on the other side of a barrier. "They threw bottles at people's heads, screamed hatred and tried to break the barriers down to hurt us. They started tossing pennies and coins at us, one of the oldest ways to taunt Jews by saying we are all money-grubbing."

She said the police did not intervene.

B'nai Brith is also encouraging students and professors with complaints about non-criminal behaviour to make them to the Concordia's Office of Rights and Responsibilities, or, in the case of the rest of the community, to the Quebec Human Rights Commission.

These complaints may refer to anti-Israel or anti-Semitic remarks, prevention of making use of the university, failure of the university to provide safety on campus, the participation of Concordia students or organizations in the riot, the stifling of free speech and dialogue or concerns about freedom of religion on campus.

B'nai Brith, Quebec region's director of advocacy Raphael Lallouz said this type of behaviour violates the university's code of conduct

He said B'nai Brith is also dismayed that the Concordia Student Union, which represents the school's undergraduates, passed a resolution offering legal and moral support to the students arrested at the protest, including possibly paying their legal costs.

"It just goes to show the bias of the CSU," said Lallouz. "They have sympathy for the aggressors, but turn a blind eye to the victims. Is paying legal costs within the mandate of the CSU?"

Meanwhile, the Christian Lebanese Coalition of Canada has denounced the "anti-democratic" demonstration, and is especially distressed by the flying of the Lebanese flag.

"This demonstration by no means represents the views of the Christian Lebanese, and we avidly denounce this deplorable use of the flag.

"Although we do not support... Netanyahu's policy, we denounce the Arab demonstrators' oppression of free speech. The oppression is parallel to that experienced in Lebanon today at the hands of Syria."

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JUDAISM IN A TURBULENT WORLD

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2002 *[Canadian Thanksgiving Weekend]*
Beth Jacob V'Anshei Drildz Congregation, 147 Overbrook Place, Toronto

-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE-

9:00 a.m.
TEXT BASED TORAH STUDY
for pre-registrants **featuring:**
Rabbi Yaakov Kerzner, Dr. Eric Lawee, Dr. Rachel Turkienicz

10:00 a.m.
CONTEMPORARY JEWISH SPIRITUALITY (I)
Rabbi Mayer Schiller
What Hassidut and Kabbalah can teach the Modern Jew

OR **THE JEWISH FAMILY (I)**
Dr. Deena Zimmerman
Not all According to Plan – Birth Control, Infertility and Reproductive Technology in Jewish Law

11:00 a.m.
ETHICAL CHALLENGES OF THE MODERN WORLD
Rabbi Michael Broyde
Bullets that Kill on the Rebound: Discrimination against Homosexuals and Orthodox Public Policy

OR **CONTEMPORARY JEWISH SPIRITUALITY (II)**
Susan Schneider
Making Prayer Work as a Real-Life Tool

OR **Rabbi Mordechai Becher**
How Can Judaism Make You More Spiritual?

12:15 p.m.
LUNCH **Book Signings**

1:00 p.m.
IS RELIGIOUS TRUTH ABSOLUTE?
Dr. David Berger
The Belief in Da'as Torah (Absolute Rabbinic Authority): Benefits & Dangers
Rabbi Michael Broyde
The Seal of God is Truth: The Conflict Between the 'Reality' of Science & the 'Accuracy' of Halacha

OR **WOMEN'S PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH**
Susan Schneider
Eating as Tikkun: Feeding Your Body and Soul in a Holy Way
Dr. Deena Zimmerman
Mikvah, Cancer, Healing - Women's Preventative Health & the Search for Wholeness in Jewish Law

2:30 p.m.
THE SEARCH FOR SALVATION
Dr. David Berger
The Messiah and the Redemption: Beliefs, Movements and Calculations from Talmudic Times to the Present

OR **Rabbi Mayer Schiller**
Is Popular Culture Sanctifiable?

4:00 p.m.
ISRAEL & THE FUTURE OF JUDAISM
Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb
Can one be a Zionist in the Diaspora?

OR **THE JEWISH FAMILY (II)**
Rabbi Mordechai Becher
The Ten Commandments of Jewish Parenting

8:00 p.m. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
HOW CAN JUDAISM THRIVE IN MODERNITY? – A Town Hall Meeting
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Coast to Coast

Concordia University rector comes under fire

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

An event intended to ease tensions at Concordia University turned into a strident finger-pointing session that largely blamed the administration and rector Frederick Lowy for provoking the violence that forced the cancellation of a speech by Benjamin Netanyahu.

Billed as a forum on "Free Speech, Tolerance and Diversity: Where do we go from here?," it was convened by Lowy and Sabine Friesinger, president of the Concordia Student Union (CSU). It included panellists Samer Elatrash, representing the coalition that organized the Sept. 9 protest against Netanyahu, and Patrick Amar, president of Concordia Hillel, which invited the former Israeli prime minister to speak.

Speakers from the audience of 500 overwhelmingly criticized the administration for giving a platform to Netanyahu, whom most described as a war criminal and a hatemonger, surpassed in notoriety only by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

They said the successful attempt to block Netanyahu's appearance was a legitimate form of protest and not a violation of free speech. Many were also galled that the Asper Foundation had co-sponsored the Netanyahu event.

Lowy was repeatedly heckled and shouted down when he tried to explain the administration's position. He said the police, including the riot squad, were on duty from the outset because protesters were expected.

However, he said he never thought students would use "force and intimidation," including against those coming to hear Netanyahu.

Lowy said he did not personally witness the violence on the street and in the foyer of Concordia's Henry F. Hall building because he was inside the hall where Netanyahu was to speak, but he said many videotapes were made of the protest. He said he is awaiting a final report before deciding what action will be taken against the demonstrators.

"Many of the 29,000 students at Concordia are interested primarily in getting on with their studies. They appreciate that certain Palestinian and Jewish students are intensely interested in the Middle East, but a lot would like to see it debated in such a way as not to impact on them," said Lowy, defending the moratorium against Mideast-related events on campus that was instituted after Netanyahu's speech was cancelled.

Lowy said Netanyahu was allowed to come to Concordia because "Hillel invited him and we are not in the habit of censoring student groups." He acknowledged that he had the final word on letting the event go ahead.

Amar was also booed when he defended Hillel's decision to invite Netanyahu.

"Why did we want to bring Netanyahu here? The answer is because we can do it in a free society," he said. "The Canadian charter guarantees that, but I know most societies have nothing like that."

Amar said Netanyahu was never indicted nor charged with war crimes, to which Elatrash shot back: "Neither was [former U.S. secretary of state] Henry Kissinger or [the late Cambodian dictator] Pol Pot."

The forum, at which private security guards stood watch and bags were checked, took place Sept. 12 in the same hall where Netanyahu was to speak.

It replaced a speech by U.S. academic Norman Finkelstein, a controversial critic of Israel, who had been invited by the CSU. Finkelstein's talk was cancelled because of the moratorium on Mideast-related events.

"I hope this is the beginning of a process of talking to each other and understanding each other... so that we can move forward as a Concordia community," the CSU's Friesinger said at the start of the forum.

But the event turned into exactly what Friesinger said it was not supposed to be – namely a "trial" of what happened Sept. 9.

Elatrash said the ordering of riot police to clear out the demonstrators from inside the Hall building provoked the violence and was symptomatic of the "contempt" with which Arab and Muslim students are treated by the administration.

Elatrash, who is Palestinian, said he warned Concordia vice-rector Michael di Grappa before the demonstration that there would be "peaceful" protesters in the building's lobby and that he "couldn't say what would happen" if police were called in.

After the violence, Elatrash said, the administration has come to realize that Arab students can no longer be treated with contempt.

ROSH HASHANAH ART: **Thornhill MPP Tina R. Molinari congratulates the winners of her Rosh Hashanah artwork contest. Amy Grief (left), Matthew Pelcowitz, and Daniela Zavarella, all students of the Atkinson campus of Associated Hebrew Schools, were each honoured with a framed copy of their winning picture by Molinari. "I was extremely pleased with the response to the contest," Molinari said.**

CBC elicits strong reactions

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Two items this week:

1. On Newsworld's *Politics* with Don Newman, Sept. 12, Svend Robinson said, "It's interesting when we hear [U.S. President George W.] Bush's commitment to UN resolutions, saying we have got to respect UN Security Council resolutions. Whatever happened, for example, to the resolutions on the Occupied Territories, 242 and 338? Israel has ignored more UN resolutions, and yet apparently there's one standard for them and another for other countries."

Here we go again. During the Gulf War of 1991, Iraqi propaganda, supported by the Palestinians and others, including many in the West, made a similar baseless charge. It was not unexpected from these sources, and it is not surprising to hear it once again from Robinson. The problem is that Robinson's misinformation unfortunately gets picked up by unsuspecting consumers of news.

Put simply, no analogy exists between Iraq and Israel. Iraq, without provocation, invaded Kuwait in August 1990. The UN Security Council passed a series of resolutions demanding Iraq's immediate and unconditional withdrawal and subsequent disarmament.

By contrast, in June 1967, Israel fought a war of self-defence against Arab states openly dedicated to its destruction and came into possession of territory it had no prior intention to seize. The Security Council passed Resolution 242, which recommended a framework for negotiating a just and lasting peace in the region. Resolution 338, passed after the Yom Kippur War in 1973, reinforced Resolution 242 and called on all the parties to negotiate immediately. At no point did 242 or 338 call for an unconditional or unilateral withdrawal from the territories.

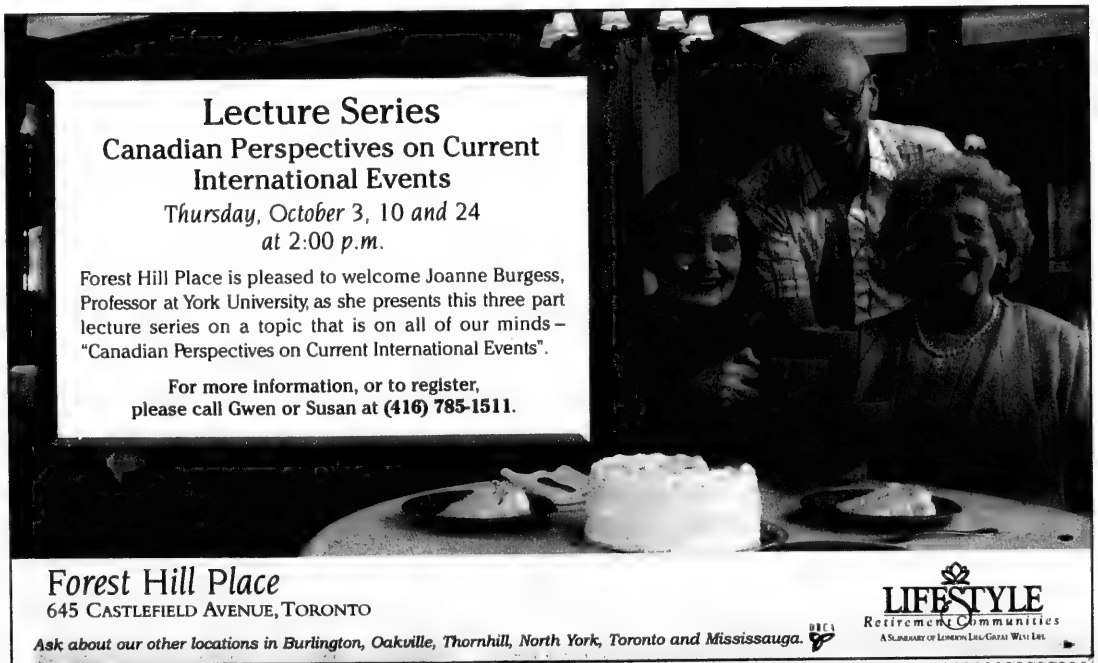
Israel has all along complied with these resolutions. Largely unnoticed is the fact that, in abandoning negotiations at Camp David in 2000, and returning to violence and terrorism, the Palestinians, not Israel, have violated the terms of Resolutions 242 and 338. Are you listening, Svend?

2. On Sept. 15, Michael Enright, host of CBC Radio's *Sunday Edition*, noted the large amount of mail the station received in response to the feature interview with "moral philosopher" Ted Honderich the previous week (reported on in last week's column).

"It seems the last three minutes or so in our [25-minute] talk in which Honderich shared some of his views about Palestine and Israel made many people very unhappy and very angry," said Enright, who read a number of the letters.

But the issue is not the unhappiness or the anger of the listeners. Rather, it's about the CBC's responsibility to ask tough, probing questions, especially of its interview subjects such as Honderich, who announce themselves in advance through a book filled with highly controversial assertions bound to elicit strong reactions. In his recently published *After the Terror*, Honderich argues that Palestinian suicide terrorism is morally justifiable, but ignores (a) that Palestinians could have achieved statehood through agreed-upon negotiations and (b) that by "ending the occupation," many Palestinians mean the destruction of Israel. The CBC should not be surprised that its listeners would assume that any scholar who seeks to find a moral justification for Palestinian terrorism may be more interested in rationalizing the murder of Israelis than in seeing Palestinians achieve freedom.

CJC, ALLIANCE MEET: The leadership of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), Pacific region, the president of Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver and the vice-chair of the Canada-Israel Committee met recently with members of the federal B.C. Canadian Alliance caucus to discuss Canada's role in the reformation of the Palestinian Authority, Canada's designation of terrorist groups, and anti-Semitism and intolerance in Canada. The CJC delegation raised the issue of Canada's role regarding Israel and the need to reform the Palestinian Authority (PA). The delgation told the MPs that the Palestinian leadership must be held accountable not only for terrorism but also for the deprivation and exploitation being experienced by the Palestinian people. Seen (from left) Joshua Hauser; James Lunney, Nanaimo-Alberni; Jonathan Festinger, regional officer, CJC, Pacific region; Judy Mandleman, co-chair, Israel Action Committee; Herb Silber, regional officer, CJC, Pacific region; Grant McNally, Dewdney-Alouette; Tony DuMoulin, regional officer, CJC, Pacific region; David Schwartz, regional officer, CJC, Pacific region; Val Meredith, South Surrey/Whiterock/langley; Sondra Ritter-Green, president, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver; Nisson Goldman, chair, CJC, Pacific region; Ted White, North Vancouver; Richard Kurland, regional officer, CJC, Pacific region; Paul Forseth, New Westminster-Coquitlam-Burnaby.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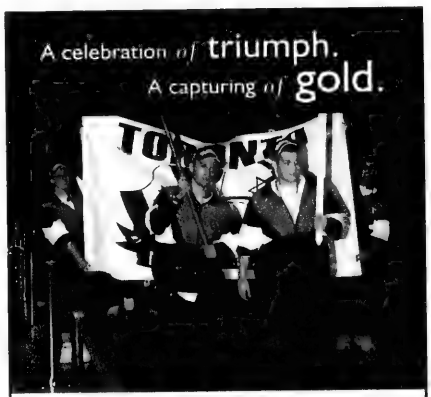

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Coast to Coast

Jewish student assaulted day after protest at Concordia University

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

B'nai Brith Canada, Quebec region, is looking into an assault against a Jewish student at Concordia that allegedly took place on campus the day after violent protests forced the cancellation of a speech by former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

According to a report received by B'nai Brith, a Jewish male student was bloodied after being hit on the head with an unidentified object and kicked, allegedly by a member of the Muslim Students' Association (MSA).

The 29-year-old student, who has asked that his name not be made public, tore down a poster of the student group Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights on the fourth floor of Concordia's downtown Hall Building around 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 10. He said he did so because of the moratorium on Middle East-related activities imposed by Concordia, which has been extended to at least mid-December.

B'nai Brith's director of advocacy Raphael Lallouz said the student reported that he fled when he saw the MSA member observing him, but was caught between the two doors at the Mackay Street exit to the Hall Building. There, the student alleges, he was smacked on the head, possibly with a cell phone, causing a cut, and kicked.

He then ran to the security desk of the Hall Building and waited until the police arrived and made an arrest.

Montreal police spokesperson Luc Belhumeur confirmed that a man involved in the incident was arrested for assault with a weapon. Belhumeur said the man's name is not being disclosed because he was released after promising to appear in court at a later date to face charges.

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Anne, Mark, Louie & Marsha

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאגירט פון: אלעק סילווער

סופות אמאל אין א יידיש שטעטל

וי נאר ס'עזשיקט זיך דער וויליקער יום־כיפור חיבט דער יד אן צו טראכטן וועגן יום־טוב סוכות. די גאר פרומע היבן באלד אן צו בויען א סוכה, אפילו וען זיי קלאפן בלויז אריין איין טשוואק. אלע יידן אין שטעטל וועלן מיט אזוי מאל ביימיסטערס אין די טעג צווישן יום־כיפור און סוכות. מען רייסט שטאנגן, מען שלעפט ברעטער און מען קלאפט טשוועקעס.

קיין צוויי ארבעט אין אבער בי דעם נישט. איין וואנט שפארט מען אין גאנצן אויף, וויל די סוכה איז גע־ווינלעך אנגעבויט צו א הויז, פון היטן אין הויף אדער אויך פון פארנט אויף דער גאס. פון א צווייטער וואנט אין קנאפע א העלפט א טיר. בליבט נאר איבער צו מאכן צווי מיט א האלבע וועגטלעך. קלאפט מען דאס וי עס איז צוגעזיך פון שטיקער פארקנט אן פון איינצלנע ברעטער אן שטאנגן. צו שטארק דארף די סוכה נישט זיין. בין שמיר־עצרת וועט זי אין יעדן פאל אויסהאלטן.

מען פלעגט בויען סוכות געווינלעך פאר זיך אליין, פאר אייגענעם הויזגעזינד. טייל מאל פלעגן שכנים זיך פראיינקן אן בויען צוזאמען א גרויסע סוכה, ווו מען קען עסן אן בענטשן צוזאמען מיט א „מזומן" אן פיל מאל אויך מיט א מנין. לאמיר דא צוגעבן, אז א טייל באלעבאסטעס זיינען נישט געווען צופרידן פון דעם, ווייל אין אזא פאל האט מען געמוטט צוגרייטן בעסערע „פאטראזעס", כדי צו אימפאנירן די אנדערע באלע־באסטעס. אבער מען איז אדורכגעקומען.

האבן יידן געבויט סוכות אן זיך בעפילט גליקלעך, וואס זי האבן זוכה געווען צו טאן אזא גרויסע מצוה. אבער מער פון אלעמען זיינען געווען צופרידן אן גליקלעך די חדר־יינגלעך. עס איז געווען אינטערעסאנט פאר זיי צו זיצן אין דער סוכה מיט די דערוואקסענע. זיי זיינען נאך מער געווען צופרידן פון קענען העלפן וויערע טאטעס בויען די סוכה. אין חדר איז מען אין די דאזיקע טעג נישט געגאנגען. האבן די יינגלעך מיט גרויס חשק געטראגן די ברעטער, דערלאנגט די האמערס אן טשוועקעס אן געשלעפט די גרינע סכך־צוזייגן.

די יינגלעך האבן אויך געדעקט, אז דאס בויען די סוכה איז געווען אן אמתא, אז באלד וועט אנקומען דער פריילעכער יום־טוב שמחת־תורה, וען מען וועט ארומגיין מיט הקפות אן מיט פענער אין די הענט. דערנאך וועלן אלע יינגלעך ארויפגיין אויף דער בימה צו האבן אן עליה מיט „כל הנערים". מיט דער צערעמאניע זיינען זי פלוצלינג געווארן דערוואקסענע.

אויך די גויים פון די ארומיקע דערפער זיינען געווען מארויטערעסירט אין די סוכות, וואס יעדן האבן געבויט. זיי האבן נאך פריער אויסגעפוגען אן געווארט, אז עס קומט אן דער יום־טוב, וען יעדן דארפן א געוויסן סארט גרינע צווייגן. האבן זיי אין די טעג אריינגעפידט אין שטעטל פורך אנגעלאדענע מיט גרינעס סכך צו פארקויפן אן זיי האבן גוט פארדינט פון דעם יידישן יום־טוב.

עדלעך איז די סוכה געווען פארטיק מיטן גאנצן קלאפערגעצייג. די וועגן זיינען געווען פארפעסטיקט, זי זאלן זיך נישט צעפאלן. דער דאך איז געווען באדעקט מיט גרינעס סכך. אויף דער ערד איז געווען אויסגעשאלן א פיינער, ריינער זאמד. די וועגן זיינען געווען באהאנגען מיט בלעזדיק־וויסע לייטלעכער אן באפוצט מיט פארשידענע בלומען אן פרוכטן. דאס אויספוצן די סוכה איז געווייזלעך געווען די ארבעט פון די יונגע מיידלעך, כאטש אליין האבן זיי נישט געקענט זיצן אין דער סוכה. זיי זיינען בלויז אריינגעקומען חשן וי דער טאטע האט געמאכט קידוש. די מיידלעך פלעגן אויסשניידן פון קאלידסע פאפיר פארשידענע פיגורן, אדער געמאכט „פאפיר־פענע קיינען" צו הענגן ארום די וועגט.

נישטא מער די דאזיקע שטעטלעך מיט זייערע קאלידסלע סוכות. דער בריינער נאציזשער שטיובל האט דאס אלץ צעטראטן מיט איבער זעכציק יאר צוריק.

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Coast to Coast

Teen scientist recognized for Alzheimer's research

By JULIA KOLLEK
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — Eva Vertes apologized for being a few minutes late to an interview shortly before school ended for the summer. "We were just dissecting a pig in biology class, and we had to clean up."

Science is playing a big role in the the energetic 17-year old's life, and she can be forgiven for being a little overwhelmed. Vertes won first place at the Intel International Science Fair in Kentucky last May, which brought her $8,000 (US) in prize money, a laptop computer and a full scholarship to the University of Louisville.

The excitement doesn't end there: this summer she went to England after being selected for a month-long program at Warwick University with a group of talented young scientists from all over the world.

Vertes' winning science fair project tested whether a substance she had been using in a previous laboratory experiment could be used to inhibit brain-cell death in Alzheimer's patients.

"I've always been interested in neurological science, and Alzheimer's is a very important and relevant disease to work on," she explains. "From a scientific viewpoint, it is very complex, and from a social viewpoint, so many people in our aging population are being affected by it – not only the sufferers, but their families and caregivers."

She put together a research proposal and presented it to Dr. Michael Rathbone, head neurologist at Hamilton's Henderson Hospital and a professor in McMaster University's department of medicine. Vertes had to prove that, despite still being in high school, she had a worthy hypothesis and was willing to work with established scientists in a research lab.

Rathbone was impressed with her proposal and agreed to let her work on it at his lab.

On top of her high school workload, Vertes had to periodically rush to the university lab to check on her experiments – often during school hours. And because she has been so busy, Vertes hasn't had time to take driving lessons, so she either biked the mile from her house to Rathbone's lab or got a ride from her father who works from home.

While she admits that her school work dropped a few marks (from her 94 average), Vertes is not worried.

"I was learning so much outside of school," she says.

In addition to winning a prize at the science fair, Vertes saw her project become the subject of international interest. She is currently spending her last year of high school in Italy to continue her research with a team of Rathbone's colleagues at Universita de Annunzio in Chieti, outside of Rome, which has a strong medical department and lab to match.

She won't be skipping her school work, though: she is completing that – and her SAT tests – by correspondence during the year so that she can go to university next year. (She says she may not accept the University of Louisville scholarship, since she has her sights set on Stanford University in California.)

Eva Vertes

While understandably excited at how her life has changed in such a short time, Vertes has been most affected by the media attention. She has been interviewed by the national newspapers and CTV and was featured on a recent front cover of *Maclean's* magazine as part of a feature on 25 young Canadian leaders of tomorrow.

She has also appeared on a recent Global Television program about health.

Vertes speaks fondly of her family, to whom she is grateful for their encouragement and inspiration.

Her father Izzy is an architect and her mother Beata a real estate agent with a background in architecture.

But there has been only one other scientist in the family – Vertes' grandmother, after whom she is named.

"My grandmother was a chemist," she explains. "She was born in Hungary, and was a teenager during the Holocaust. At the age of 13, she was supposed to be deported to a death camp, and no one knows for sure what happened – whether the train driver was bribed, or if the rail was set in the wrong direction – but instead of Auschwitz, my grandmother went to a work camp, which she survived.

"Against all odds I'm here because of her."

Vertes identifies with her family hero, whom she resembles. "We have a photo of her as a child, and I looked just like she did at the same age."

Vertes' grandmother emigrated to Canada after the war, and went to work as a chemist and researcher at the Banting and Best Institute in Toronto.

"She knew Banting [who discovered insulin], and she worked with him in the same lab," Vertes says proudly.

Sadly, Vertes never met her family hero: her grandmother died of cancer eight years before Vertes was born. But her grandfather, a retired engineer, still lives in Toronto and has always been very encouraging of his granddaughter.

"He tells all his Hungarian friends about me," she laughs.

With her interest in neurological science strengthened by her project, Vertes' goal is to be a neurosurgeon or neurologist.

"And I still want to continue research," she adds.

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David Frum kicks off Vancouver CJA campaign

By CARLA S. SHORE
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — U.S. President George W. Bush is a strong friend of Israel who understands that rewarding terror is wrong, a former insider in the Bush administration told the kickoff to the annual Combined Jewish Appeal (CJA) campaign here.

"[Bush] knows that you don't give the Palestinians a better deal now than was offered before the terror campaign began," said David Frum, a Canadian who has worked as a journalist and conservative political commentator in the United States since the late 1980s and served as a speechwriter for Bush from January 2001 to February 2002.

"Terror in the Middle East is a political tactic. Bush knows that you need to show these leaders that terrorism doesn't work to achieve their means, and if they don't see it, then we must remove their governments."

Frum was keynote speaker at the CJA event, held at Schara Tzedeck Synagogue the evening of Sept. 10.

The son of the late CBC journalist Barbara Frum began his talk by saluting the audience for showing courage in coming to a synagogue the night before the anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. Speaking for nearly an hour, he offered an insider's knowledge of the war on terrorism from both a Jewish and a Canadian point of view.

"This [war on terrorism] is a new kind of war, but a real war all the same," Frum said. "This war tests not just fortitude and the ability to sacrifice, but also tests our moral courage."

The evening began with campaign co-chairs Bette-Jane Israels and Mitchell Gropper paying tribute to the campaign's many volunteers. A special commendation was given to Gordon Diamond and Louis Eisman, who headed last spring's Israel Now campaign, which surpassed its goal and raised $2.2 million to support Israeli terror victims.

The 2002 CJA Campaign hopes to raise $4.5 million, about 10 per cent more than last year. Israels said the increase is needed to cover the cost of inflation and recent cutbacks in provincial funding for social services. CJA funds Jewish community services in Greater Vancouver and services for Jews around the world.

Frum, who is working on a book about his time in the White House, said Bush believes the actions against terrorism in Afghanistan, the West Bank and Gaza, Iraq and Iran are all related.

"He is not moving on to a new front with Iraq," Frum said. Rather, in his threats to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Bush is continuing his war on terrorism in order to show people in the Middle East that terror will not get them what they want.

"Bush is a friend of Israel deserving of support," he said emphatically. Saying Jews need to start seeing friends in new places, Frum cited a poll that found Christian Republicans support Israel's stance against the Palestinians by a large majority.

After his speech, Frum answered questions from the audience, notably about Canada's role in the current Mideast situation.

Discussing the violent protest that greeted former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu at Concordia University the day before, Frum said Canadian leaders have not supported Israel to the extent that Bush has, and he suggested that Canadian Jews should rethink which political parties they back.

"This Canadian government is the most hostile to Israel that we've had since the 1950s," he said. "Yet their support in the Jewish community is unshaken."

The last question of the night came from a woman who expressed disagreement with America's "violent response to violence." In obvious agreement with Frum, the crowd twice booed her. In response to her comments, Frum asked: "What would the alternative be? responding with terror?"

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Make up your own table of classmates

Holiday Food Ideas

Try squash to accompany holiday meals

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

Acorn squash is a good accompaniment to a holiday meal. Squash should be big, usually the bigger the better. It should be very dry, hard, difficult to cut and heavy for its size. Darker skin on the outside is good, and the darker it is on the inside, the sweeter it will be.

While cutting a squash might seem like more trouble than it's worth it's easier than you might think. The first thing to do is to get a big knife (I like a serrated one). You then cut the squash in half (lengthwise), scoop out the seeds (like a pumpkin) and place the open side down on a baking pan.

You can also use a small hand saw (no kidding) or a commercial pumpkin carver (yes there is such an item) or just poke some holes in the squash and bake it whole for about 20 to 30 minutes. Then take it out, cut the squash in half, scoop out the seeds, cut it into smaller pieces and continue baking. The best method for cooking your squash is to bake it in the oven at 375 to 400 degrees for 30 to 40 minutes, depending on how big it is and how much squash you have. You can always freeze any leftover cooked squash for use at another time.

SQUASH AND PASTA SOUP

8 oz. small pasta shells uncooked
2 medium acorn squash (about 1½ lb. each), split, peeled, seeded and quartered
2 tbsp. margarine
1 large onion, chopped
¼ tsp. ground mace or nutmeg
½ tsp. ground ginger
½ tsp. cinnamon
1 cup grated carrot
1½ tsp. brown sugar
6 cups chicken or vegetable broth

Cook squash in one inch of water in covered saucepan for 15 minutes, or until tender. Drain and cool. Mash the squash and add the margarine, onion, carrots, sugar, mace, ginger and cinnamon. Cover and simmer gently for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cook until vegetables are tender. At this point, place some of the vegetable mixture in a blender or food processor and then, using 3 cups of the broth puree the soup (in several batches).

Return the pureed soup to the pot and add remaining three cups of broth. Bring the soup to a boil and add pasta. Cook, stirring occasionally, for 10 minutes, or until pasta is done. Serve hot.

Note: If soup is too thick you can thin it with additional chicken broth. Serves 4 to 6.

ACORN SQUASH WITH BEANS AND SAGE

1 tbsp. olive oil
2 large onions cut into ¼-inch dice
1 carrot, cut into ¼-inch dice
2 garlic cloves, crushed with garlic press
1 can (15 to 19 oz.) white kidney beans, rinsed and drained
¾ cup vegetable broth
¼ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. coarsely ground black pepper
3 tsp. chopped fresh sage leaves
2 small acorn squash (about 12 oz. each)
1 medium tomato, cut into ¼-inch dice
fresh sage sprigs for garnish
grated Parmesan cheese (optional, see note)

In a large non-stick skillet, heat the oil over medium heat until it's hot. Add the onion, carrot and garlic, and cook for 15 minutes or until vegetables are tender and golden, stirring occasionally. Add the beans, broth, salt, pepper, and 2 tsp. chopped sage; heat to boiling then reduce heat and cover skillet and keep warm. Meanwhile, cut each squash lengthwise in half and remove seeds and strings. Place squash halves in a 3-quart microwave-safe baking dish.

Cover and cook in microwave oven on High 6 to 8 minutes or until squash is fork-tender (you can also cook the squash in the oven if you prefer). Place squash halves, cut side up, on platter.

Fill each half with one-fourth of bean mixture; sprinkle with diced tomato and remaining 1 teaspoon chopped sage. Garnish with sage sprigs. Serves 4.

Note: For a dairy option you can sprinkle grated Parmesan cheese over the top just before you serve the squash.

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Alliance Atlantis exec defends Hitler mini-series

Continued from page 1

"By introducing [Hitler] through a new, younger look, it could make him a sympathetic character."

Kershaw, in the forward to his book, acknowledged that a biographical approach demands "a level of empathy with the subject that can easily slide over into sympathy, perhaps even hidden or partial admiration."

Fritz Stern, a professor emeritus of history at Columbia University, has observed: "It's an extraordinarily complicated subject. I wonder if it can be done so as to take account of the indispensable context or even to approximate even distantly its historical complexity."

And Michael Berenbaum, an American Holocaust scholar, has said that CBS is taking "a monumental gamble."

As he put it: "If the series shows us Hitler's humanity and makes him into a sympathetic character, it's a total outrage."

Sussman, who essentially conceived the series, explained that Alliance Atlantis would not have proceeded with it had it not been based on Kershaw's comprehensive biography.

"Kershaw is recognized as the mind, the authority, on the topic."

Peter Sussman

The series, he promised, will not depict Hitler in a sympathetic light.

"Of course not! The man was a f----r, but in the series he's not going to have fangs. That would be a mistake. Evil doesn't come with labels. Hitler was a human. He was not a reptile. It would be a mistake to keep that from the world."

Sussman, born and raised in a Conservative Jewish home in Toronto, said the series will portray Hitler's ascendancy within the context of a society crushed by Germany's ignominious defeat in World War I.

"Germany was ripe for this evil, Nazism, to be manifested. Deep-rooted anti-Semitism was bubbling under the surface."

He added, "Audiences should see why Hitler fooled a country."

Despite the controversy surrounding the series, Sussman noted, CBS is "very committed" to it.

"This is a very timely subject about how bad guys get into power, and how it affects the rest of the world," explained CBS president Leslie Moonves.

Sussman disclosed that a colleague broached the concept of a mini-series on Hitler.

"The actual word came out of someone else's mouth, but I jumped on the idea. I have always had an interest in, but not an obsession or fascination with, Hitler, one of the biggest motherf-----s of all time."

Sussman said the project interested Alliance Atlantis because of its longtime involvement with Jewish content subjects.

Citing several examples, he mentioned such mini-series as *Nuremberg* and *Haven* and the feature film *Sunshine*, all of which focused on the Holocaust.

Alliance Atlantic also made *The Quarrel*, a feature film based on a story by Yiddish novelist Chaim Grade.

Sussman said that two scripts for *Hitler* have been written.

The first draft laid out the basic chronology, while the second added texture and perspective.

"Hitler hasn't been cast, but we have a short list of actors."

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PA, IDF meet over Ramallah standoff

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Palestinian Authority (PA) cabinet minister Saeb Erekat met Monday with Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Brig-Gen. Eival Giladi about the standoff at PA President Yasser Arafat's besieged Ramallah compound, but Palestinians said they had no intention of turning over lists of the men holed up inside.

Conceding that the Bush administration is "certainly voicing concern" to Israel over the possibility that the IDF operation at Arafat's headquarters could hamper the administration's groundwork for an attack on Iraq, a senior aide to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday the siege at the battered Muqata compound will "unequivocally" continue until several dozen wanted Palestinians inside the compound surrender.

Meanwhile, elsewhere in Ramallah, Arafat deputy Abu Mazen met Fatah official Nabil Amr and other senior Palestinian officials, Israel Radio reported, calling the meeting "in effect, the rise of an alternative Palestinian leadership to Yasser Arafat, although none of the participants would acknowledge this."

> *'The rise of an alternative Palestinian leadership to Yasser Arafat'*

It quoted Palestinian sources as saying the meetings were held with Israel's knowledge and consent. Although couched as talks on strengthening the Palestinian legislature, they focused on naming Abu Mazen as prime minister to share power with Arafat.

But the report also quoted other Palestinians as saying the group had no constituency and had aroused resentment within Fatah and the Palestinian leadership.

The Sharon aide, cabinet secretary Gideon Sa'ar, also said that Arafat could be allowed to leave his compound at once and move within the territories if the men were turned over. A number of Israeli cabinet ministers have demanded that if Arafat left the complex, he should be deported to a location outside the West Bank and Gaza.

U.S. officials declined to comment on a *Ha'aretz* report that the IDF halted the demolition of buildings inside the compound after U.S. pressure to calm the situation. U.S. President George W. Bush ignored a reporter's question about the account.

Israeli media said Monday that U.S. Ambassador to Israel Daniel Kurtzer had delivered a message about the siege to Sharon while he was a weekend guest at a sukkah on Sharon's Negev farm.

The reports quoted the message as saying that Operation Matter of Time, in which IDF bulldozers destroyed nearly all of Arafat's compound except for an area containing Arafat and the men, could disrupt U.S. efforts to build support for an attack on Iraq.

Asked about the sukkah conversation, Sa'ar told Army Radio that while he could not reveal details, he said "the Americans are certainly voicing concern" about possible consequences on the administration's groundwork for an attack on Iraq. "But if someone defined this as American pressure applied to Israel, this is simply not true."

By contrast, Sa'ar said, "During Operation Defensive Shield, when President Bush took the position that we must stop the operation, he said, with his own voice, stop the activity and get out of the [Palestinian] cities immediately.

"The official American announcements from the White House speak for themselves. They understand Israel's right to self-defence. They understand that the operations comes as a result of a terror offensive against Israel," he said.

"We have certainly not ended the operation in the sense we are still demanding that the wanted men barricaded within the compound be handed over."

Sa'ar confirmed that contacts were underway between the sides about a possible solution. "One of the reasons that Arafat is on the premises and doesn't come out is that he is defending the wanted men with his own body. Incidentally, he can come out of there at any moment. Not just at the end of the operation, he can also come out now."

Sa'ar said if Arafat left the compound, "the government would have to decide whether to allow him to return."

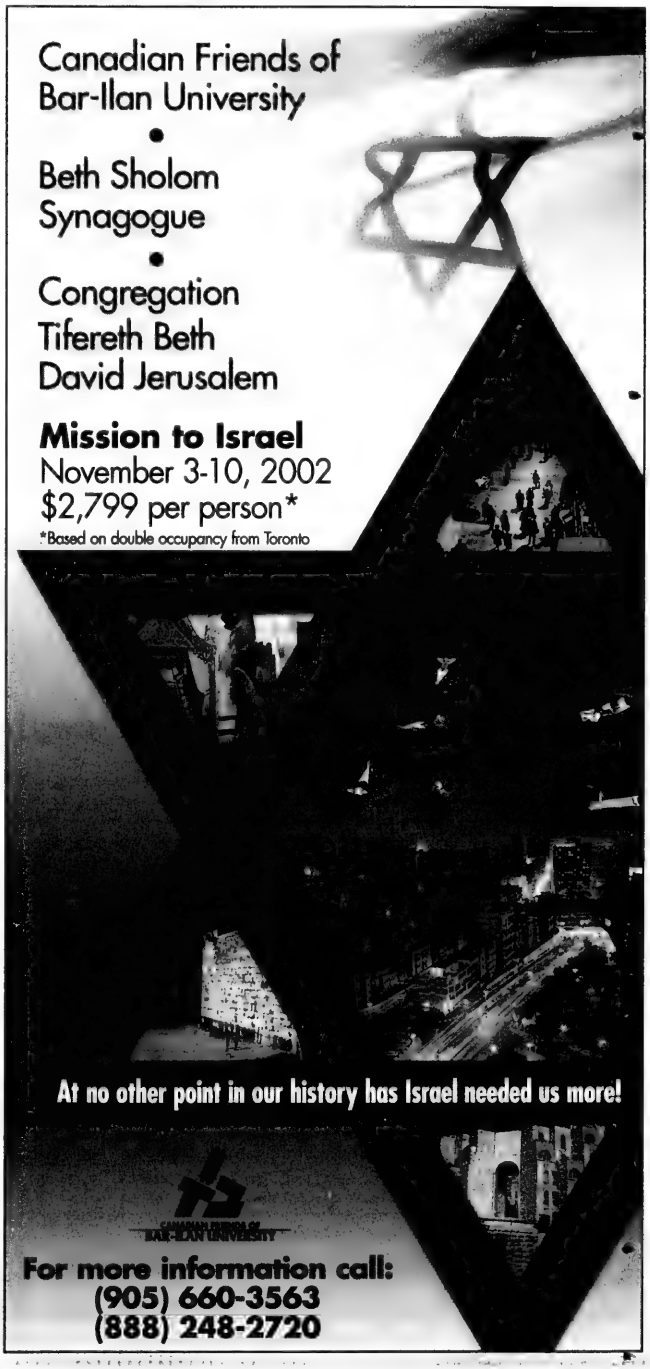
He indicated it would be unlikely that the cabinet would vote to allow Arafat to return, but "there is also the possibility of his going out into the area of the territories. He would not have to leave the borders of the state."

Meanwhile, a delegation of senior IDF officers headed to Washington earlier this week to brief the CIA on a Palestinian terror cell discovered in Israel that had undergone terrorist training at military camps in Iraq.

The cell's three members were sent to Israel to gather information but might have also had orders to carry out attacks. They were arrested after trying to return to the West Bank from Iraq. They belong to the Arab Liberation Front, a small group that receives orders from Iraq.

About one year ago, another Arab Liberation Front cell operating out of Ramallah was captured after planning an attack on Ben-Gurion International Airport. It seems the current group was also planning an attack on the airport.

Security sources say this is not the first time Iraq has been linked to Palestinian terror. In the past, Iraq has been known to be involved in it, in addition to funneling funds and equipment to Palestinian terror groups.



Al Qaeda tested chemical weapons

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

A group of Al Qaeda activists conducted experiments with chemical weapons a few months ago in Kurdish northern Iraq, in an area controlled de facto by an extremist Islamic group known as Ansar al Islam.

It is doubtful that Saddam Hussein knew in advance about the experiments, but due to Ansar al Islam's close ties with conservative elements in Iran, Iraqi intelligence is making special efforts to penetrate the organization. While Iraqi agents may not have known of the experiments before they took place, they most certainly knew after the fact.

Commentary

Halbaja is the Kurdish town where Saddam Hussein's troops used chemical weapons to kill thousands because he believed they were helping Iran during the war between the two countries in the 1980s. It is in the same area where Ansar al Islam maintains de facto control.

It is not known if the experiments a few months ago included tests on living subjects, human or animal. Until the end of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, Al Qaeda experimented with chemical weapons in Afghanistan. The U.S. assault, however, scattered its experts, who were forced to find refuge in various places.

In addition to the question of where to conduct their experiments, the organization now faces the problem of where to store chemicals. Al Qaeda's effort to acquire chemical weapons is part of its plan to carry out surprise attacks on several targets and cause as many casualties as possible.

Al Qaeda perceives Iraq as a convenient place to work, because Saddam's government is not in full control of the entire country. Ansar al Islam has taken control of some sections of the northern area, defined as Kurdish.

Ansar al Islam is known to have close ties with Al Qaeda, as well as with the Iranians, who agreed to provide shelter to Al Qaeda operatives, including those responsible for the terrorist attack on the synagogue in Jerba, Tunisia, last April.

Meanwhile, Al Qaeda transferred chemical materials through Turkey, meant for use against American targets in Turkey or on their way to Chechnya to attack Russian targets.

Notice of Special General Meeting
Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel

Take notice that the **Special General Meeting of CANADIAN MAGEN DAVID ADOM FOR ISRAEL** will be held on **Monday, October 7, 2002, 6:00 p.m. at CMDA Headquarters, 6900 Decarie Blvd., Suite 218, Montreal, Quebec.**

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate for election as the Directors:

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Arnold Rosner, National President.

MIAs missing two years

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — When three Israel Defence Forces soldiers – Omar Suwad, Adi Avitan and Benny Avraham – and businessman Elhanan Tannenbaum were kidnapped by the Hezbollah two years ago, the families of the Lebanese being held in Israel hoped that their loved ones would be exchanged for the Israeli captives.

But as there has been no sign of progress, the families have taken steps to revive their demand that their family members be returned home. Last week, some of the families held a protest rally, claiming that the government of Lebanon has been derelict in its efforts to return the prisoners.

"We raised our voices all the time, but now we are doing it with extra fervour because we can wait no longer," said Mohammed Safa, head of the Monitoring Committee for Support on the Issue of the Lebanese Prisoners in Israeli Prisons, in a telephone conversation from Beirut last Friday.

About a dozen Lebanese prisoners are being held in Israel, the committee estimates.

"In Israel they declared their three soldiers dead, and no one talks about the matter. The government of Lebanon is also not doing anything for the release of the Lebanese," Safa said.

Safa maintains that Israel must release the Lebanese prisoners it is holding, without any connection to the Israelis kidnapped by the Hezbollah, because its action contravenes the Geneva Conventions.

He has not criticized the Hezbollah's handling of the negotiations for the release of the prisoners, but reserved his criticism for the governments of Israel and Lebanon.

Safa said Lebanese Foreign Minister Mahmud Hamoud raised only the issue of the waters of the Wazzani during a meeting last week with United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan in New York, and did not speak of the prisoners.

The families of the Lebanese prisoners decided to intensify their protests, Safa said, after they discovered that two years ago, Israel had agreed to have the Red Cross organize visits for family members to the prisoners in Israel, as a humanitarian gesture.

Ha'aretz has learned from informed sources that Israel agreed to visits by relatives of the Lebanese prisoners prior to the kidnapping of the three soldiers and Tannenbaum in October 2000. However, the sources said, Israel's offer was turned down by Salim Hoss, the Lebanese prime minister at the time.

According to the monitoring committee, its independent stance on the issue of the prisoners has resulted in a boycott on the part of the Lebanese press and a cut in funding from the government.

Yasmin and her mother in the hospital after the transplant [Israel Sun photo]

Terror victim donates kidney

By SHOSHANA KORDOVA
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The family of Scottish terror victim Yoni Jesner is "happy and delighted" that one of Yoni's kidneys went to Yasmin Abu Ramila, an eight-year-old Arab girl, Ari Jesner, Yoni's eldest brother, said on behalf of the family earlier this week.

"The principle of saving a life is one of the greatest principles and values of Judaism and one of the greatest principles and values on which the State of Israel is based," said Ari Jesner, 26, at a press conference in Jerusalem.

"The fact that in this instance it was an Israeli Arab girl from east Jerusalem is of no consequence. Race, religion, culture, creed is not what's important here."

He added that the family's role extends only to deciding to donate the organs and that they had no role in deciding who receives them. Yoni's second kidney and pancreas went to a 33-year-old diabetic man, his liver went to a 54-year-old man, and both his corneas were donated as well. Approximately 1,000 Israelis are waiting for organ donations.

The decision to donate also reflects the life plans that last Thursday's suicide bus bombing in Tel Aviv prevented Yoni from fulfilling.

Yoni, who was spending a second year of study at Yeshivat Har Etzion in Gush Etzion, was planning to study medicine in London next year and then practise as a doctor in Israel, where "Arab and Jewish doctors work side by side, and nobody chooses the patients which they take care of," Ari Jesner said.

Sept. 16

• The Antiquities Authority donated some 150 books on Israeli archeology to the Archaeological Institute in Prague. The donation follows recent flooding that destroyed thousands of volumes at the institute.

Sept. 17

• The Israel Defence Forces raided Khan Yunis in Gaza, arrested 23 terror suspects, and destroyed nine workshops used to manufacture mortars and rockets. The army has been conducting almost nightly raids in Gaza searching for terrorists and munitions factories.

Sept. 18

• A police officer was killed in northern Israel and two others injured when they prevented a suicide bomber from striking.

• An Israeli, David Buchbut, 67, was killed and another wounded when Palestinians ambushed them near Ma'aleh Adumim.

Sept. 19

• Six people were killed and scores more injured when a suicide bomber attacked in the heart of downtown Tel Aviv. In response, the Cabinet decided to isolate Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat once again. Late Thursday and early Friday tanks surrounded the Ramallah compound.

Sept. 20

• A priceless 13th-century Bible was donated to Israel by an anonymous American benefactor. The book, written in Spain, is elaborately illuminated, similar to a handful of known Bibles from the same era also written in Spain's Castille province. Inside the book was a bill of sale for the Bible dated Tevet 10, 5048, which is Dec. 28, 1287 on the Gregorian calendar. According to the bill of sale, the transaction took place in Portugal.

Files from JTA & Ha'aretz

Israel is still on top of something

By AMNON RUBINSTEIN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Comment

Newborns in Israel and Sweden are likely to live to the age of 60, according to the latest report on the UN human development index for 2000.

In both countries, just eight percent of people born will fail to make it to 60, compared to 12.8 per cent in the United States, the report says.

This survey ranks the countries of the world not only by economic production but also using data about health, education and society.

In the report, Israel is ranked in 22nd place – after Spain and before Hong Kong and Greece. By comparison Saudi Arabia is number 71.

But this ranking of Israel does not reflect all the data. The life expectancy figure is very significant. The place of Sweden is not surprising – it is a wealthy, established state with few immigrants and many welfare services.

But what is Israel, which is engaged in a constant war and where most of the inhabitants have come from miserable poverty, doing ranked at the top of the world?

In Israel, life expectancy at the time of birth is one of the highest in the world, and only a few countries are ahead of it.

Life expectancy is higher in Israel, afflicted as it is by terror and traffic accidents, than in Norway, the United States, Iceland, Finland, Britain, Denmark, Germany, Ireland and New Zealand.

The life expectancy for men in Israel is the third highest in the world after Japan and Iceland. Because life expectancy is a measure both of standard of living and health services, this finding is important.

Israel also excels on other measures. The rate of investment in research and development is 3.7 per cent of the GNP – the highest in the world. The proportion of economic activity by women compared to men is not as high as it is in the Scandinavian countries – the model of accelerated human development. But it is higher than in Switzerland, Austria, Ireland, Italy, Spain and the Benelux countries.

The number of cellular telephone subscribers was the 10th highest in the world in 2000, and today it is undoubtedly higher.

In several comparisons, Israel lags behind. On the Gini index of income inequality, Israel is in second place after the United States. In the gap between the highest decile and the lowest, it is in fourth place, after the United States, Australia and Britain – all of them, of course, before taxation and transfer payments.

Israel's educational achievements are impressive, but they are low considering the national investment in education, which is one of the highest in the world. (The survey measures only the proportion of students at the various educational stages).

The fertility rate for women is very high – the highest among the developed countries – and is influenced apparently by the birthrate in the haredi and religious Jewish sector and the Arab Muslim sector.

This is good or bad, depending on the world view of the observer. Its population is the youngest of all the industrialized countries, and this is clearly good.

Another report also puts us in a good spot – the corruption report of Transparency International has Israel in 16th place, above Ireland, Germany, Japan, Spain, France, Belgium and Italy.

This report is based on internal surveys in various countries performed by business people, academics and risk analysts. It also includes the differences between the most positive surveys and the worst of them.

In the worst of the surveys, Israel moves way up above Britain, Norway and Austria. Optimism expands and contracts alternately on reading these figures. It expands because Israel is clearly part of the advanced and progressive world; it contracts because you know that Israel's potential is greater and we could be in the top five or 10.

Israel has come as far as it has with a huge defence budget, a low rate of participation in the work force, and an enormous government budget. So what could it have achieved if it had made agreements with its neighbours with a resulting easing of the defence burden?

What if the proportion of adults in the work force here were the same as in developed western countries, and if the figure for public spending was not 51 per cent but 35 percent of GNP – the average in those countries? If this were the case, only the sky would be the limit.

Shin Bet foils poison plan

BY AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Shin Bet security service recently foiled a plan by some Gazan Islamic Jihad activists to poison the drinking water at one of Jerusalem's hospitals, a charge sheet filed at the Erez Junction military court reveals.

The poisoner allegedly obtained an Israeli pass to enter the country for a medical examination at the hospital with the unwitting help of an Israeli Arab Knesset member.

According to the charge sheet, Iyad Hassan Mohammed Salame, 18, from the Bureij refugee camp in Gaza, had been involved in various attempted terror activities during the last two years. A few weeks before his arrest, he joined Islamic Jihad, whereupon he was immediately drafted to help with the poisoning mission by someone identified only as "Abu Mohammed" on the charge sheet.

The plan called for Salame to go to Jerusalem for treatment at the hospital's ophthalmology department. He was then supposed to drop the poison, made from a combination of baking powder and an unnamed liquid poison, into the hospital's drinking water reservoirs. In return, he would be paid NIS 300.

According to the charge sheet, Hadash MK Issam Makhoul helped Salame get the pass for his medical treatment. But the army says the MK acted out of humanitarian motives, having no idea of the alleged poisoning plot.

When Salame went to pick up the pass, the Shin Bet arrested him, foiling the plan.

This is not the first time Palestinian terror groups have apparently targeted a hospital: Last week, *Ha'aretz* reported that a Hamas cell from Jenin planned a suicide bombing at Sheba Medical Center in Tel Hashomer. The bombers were driven to the Green Line, allegedly by a Jenin doctor, but the plan was aborted when the cell encountered a heavy military presence in the area.

A security source said that Palestinian terrorist groups are also showing increasing interest in the use of chemicals and poisons in their attacks. He cited the Cafe Rimon affair, in which three Arabs from East Jerusalem were arrested for plotting to poison the food in the popular Jerusalem restaurant.

But other security sources said the Rimon affair has been blown out of proportion. As a result of the extensive media reports, they added, Israeli restaurant owners are now afraid to hire Israeli Arabs – ignoring the fact that the Rimon workers were East Jerusalem residents, who are not Israeli citizens, rather than Israeli Arabs.

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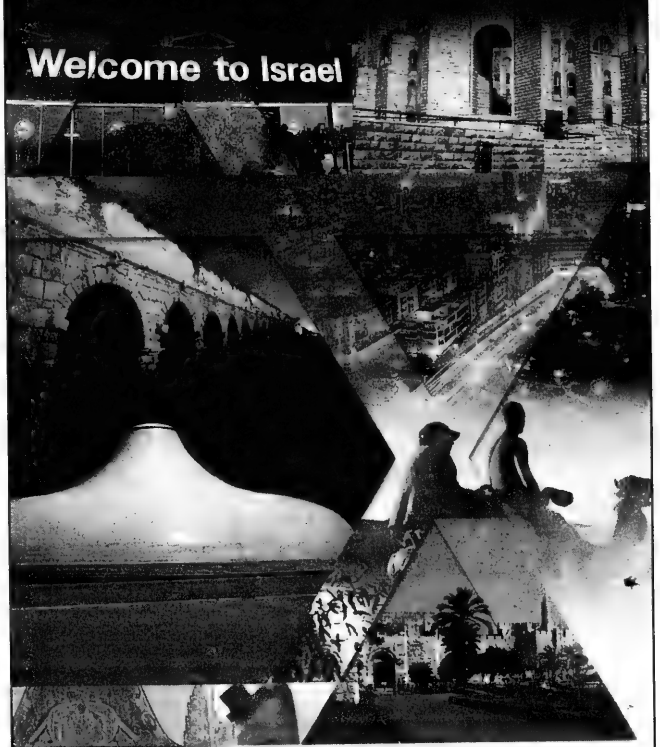

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Jake Epstein plays Joey's stepson on Degrassi

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

This September, actor Jake Epstein is enrolled in two high schools – Earl Haig Secondary School in North York and television's Degrassi (Community School).

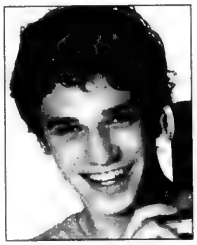
Jake joins the cast of CTV's *Degrassi: The Next Generation* when its second season begins Sept. 29. He plays student Craig Manning, the stepson of Joey Jeremiah (Pat Mastroianni), a graduate from the original *Degrassi* show.

Craig's charm hides a dark inner life that includes his mother's death and abuse at the hands of his father. By comparison, Jake, 15, lives a normal life with his family. His father, Ian, is a lawyer; his mother is writer Kathy Kacer; and his older sister Gabi is a student and singer.

"Craig has an abusive father that has messed him up a little in the head," Jake says. "[He] is trying to fit in and find a happy life. I end up living with my stepfather Joey Jeremiah.

"My character changes as the shows go on," he says. "As he tries to fit in, he gets himself into a bit of trouble."

The teen actor made his professional debut in 1998 in Soulpepper's production of *Our Town* at the Royal Alex Theatre and starred as the Artful Dodger in Cameron MacIntosh's production of *Oliver* at the Princess of Wales Theatre the next year.



Jake Epstein

On the small screen, Jake played Chris in *Real Kids Real Adventures* in 1999 and Cam in *The Zack Files* on YTV in 2000 (the show was on air for two seasons). Two years ago, he acted in the Disney movies *Mom's Got a Date with a Vampire* and *Quints*, which earned him a Young Artist Award nomination.

This past summer, Jake took a break from acting and went to Camp Gesher, where he played soccer and performed in a student play called *Lip to Lip*. The play won an award for best play in the Toronto District at the Sears Theatre Festival. Jake played the son of a lesbian.

Jake, who took the break from acting to concentrate on his studies – much to the delight of his mother – says the opportunity to play Craig on *Degrassi* changed his mind.

"I was thinking of not acting anymore, but *Degrassi* changed all that. When the audition came up, I was excited. Acting really becomes your life and if it is going to become your life, you have to really want to be happy with it," Jake says.

Initially, Jake found joining the already close-knit ensemble cast of the weekly ½ hour series intimidating.

"At the beginning, it was threatening," he says. "There were all these kids that had been there for a year and they are all best of friends. Everyone is hugging and kissing each other and it felt awkward."

But Jake soon felt comfortable on set with his peers.

"The kids are really nice; I now feel loved," he jokes. "It is all good fun on the set, especially working with Pat Mastroianni. He's one of the coolest people I know – although I wouldn't say that in front of him. He really helped me to feel part of the cast."

Jake says, "Craig is a good character to play. He's an artistic person, which I can relate to. He's a photographer – in real life I don't take pictures, but I'm learning."

The first episode of the second season of *Degrassi: The Next Generation* airs on CTV, Sept. 29 at 7 p.m. EDT.

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Shakespeare tragedy given Israeli touch

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Antony Nesling says he changed the setting of William Shakespeare's classic tragedy *King Lear* to the Yom Kippur War of 1973 because current events in Israel are "today's biggest tragedy."

Nesling's play *Lear, King of Israel*, which he wrote, directed and produced on a meagre budget, was presented late last month at the Leah Posluns Theatre at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre for three performances.

The cast of 14 were all amateur actors, some of whom had never appeared onstage before. Nesling, a non-Jewish third year York University theatre student, plays the role of King Lear.

The production's strong opening carries the audience into the tragedy. On a sparsely decorated stage of chairs depicting a British café in Tel Aviv on the eve of the Yom Kippur War, a radio plays John Lennon's *Give Peace a Chance*. A newscaster interrupts the program to announce a joint attack on Israel by Egypt and Syria. The announcement is quickly followed by a loud blast, and the sabras fall to their deaths as the café is destroyed.

The bodies of the dead are summoned by the Fool, who sets the scene for the enactment of the tragedy of *King Lear* – the many betrayals and the destruction of all that gave meaning to the protagonist's life.

The Fool, played brilliantly by Anna Cantalini, weaves the plot of the play within the play. As the advisor to the king and the narrator, her fluid movements, body language and wisdom and wit contrast with Nesling's powerful portrayal of King Lear's devastation and madness.

Linking Elizabethan society to the events in the Middle East takes great imagination – the Dukes of Albany and Cornwall are now the Dukes of Zion and Gaza, the king of France is the king of Egypt, the Earl of Gloucester is the Earl of the Negev and his sons are Ariel and Arron and Cordelia's long-suffering mother is Hebron – and although the complexity of the revised plot requires explanation early in the performance, Nesling's debut production is bold and shows much promise. The actors, despite their inexperience, are convincing.

Produced by the Toronto Art Theatre, a co-operative of students in their final years of the theatre program at York University. Proceeds from the Leah Posluns performances were donated to Canadian Magen David Adom.

A buggy ride is the best way to tour Amish country

A buggy ride takes visitors to various sites in the community through four different routes throughout Lancaster, Pa. [Kathryn Kates photo]

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

LANCASTER, Pa. — It might be surprising to learn that the fourth oldest Jewish community in North America, which dates back to 1740, is in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch Country in Lancaster County in Southeastern Pennsylvania – home to the oldest population of Old Order Amish on the continent.

The rich historical legacy of Lancaster's Reform Congregation Shaarai Shomayim dates back to the beginnings of the colonial town. A Jewish shopkeeper settled in Lancaster in 1740 and held services in his home, acquired two Torahs and established a cemetery, which is now owned by the congregation. Today it is the fourth oldest Jewish burial ground in the United States.

The Amish community, which was depicted in the film *Witness* starring Harrison Ford, is a Protestant religious group that was founded by Swiss Mennonite bishop Jacob Ammann, who broke away from the Mennonites in 1693 because he felt they weren't strict enough. In the early 1700s, the Amish began leaving Europe to seek religious freedom. Granted land in Pennsylvania by English Quaker William Penn, the community grew. Today, Lancaster County has 22,000 Amish people.

These early settlers, known as Pennsylvania Dutch, are not Dutch at all but Pennsylvania Deutsche (German). The Amish, a rural people whose skill in farming is well-known, speak High German. They are also known, along with the Mennonites, as "the plain people."

One of the best ways to view how they live is to hire a Mennonite guide from the Mennonite Information Center. The guide can accompany you in your vehicle for an insider's view of the Amish farms that are maintained without the use of electricity.

Another way to experience the Amish community first-hand is through Aaron and Jessica's Buggy Rides (http://www.amishbuggyrides.com/html/welcome.html). The company, operated by a family that settled in the region in 1757, takes visitors to various sites in the community through four different routes. One of the drivers, Ted Gilmer, is a Beachy Amish, a more liberal Amish sect that has adopted Mennonite ways.

Sights to see in Lancaster include the Heritage Center Museum, the Fulton Opera House – the oldest continuously operating theatre in the United States and the Central Market, the country's oldest continuously operating farmer's market.

Families will enjoy the theme park Dutch Wonderland and the interactive Discover Lancaster County Museum next door.

There is also good shopping in Lancaster County, especially if you're looking for crafts, antiques and furniture such as handmade, roll-top desks. In the Amish town of Intercourse (named for the number of interstate highways that connect there), you can shop at the 32 boutiques, galleries and gift shops of Kitchen Kettle Village.

The town of Strasburg is a train lover's paradise. Attractions include the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania, which showcases restored trains, the Choo Choo Barn-Traintown, U.S.A. – a miniature train village – and the Strasburg Rail Road, America's oldest short-line railroad where you can board a Victorian train for a leisurely ride.

On Sept. 27, 1777, during the American Revolution, the members of the Continental Congress, all with prices on their heads, fled the British forces who had captured Philadelphia. Their first session was held at Lancaster's Old Courthouse, which made Lancaster the capital for one day. The congressmen couldn't find lodging, so they were forced to leave town the next day for neighbouring York County.

If Lancaster is the plain people's county, then Reading and Berks County is where the fancy Pennsylvania Dutch, or Pennsylvania German as they prefer to be called, live. The city of Reading – which is pronounced Redding, a shock for those who have always mispronounced it while playing Monopoly – is the birthplace of outlet shopping malls. The VF Factory Outlet boasts 90 designer- and brand-named stores which are housed in old warehouses.

Unlike many newer neighbourhood outlet malls strewn across North America, the discounts here are very substantial. This "outlet city" has become so popular as a women's getaway that "It's A Girl Thing" packages have been created that include pampering at spas such as the state-of-the-art Bell Tower Salon & Spa.

Also in the city is the Centre Park Historic District, a residential area with a park for picnics. The Reading Public Museum and Art Gallery offers a wide variety of fine arts and natural science exhibits. The Reading Phillies Stadium is a double-A baseball park with a twist – it has a swimming pool in the stands.

Along the lush Appalachian Trail you'll find Hex Barn Art. This German and Swiss folk art adorns a number of barns in the county. Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (www.hawkmountain.org) in Kempton is the world's first refuge for birds of prey.

Birdwatchers can take a relaxing walk on the mountaintop or opt to hike along a rocky trail.

If you "think green," then check out Berks County's Rodale Institute Experimental Farm, which grows organic goods. If you are interested in the grape, tours are available at Manatawny Creek Winery.

If you're looking for a place to stay, two romantic inns of note in Reading and Berks County are the historic Oley Valley Inn and the Inn at Glasbern.

For more information online, visit www.padutchcountry.com and www.readingberkspa.com.

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

NATHAN GARNICK TELLS STORIES FROM CHELM AT YIDDISHLAND CAFE

Let us Laugh, Let Us Sing is a Yiddishland Cafe evening in which **Nathan Garnick** presents Stories of the Wise Men of Chelm in Yiddish and English. The evening also features the Yiddish folksongs of **Yeva**, accompanied by **Nina Shapilsky** at the piano.

Workmen's Circle Hall, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Sunday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. Tickets $12, available at Israel's Judaica. Reservations 416-787-2081.

* * *

Japanese Singers for Israel: As part of its latest North American tour, the **Shinonome Choir** of Japan returns to Temple Sinai to present a unique program of Japanese music and dance, along with synagogue and Israeli music.

Tickets, $18 and $16, are available from the Temple office; proceeds to support victims of terror in Israel. 210 Wilson Ave. Sunday, Oct. 20, 8 p.m. 416-487-4161.

* * *

1920s Toronto Musical: Eli Lukawitz and **Sam Rosenthal**, co-artistic directors of Tribal Productions, have announced an ambitious fourth season headed by *Whiskey Serenade*, a musical about life in Toronto in the roaring '20s. The Lukawitz-directed play, whose libretto and music were penned by **Ralph Small** and **Mitchell Kitz**, tells "the true story of **Rocco Perri** and **Bessie Starkman**, the king and queen of the Canadian underworld."

Whiskey Serenade "proves without a doubt that love does indeed conquer all, including the law," a press release reports. Previews Nov. 6 and 7, runs Nov. 8 to 23.

The season also includes a revival of *The Wild Guys*, a Canadian comedy by **Rebecca Shaw** and **Andrew Wreggit**, and an adaptation of **George Orwell's** *1984* by Lukawitz and Rosenthal. Tribal Productions is the resident company of the Studio Theatre in the Toronto Centre for the Arts, North York. Single tickets, 416-870-8000. Subscriptions, 416-733-9388, ext. 6203.

* * *

Maimonides in the Spotlight: James Arthur Diamond, chair of Jewish Studies at the University of Waterloo and author of *Maimonides and the Hermeneutics of Concealment*, discusses his analysis of Maimonides's approach to scripture and midrash in his famous Guide for the Perplexed.

Israel's Judaica. 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Refreshments, no admission charge. Thursday, October 3, 7:30 p.m. 416-256-1010.

* * *

Jewish Film & TV Awards: Since the Jews supposedly invented Hollywood, it's no surprise that Los Angeles' second annual Jewish Image Awards in Film and Television takes place this week in tinseltown. Hosted by the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, the event honours industry professionals connected with outstanding presentations of the Jewish experience and portrayals of Jewish characters in film and television.

Jerry Offsay, programmer for Showtime Networks Inc., is slated to receive a lifetime achievement award, and HBO senior programmer **Sheila Nevins** is in line for a "woman of inspiration" award. Prizes are being awarded to honorees in eight categories, including excellence on a Jewish theme or issue for both a documentary and television film, and excellence in portrayals of both male and female Jewish characters. The venue is the Four Seasons Hotel in Beverley Hills.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• **Beethoven's** *Symphony No. 9* is the fare at a Toronto Philharmonia concert with special guest singers and the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir. $32-$47. Toronto Centre for the Arts, Sept. 26, 8 p.m.

• Alumnae Theatre Co. presents *Beautiful City*, a **George F. Walker** play last staged here 15 years ago. 70 Berkeley St. $15 or less. Sept. 27 to Oct. 12. 416-364-4170.

• *El Paso*, by **Michael Miller**, is a "funny, biting family saga" about the Afro-American dream. Factory Theatre's world premiere previews Sept. 28 to Oct. 3 and runs Oct. 4 to Oct. 27. 125 Bathurst St. at Adelaide. $10, $22, $30. 416-504-9971.

• An exhibition of works by British artist **Jonathan Monk** is on view at the Art Gallery of Ontario until Dec. 1.

• **Jerry Gray** of **The Travellers** presents his course Folk, Protest and Union Music at Ryerson's L.I.F.E. Institute. The eight-week course of history, personal recollections, recorded and live music covers the music genre from the Irish labourers of the mid-19th century, the Triangle Fire and the ILGW (International Ladies Garment Workers Union), the '30s unrest in mines and mills, AFL-CIO beginnings, the Spanish Civil War, **Woody Guthrie**, **Pete Seeger**, **Bob Dylan**, Kent State, right up to Live-Aid and Farm-Aid. For information, call 416-979-5000, ext. 6989.

•The subway is a metaphor for life. Where is it taking you? Who is sitting beside you and why ? What would you do if you knew?

Deja Vu Deja Vu presents: *Mind The Gap*, created by **Matt Austin Sadowski** with associate producer **Lawrence Milman**. Four intersecting short storiest that explore the twists and turns of the subway.

The Poor Alex Theatre (296 Brunswick Ave. Toronto) Sept. 27 to Sept. 29 at 8:00 pm. Tickets are $9 at door 40 minutes prior to performance. For more info call (416-732-7786).

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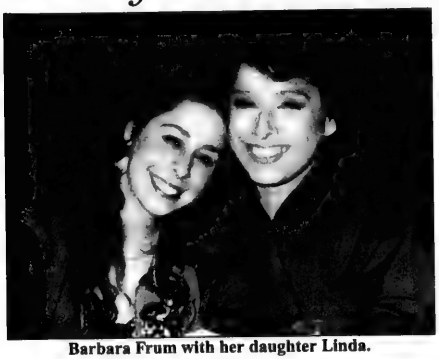
Arts & Travel

Barbara Frum examined on Life & Times documentary



Barbara Frum with her daughter Linda.

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Barbara Frum, the late broadcaster, was recently the subject of *Life & Times*, CBC TV's documentary series about distinguished Canadians.

Fifty four years old when she died of leukemia in 1992, Frum was a self-made woman who battled cancer with grace and courage.

She was born and raised in Niagara Falls, Ontario, the daughter of a prosperous merchant whose department store was a landmark in the region.

Barbara Rosberg valued knowledge and brought a skeptical sensibility to her surroundings.

She met her husband, Murray Frum – a budding dentist and subsequent property developer – at the University of Toronto. When she graduated, she settled down, in 1950s bourgeois style, as a housewife and mother.

Being restless and inquisitive, she turned to freelance journalism, writing stories on social issues for the *Toronto Star*.

This led Frum to the CBC and *As It Happens*, the current affairs radio program that would become immensely popular. Later, she hosted *The Journal*, CBC TV's flagship show.

Mark Starowicz, the producer of both shows and the man who originally hired her, recalls Frum's stellar contributions, as does Mary Lou Finlay, her co-host on *The Journal*.

But the liveliest and most poignant recollections come from her husband, her children – Linda and David – and June Callwood, her best friend and comforter.

A stubborn and persistent interviewer who could grate on the nerves, she was diagnosed with chronic leukemia in 1974, and given five years to live.

Despite the death sentence, Frum often worked 12 to 14 hour days, seemingly disregarding the disease gnawing away at her.

She found solace in her beautiful garden, a place of serene beauty that she viewed as her sanctuary.

In her last interview, with Mordecai Richler, Frum appeared to be ill and was not in top form. Afterward, Murray rushed her to hospital, and one month later, she was dead.

Directed by Alan Mendelsohn, *Life & Times of Barbara Frum* is an affecting portrait of a brave and intelligent woman whose untimely passing was a blow to Canadian journalism.

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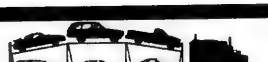
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Health & Lifestyles

Donating bone marrow 'like a new beginning'

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Evie Cowitz-Cohen had an opportunity few of us do – to try to save a life.

Last month, the 33-year-old rehabilitation counsellor became a bone marrow donor.

Bone marrow transplants are used for people with certain kinds of cancer, and also sometimes for those with immune deficiencies. Under anesthetic, a needle is inserted into the donor's hip, and about a litre of bone marrow is removed. It is then transferred to the ill patient.

As in all transfusions, the donor and the recipient must be genetically compatible. The best chance for a match is someone from the recipient's family. If this is not possible, then the best chance is someone from the same ethnic background.

Acknowledging that a bone marrow transplant is not necessarily a cure, Cowitz-Cohen said, "Even if I am not giving life, I can at least give hope."

She is not looking for either glory or praise by coming forward with her experience. Rather, she wants to encourage people to have a blood screening, and join the Unrelated Bone Marrow Donor Registry.

Her saga began when, moved by the story of Jay Feinberg, a young American man suffering from chronic myelogenic leukemia, she went to one of several mass screenings.

While she was not a match for Feinberg, who has since received his transplant and is doing well, she remained on the registry.

Earlier this summer, she received a call from the registry, saying she was at least a partial match for someone, and asking her to come for more extensive blood testing. Shortly afterward, she was told that she was a perfect match.

Cowitz-Cohen was "stunned. I felt good. Wow!"

She did not feel so enthusiastic just because she could help someone. Newly single, she saw the experience as "like a new lease on life for me – a new beginning."

Once the initial euphoria wore off, she said, concerns crept in. "They told me that I would feel some pain, and a lot of fatigue."

This didn't particularly bother her, except that she has to keep up with her five-year-old son, Tyler. Fortunately, she said, "I have a wonderful support network of family and friends."

As it happened, the support was badly needed, since the recipient needed more than the usual litre of marrow, which prolonged the surgery and left her more exhausted and uncomfortable than she had expected.

However, she has no regrets. Although she was aware that the registry does not allow contact between the donor and the recipient, especially at first, she said that she slipped a note for him into the operating room, "sending love and positive energy." The doctor assured her that he had sent the note along with the marrow.

Most important, to her, was being told that the recipient had no adverse reaction to the transplant.

To find out about joining the Unrelated Bone Marrow Donor Registry, call 613-560-7440 and ask for the UBMDR; in Toronto, call 416-974-9900.

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Canada's Permanent Resident Card

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Canada

What You Should Know

A New Permanent Resident Card: A more secure and durable proof of residency card for permanent residents (landed immigrants) living in Canada is one feature of Canada's new *Immigration and Refugee Protection Act*. This tamper-resistant card replaces the paper document (IMM 1000) for travel purposes.

Who will need the new Permanent Resident Card: "Permanent residents" are people who have applied and been accepted to live in Canada. Permanent residents travelling outside of Canada as of December 31, 2003 will need this card to re-enter Canada. Canadian citizens are not eligible for the Permanent Resident Card.

Becoming Canadian: Permanent residents who can become Canadian citizens are encouraged to apply for their citizenship.

When To Apply For Your Permanent Resident Card: Applications are now available. They will be processed based on the year you became a permanent resident of Canada. Check the chart below to see in which month you should apply. For example, if your year of landing as a permanent resident was 1998, you should submit your application in May 2003. There is no need to apply earlier.

YEAR OF LANDING	WHEN TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION
2002	October 15 to November 30, 2002
2001	December to February 2003
2000	March & April 2003
1996 - 1999	May 2003
1992 - 1995	June 2003
1988 - 1991	July 2003
1980 - 1987	August 2003
1973 - 1979	September 2003
Before 1973	ANYTIME after October 2002

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55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED
60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED
65 ACCOMMODATION/SWAP/EXCHANGE
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68 HOUSE SITTERS AVAILABLE
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75 APARTMENT FOR RENT
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80 SHORT TERM RENTAL WANTED
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84 ROOM WANTED FOR RENT
85 APARTMENT WANTED
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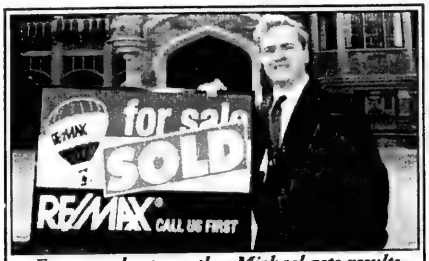

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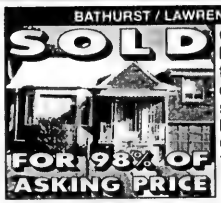

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BERNATT, Bella – on Sept. 10, 2002, late of 35 Alexis Blvd.
SHEMESH, Rosa – on Sept. 10, 2002.
MANDELBAUM, Harry – on Sept. 11, 2002, late of 1121 Steeles Ave. W.
LAZEBNIK, Aron – on Sept. 12, 2002, late of 76 North Meadow Cres.
GREENBERG, Efraim – on Sept. 12, 2002, late of 135 Antibes Dr.
ROZIN, Semen – on Sept. 12, 2002, late of 4266 Bathurst St.
DORON (Shenkman), Jack – on Sept. 13, 2002.
RUBIN, Fanifagel – on Sept. 14, 2002, late of 4455 Bathurst St.
CLAITMAN, Isaac – on Sept. 14, 2002, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
FREEDMAN, Benny – on Sept. 14, 2002.

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Dawes Road Cemetery
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Greater Toronto Area

Many Righteous Gentiles forgotten, Oxford prof says

By PABLO FUCHS
Special to The CJN

There are thousands of righteous individuals who saved Jews during the Holocaust who will never be recognized as righteous because there is no one around to tell their stories, says renowned British historian Martin Gilbert.

"A recorded righteous honour can only go to those who have saved Jews and have had the Jewish survivors share their stories, Gilbert said at the 12th annual Ronald Heller Memorial Lecture, held recently at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

The first recorded history of a righteous act came during Egyptian times when two midwives refused to follow Pharaoh's instructions and have all first-born Israelite children killed, said Gilbert, who is a fellow at Oxford University's Merton College.

By not following orders, the midwives saved many Jewish lives, he said.

The next righteous person was Pharaoh's daughter who found a Jewish baby, Moses, floating in a basket on the Nile river, and saved him.

Gilbert said that from Hitler's rise in Germany in 1933 to his demise and the end of the war in 1945, judges, researchers, and experts at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Centre in Jerusalem have recorded 20,000 non-Jews as righteous, and continue to add more than 500 on an annual basis.

Currently, rules have been relaxed to include more than 50 diplomats located in Europe who issued visas and exit permits for Jews against orders from their respective governments.

"There are several stories like this, including the British general in Berlin who sent 5,000 Jews to British Palestine, and a Chinese diplomat, Dr. Ho, who issued visas for those in concentration camps to go to Shanghai," Gilbert said.

However, when Europe was sealed by the Germans and the diplomats expelled, the rescue efforts fell squarely upon the shoulders of non-Jewish residents, he said.

In Poland, where three million Jews lived before the war, an environment of tremendous anti-Semitism and persecution did not prevent 5,632 righteous individuals from saving the lives of thousands of Jews, Gilbert said.

As a result, he said, Poland has the highest number of these individuals and the greatest percentage per capita than any other country except the Netherlands.

In one instance, a small Baptist sect in Poland believed that the greatest challenge and honour was to save a Jewish life, and many of its followers competed to take Jews into their homes.

Once they had a Jewish person in their home, they would pray, thanking God for the blessing of enabling them to save a son of Israel.

Gilbert said there are many other righteous individuals across Europe, even in Muslim communities such as Bosnia and Albania, who have taken extraordinary measures to save the lives of Jews.

These people must be properly honoured and respected, he said.

Gilbert's book, titled *The Righteous,* is expected to be released next spring.

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Hello my name is Stella, looking for a serious relationship w/ a honest man who is intelligent & has a sense of humour who likes the outdoors, music, travel & many other things. I enjoy outdoor activities, I'm sincere, outspoken person. Seeks quality time w/ someone. **AD#1460**

PLAY GAMES WITH YOU
Hi, I'm a tall, attractive, Jewish woman, 39 yrs, independent, honest, down to earth, love to read, do crossword puzzles, play scrabble, dance, long walks, I'm looking for a tall Jewish, warm, intelligent & kind man who knows what he wants out of life. **AD#1182**

SIMPLE THINGS
I'm a slim, shapely, very attractive, 50'ish, single Jewish female who's 5' 4" tall, dark hair & eyes, a great smile, warm & affectionate. As far as interests are concerned, the simple pleasures of life are the very best. For me it's laughter, good conversation, sipping wine at a cafe. **AD#1029**

INCURABLE ROMANTIC
Jewish male, non smoker, in his 70's going on 50. A university graduate, 5'5", 145 lbs, I have many varied interests including theatre, music, dancing, the arts, tennis, golf, dining, travelling. I'm also an incurable romantic & social drinker with a great zest for life. **AD#1235**

SOULMATE SEARCHING
33 yr old female, with long brown hair & eyes, very good looking, out going, charming, loves to have fun. Looking for a down to earth attractive male between 30-40 yrs, non smoker, who shares same interests as I. I'm looking for my soul mate, if your interested please respond. **AD#1406**

DESTINATION: LOVE
Hi, if your interested in meeting a special single Jewish female, baggage free, has air miles & loves to travel you've answered the right ad. I'm a very attractive, slim, shapely, fun loving, 50'ish, single Jewish female with a warm smile, integrity & many interests. **AD1061**

EUROPEAN WIDOW
European, retired widow, is looking for a loving relationship w/ widower or divorced man, loves music, art , swimming, walking & tennis **AD#1182**

HIGH CLASS
Larissa is attractive, Jewish, 55 yrs, 5' 3" tall and seek an interesting accomplished, classy gentleman between 55-65 yrs for companionship & more. **AD#1443**

CALL ME
Cindy is a petit, brown eyed brunette, 5' 2", very friendly, intelligent, loving, compassionate looking for a professional gentleman, between 50-60 yrs, who shares similar qualities with whom I can enjoy companionship & happy times. Some interests include movies, theatre & music. **AD#1185**

LIFE PARTNER
Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, petite, cute, attractive, pretty and slim. She enjoys music, dancing, nature, hiking, quiet beach walks, non smoker, non drinker, looking for a life partner, preferably an easy going, single jewish male between 35-55 yrs with similar interests. **AD#1200**

I AM FOR YOU
Unique, Jewish female, attractive, 5' 5", intelligent, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established, male 45 yrs young, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable and over 6 feet tall. **AD#1240**

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Attractive, 40 yrs, single Jewish female, seeks male 40-52 yrs who's attractive, hard working like myself. I like to go out to eat, dance, movies & a bit of sports. If you have similar interests, leave me your name & number. I'm looking for a serious relationship. **AD#1037**

KILLER SMILE!
Hi, my name is Debbie. I'm 47 yrs almost, a Virgo—Sept 6th is my birthday, divorced for 8 yrs and very comfortable with that. I'm 5' 3" with short brown hair & brown eyes, and a smile that will knock you dead. Little bit overweight but working on it diligently. I love the outdoors. **AD#1038**

LOVE CONNECTION?
Jewish female, pretty, creative professional, young lady, 5'5ft, slender, enjoys travel,theatre & fine dining. Seeks an established & fit male, between 43-53 yrs, complimented by sincerity & spontaneity to share in the zest of life. **AD#1151**

SHARE WITH YOU
Marianna is 5' 4", with hazel eyes and dark hair. She enjoys sports, concerts, walks and dancing, and is seeking a male who enjoys the same activities. She describes herself as outgoing, friendly, straight forward & easy to talk to. **AD#1382**

RESPECT & SINCERITY
40 yr old honest caring, sensitive female writer, looking for compatible male in his 40's to share meaningful moments. I enjoy long walks, talks, cafes, movies, art, poetry, nature, animals, I'm open minded. I value respect & sincerity, friendships & genuine relationships. **AD#1401**

LET'S MEET
Great personality, easy to please, lovely lady, who's considerate intelligent, good natured and attractive. 53 yrs old, hoping to meet a nice polite gentleman for genuine relationship between 55-73 yrs old. **AD#1138**

WALKS BY THE LAKE
Barb is very young, 50'ish, a single mom w/ 2 grown children. She lives in central Toronto and seeks a Jewish gentleman to develop a friendship with to laugh, cry & grow with. She enjoys walks by the lake out in the country, movies, sharing and cuddling. Please call and leave a message. **AD#1204**

VIVACIOUS FEMALE
Montreaser who now lives in Hamilton. She's vivacious, fit, slim 5'5", 120 lbs, seeks male for tennis partner. Also for dining, movies, walks & willing to explore a little bit. Looking for a compassionate man for a wonderful relationship. **AD#1166**

LOVE, FUN & LAUGHTER
Single female, 44 yrs young, attractive, intelligent, honest, sincere, down to earth, funny & good natured. She enjoys music, dancing, reading, travelling. If you seek love, fun & laughter, call me. **AD#1132**

FUN & COMPASSION
Single female from Montreal, 50's, non smoker, fit, classy, kind, sense of humour, conservative. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel and the beach. Seeking a male between 51-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservador, w/ similar interests, willing to travel. **AD#1360**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sensual smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, w/ wide variety of interests. Seeking Jewish male between 65-75 yrs, who's honest & romantic for a long term relationship. **AD#1457**

PEOPLE PERSON
Financially secure, professional female who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a companion to enjoy theatre, sports and fine dining with. If you are between 60-70 yrs please give me a call. **AD#1260**

MR WONDERFUL
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5", with brown hair & eyes. She's kind, sincere, creative, and fun loving. Seeking a Jewish traditionalist, over 45 yrs young, handsome, 6 feet tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, a non smoker, financially stable & humorous to share in life's dreams. **AD#1248**

ROMANCE & LAUGHTER
Female in her 60's, romantic, likes walks, talks, country drives, movies, music, books, cards, holding hands, current events, laughter, day trips, candlelight and fireplaces, seeks a compatible male **AD#1146**

POSITIVE OUTLOOK
Single female, 65 yrs old, fun loving, classical. Enjoys travel, heart music, dancing, outdoors, candlelight, wine, romantic places, has positive outlook on life. Seeks a complimentary man for long lasting for long lasting relationship. **AD#1038**

SMART 'n SPONTANEOUS
Single Jewish female 64 yr old, smart, spontaneous, compassionate & has good sense of humour, Seeks 65-75yrs male who's active, handsome, loving & kind who is ready to share loving relationship. **AD#1071**

LOVES TO LAUGH
Debra is 46 yrs old, a single mom w/ 2 grown children and enjoys movies, dining, travelling, live theatre. She also enjoys doing home decorating and seeks a fun loving, easy going guy who loves to talk & laugh. Give her a call. **AD#1111**

OPTIMISTIC FEMALE
She's down to earth, professional, independent & fun loving is seeking a male who shares the same qualities for a companion first and see how it goes from there. **AD#1124**

WARM & COMPASSIONATE
Sandy is Jewish, in her 50's and attractive She's 5' 6" with red hair and blue eyes. She's sophisticated, sexy, warm, compassionate, sensuous and loves life. She seeks a classy man between 60-69 yrs, preferably tall, non smoking, sweet, kind hearted & well groomed **AD#1030**

PEOPLE PERSON
A financially secure, professional woman, loves to travel & meet new people. She enjoys theatre and sports, and seeks a male for a companion between 60-70 yrs old. **AD#1405**

SEXY, SOPHISTICATED
I've been looking for love in all the wrong places, searching for my niche. I'm 59-69 yrs, a non smoker, who's kind w/ good qualities I'm also a sexy, sophisticated woman in my 50's, and I love life & dancing. I'm compassionate & sensuous. Call me. **AD#1159**

HARD WORKING GAL
Attractive, down to earth and friendly female She's 40 yrs old, a hard worker, and never been married. She enjoys movies, dining & dancing and seeks an attractive, friendly, down to earth, hard working male between 40-49 yrs, for a serious, long term relationship. **AD#1387**

PROFESSIONAL WOMAN
41 yr old, single, professional woman. She enjoys a variety of interests ranging from the intellectual to the creative & physical. Seeking an intelligent, considerate family oriented man who's serious about getting serious **AD#1225**

HELLO TRAVELLER!
Life is exciting, but more exciting with a companion to share the way. Financially secure, perky widow who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a male between 60-70 yrs who is physically fit. Please leave a message. **AD#1095**

LOVING & CARING
Single mom of one 8 yr old child, attractive, 32 yrs, good sense of humour, caring, sharing, wide variety of interests, seeks male, 32-45 yrs, prefer divorced with children and similar interests. **AD#1026**

SEEKS A PROFESSIONAL
Nancy is Jewish, a youthful 56 yrs, divorced with 2 grown children. She enjoys dining, movies, long walks, country drives, and seeks professional man between 50-65 yrs, a great sense of humour and strong sense of integrity **AD#1161**

CONSERVADOX FEMALE
Single female from Montreal, 50's, non smoker, classy, dynamic, kind, great sense of humour and conservadox She enjoys art, dining and dancing, and travel. She seeks a male, 53-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, with similar interests for friendship first. **AD#1034**

SSSWEETER THAN SUGAR
She's sensational, super, sophisticated, sincere, successful, spontaneous, sensitive, swanky, sentimental, self assured, stable, self motivated, supportive, shapely, slim, sleek and sexy. A sultry scorpion of 37yrs, seeking a relationship with a man who know what he wants **AD#1226**

DEEP LOVE FOR ISRAEL
Self employed Jewish woman in midtown Toronto. She's 60 yrs old and seeks a male who greets each day with passion & optimism loves classical music, opera and has travelled a bit. Does not have to be religiously observant but shares her deep love for Israel. **AD#1413**

SEEKING A SOULMATE
Sandy is in 50's, is 5' 6", very sexy, sophisticated, looks really good She enjoys dancing & life. She is a happy woman, but seeks her soulmate· A gentleman between 59-69 yrs, non smoking, kind hearted and sensitive, who can be a good friend. **AD#1411**

TOUCH OF CLASS
Single female from Montreal in her 50's She's a non smoker, is classy, dynamic, kind, great sense of humour, traditional & conservadox. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel, the beach and seeks a male 50-65 yrs, non smoking, secure, fit, passionate, good natured, traditional with similar interests. **AD#1305**

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men seeking women

ROMANTIC MAN
Hi, I'm a Jewish male, late 50's, who's looking for a sharing & caring woman, non smoking, 45-58yrs. I'm a romantic who likes long walks & enjoys nature, quiet evenings cuddling together at fireside. **AD#1478**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
I'm a man in my 50's w/ blue eyes, dark brown hair, who would like to meet a woman, also in her 50's. She should enjoy travel, museums, the arts & musical theatre. Looking for someone who can share lots of laughs w/ a good sense of humour. Home cooked meals would be a definite bonus. **AD#1234**

UNEMPLOYED BUM
Are you looking for a ugly, short, fat, bald, unemployed bum? Well keep looking because I'm none of the above. I'm honest, successful, good looking with no dependents. I love gourmet foods, wine tasting, movies & I'm a very good cook. Seeking a woman between 38-48 yrs. **AD#1227**

LET'S MEET
Hi my name is Marvin, I'm a warm & thoughtful person, single, 60 yrs old and I live in GTA. I'm a romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who loves to travel, watch movies, take long walks, rides in the country. I also enjoy great conversation, nice quiet times at homes, and I love to read. **AD#1074**

PRIME CONDITION
Hi My name is Arnon, I'm a white executive living in Thornhill. I look in the mirror & I see a healthy young 1939 model w/ no deficiencies, I'm told that I'm not bad to look at either. I've got salt & pepper hair, beautiful blue eyes, slim,. 5' 10" and I have good teeth too. **AD#1281**

DO YOU JUBU?
Physically & spiritually active male, 33 yrs old. Seeks non materialistic female with insight, aged between 25-35 yr old for mindful & compassionate relationship. **AD#1315**

FRIENDSHIP & LOVE
Single Jewish male of indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest. Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family. **AD#1459**

FUN GUY
Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading. Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands. **AD#1368**

LET'S TALK
I want to enjoy all the things in life like any normal person. I'm not interested in marriage, but would like a steady relationship. If you're slim, good looking, with a nice personality & would like to meet a nice, funny, good looking, 70 yr old, 5' 6", slim guy, let's talk. **AD#1055**

PICTURE THIS
I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more. If you find this brief introduction interesting, leave a message. **AD#1442**

EASY GOING
Steve is an easy going Jewish male, fun loving, enjoys walks and good conversation. Seeks attractive female up to age of 39 yrs who's easy going, enjoys the simple things in life, such as going out for dinners and other things. **AD#1390**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Chaim, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs, 5' 8", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family in a wonderful atmosphere. Please call and leave a message. **AD#1239**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous. Interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1178**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'
Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook. He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate. **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET
Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female (Jewish preferably), around the same age, who's honest sincere female and shares the same interests. If interested please leave a voice mail. **AD#1070**

MUSIC & WINE
Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-65yrs. He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports. **AD#1244**

AM I ASKING TOO MUCH?
Divorced Jewish male, 47 yrs with 2 teenaged children, seek woman 25-40 yrs, thin, good looking, who likes rock n roll, sports, 3 stooges, Howard Stern, partying & swimming because I have a pool. Am I asking too much? Give me a call. **AD#1318**

KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN
Bob is 48 yrs, professional, seeking to meet female who's into cycling and would like to explore the city/country. If you're interested in meeting a very nice guy to have fun with and get a little exercise, please leave a message. **AD#1238**

LOOKING FOR YOU
37 yr old male, 6' 3", 230 lbs, with black hair, brown eyes & goatee. He enjoys spending time with family & friends, likes playing golf and surfing the net, and seeks a nice lady who has similar interests. If this is you, leave him a message. **AD#1063**

LET'S TALK
Dave is 37 yrs old, slim and handsome, with brown hair, blue/grey eyes, and has a BA. He enjoys the outdoors, travelling, dining, and baseball. He's a good conversationalist, and seeks a Jewish female between 32-38 yrs who is tall & attractive. If you like what your reading, please call and leave a message. **AD#1158**

WILLING TO SETTLE
Alan is 42 yrs, 5' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes. He's very active, enjoys exercise, boating and camping. He seeks an honest, generous, romantic, female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down. He is honest & straight to the point. **AD#1439**

NEW IN TOWN
Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love. If this fits you, please answer this ad. **AD#1051**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

FRIENDLY FELLA
Martin, 48 yrs, is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets. He seeks a friendly good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well, Kids are okay. **AD#1206**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Jewish male, 48 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling **AD#1436**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

COFFEE TALK
Hi, there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you. I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice and good looking - but the the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me. Let's talk over a cup of coffee. **AD#1224**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship. **AD#1340**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!
Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes. Exterior: Tall, handsome, good body. Interior: Compassionate, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink caddie, 1962-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded. **AD#1252**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

HEART OF GOLD
Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented. **AD#1177**

KIND & CUTE
46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile. Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating. Also seeking long term relationship. Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park. Kind and caring wants future family. **AD#1095**

EASY GOING
Single male, Jewish widower, 63 yrs, financially secure, professional, active, physically fit, enjoys music, opera, movies, travel. Very easy going, happy, looking for someone to be with. **AD#1049**

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 1", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with. **AD#1654**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 6' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams. **AD#1106**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

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Veteran referee has seen all the great ones

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In his 60-year career in boxing, Harry Davis has seen just about everything there is to see. A competitive amateur fighter in his youth, he went on to a distinguished career as a referee in more than 4,000 fights and later as a judge in another 2,000 bouts, including more than 60 world championship fights.

He's seen most of the great ones fight – George Forman, Lennox Lewis, George Chuvalo – but the best match he's ever witnessed involved two lesser-known fighters duking it out in a boxing club on Toronto's Vaughan Road.

It was back in the 1970s when Aldo Carelli and Ronnie Edwards squared off in a classic, toe to toe, 10-round duel before only a couple of hundred dedicated fans.

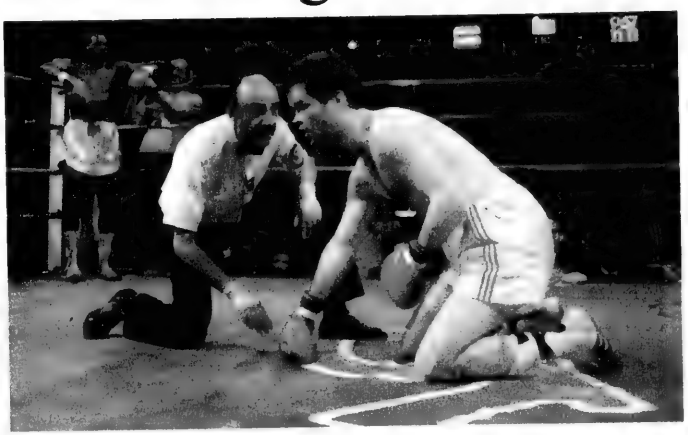
"From the opening bell they started to go like windmills," Davis recalled. "Arms were flying. They kept up the same pace all the way through. I don't know where they got the energy."

Davis, who at the time was already a veteran referee, didn't have to lay a hand on the fighters, and so could stand back and enjoy the fight as much as the spectators. What made the bout even more of a classic, Davis continued, was that Carelli was ahead on points going into the last round when Edwards finally knocked him out and won the contest.

Ah the memories. When you've been in boxing as long as Davis, you have enough memories to fill a book. At 75, Davis is still creating memories both in the ring and outside. He recently travelled to Wales to judge a WBO world title fight and he recently acted in a fight film, *Against the Ropes*, starring Meg Ryan, that will be released in 2003. It's about Jackie Kallen, a Jewish woman who manages a world champion, Davis explained.

Davis, who also appeared in *The Hurricane* as a referee in a fight scene, does the same in *Against the Ropes*.

When he began his fight career as a teenager in Depression-era Toronto, Davis could hardly have expected it would allow him to rub shoulders with Ryan or Denzel Washington, who played the lead role in *The Hurricane*.



Referee Harry Davis counts out Shawn O'Sullivan in his 1988 match against Donovan Boucher.

Life was tough in Toronto back then, and "being Jewish didn't help" when it came to acceptance by neighbours.

"The buck was a lot harder to get. I went to work for $8 a week in a shoe factory. I wanted a bicycle and my dad said, 'Go to work.' I was about 12."

Back then, Joe Louis was a hero to lots of kids and Davis was thrilled when the black American fighter defeated the Nazis' great white hope, Max Schmelling.

In the early 1940s, Davis started boxing as a lightweight (135 lb.) at the Brunswick YMHA under the supervision of trainers Aaron Clairman and Al Grace. He compiled a 20-5 amateur record, boxing fighters from around Ontario.

When Clairman and Grace entered the Canadian armed forces, his training was taken over by David Yak at the Toronto Athletic Club at Queen and Bay, across from what is now Old City hall.

"We used to fight for $5, $6, or $8. One time I won a voucher for a straw hat," he said.

Fights were either three three-minute rounds or five two-minute rounds and boxers wore no head protection.

By the mid 1940s, David realized he had gone as far as he could go as a fighter, and facing the disapproving glare of his parents, who weren't happy at his vocation, he gave it up to become a trainer.

"I trained 'em to box, not to just go in and start punching. Boxers last longer than brawlers," he said.

In 1952, Davis passed some exams, plunked down $1 and received his referee's license from the Ontario Athletic Commission (OAC), the sport's governing body. His first fights were bouts at the East York Arena, the Palace Pier (near Strachan) and in surrounding communities like London.

In all the fights he handled, "it gives me pride to know there were no serious injuries," he said.

"As a ref, you have to keep your eyes open. If you see a fighter in trouble, you stop it. It's better to stop it one punch before than one punch after."

David believes the number of boxing fatalities has decreased since the 1950s when fights were allowed to go on longer. And when people ask him about the boxing deaths, "I tell [them], more people are killed in speedways and more jockeys are killed at the track."

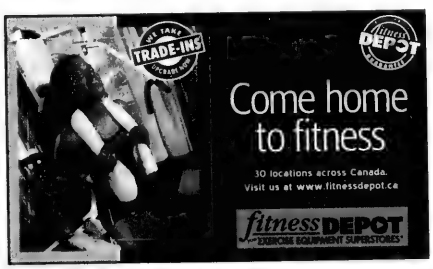
As his career progressed, Davis' talents were recognized by others. In 1973 he filled in for about a year as acting OAC commissioner.

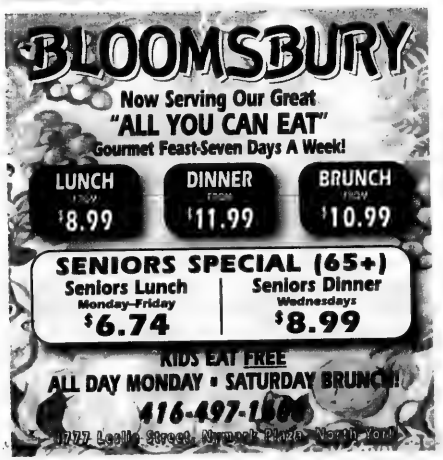
In 1976 he was inducted into the Canadian Boxing Hall of Fame and in 1984 he was given the privilege of reffing a world welterweight bout between Nicky Furlano and world champ Aaron Pryor. That was the first world title fight in Toronto in quite a while, he said.

In his day in the squared circle, Davis has experienced a few "oddities." He's been on the receiving end of a punch that went astray and he's had his chain yanked by a comedic fighter. When he asked the boxer prior to the match if he had his cup, "he answered, 'cup? I don't need a cup. I drink straight out of the bottle.'"

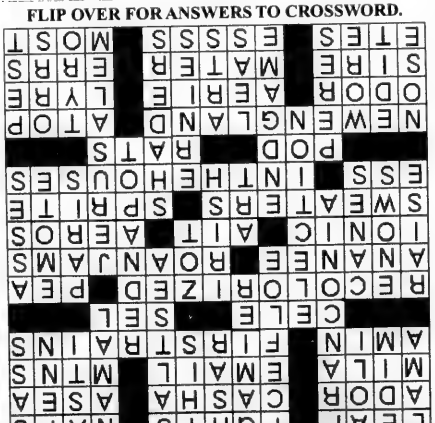
Although Davis is in the last few rounds of his colourful career, he has no interest in retiring.

"I'm going to do this until they count me out," he said.





FLIP OVER FOR ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD.



Where does God fit in my quest for a meaningful life?

By JODI KOVITZ

Some of you have e-mailed me moving stories of your experiences with God. One reader wrote that he was one of four friends to survive a car accident. He asked me how he could not believe that God had wanted him to live for some reason. After the accident, he wrote, he became more observant and spiritually fulfilled. Another reader shared how he connected to God just after his father passed away. Engaging in the ritual of prayer gave him hope and a new Jewish identity.

I had not considered my relationship with God until recently, nor what that relationship (or lack thereof) meant for me as a Jew. As a participant in Reviving Eden's Soul Retreat, I was asked to express, in 30 seconds to a stranger, when I had last "experienced" God. Two vastly different moments came to mind, sharing one common element – my being connected to an entity larger than myself.

My first experience occured the day of my grandfather's funeral 10 years ago. I felt comforted by a unique presence, who reassured me that there was a reason why my "pop-pop" died, and that he would be taken care of.

The second experience took place several years ago when I sat atop a small mountain in Capri, Italy. The view was magical – my concept of Eden. I was deeply moved and felt so lucky to experience that moment. It was the one time in my life I thanked God.

Although I acknowledge that God exists, as I have "experienced" Him, I do not worship or pray (particularly not in synagogue environment). I sometimes read the words in the prayer book just to participate, but they don't mean anything to me.

On one hand, I am comfortable with this. I cannot change my feelings. However, over the years I have learned that believing with certainty that our God exists, and acknowledging this conviction as a community on an ongoing basis, is a practice that is central to being Jewish.

So, here I am, a 20-something, "culturally Jewish" woman, who does not pray to God or worship Him in the conventional sense. Yet I experience spiritual renewal in other ways – through playing or listening to music, practicing yoga, learning about Judaism, reading and simply being outside. Am I still a "real Jew," even if I do not maintain a practice that so many others seem comfortable with? Can I have my "own" sense of God and still feel like I belong to the Jewish community?

I don't think anyone would reject me for wrestling with the concept of God. However, being part of a community that shares so many values and seem to conform in so many ways, I judge myself. I constantly wonder – why don't I really feel God? Why don't I experience God on a more regular basis? Why does my grandmother feel renewed and get a sense of hope through prayer to God while I would rather read a self-help book?

Yes, I'm struggling with this issue. But I have learned that the struggle isn't as bad if I just let it be what it is – one facet of my quest for a meaningful life.

I continue to welcome your insight. I can be reached at jlkovitz@hotmail.com.

Crusty Horseradish Chicken

1 lb. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
3/4 cup bread crumbs
1/4 tsp. kosher salt
1/4 tsp. freshly ground pepper
2 tblsp. prepared white horseradish
1 tblsp. Dijon mustard
1/4 cup white wine

Preheat oven to 350°F. Separate chicken into serving size pieces; pound slightly to an even thickness. Mix together the bread crumbs, salt and pepper. Stir together the horseradish, mustard and wine. Dip the chicken in horseradish mixture until completely coated. Marinate at least 1 hour. Roll chicken pieces in bread crumbs till evenly coated. Place in greased casserole and bake uncovered 25-30 minutes until chicken is firm to the touch. Makes 4 servings.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

People look to Jewish education to combat assimilation and intermarriage, but I find that prescription demeaning to the spirit of Jewish learning (reductionist of an entity far more complex and compelling), and misinterpretive of assimilation as a force in Jewish society.

By assimilation, I refer to the interaction between Jews and their host culture – a two-way street. Why do Orthodox Jews wear ties? Why do New Yorkers of all religions use Yiddish phrases in their speech, as the Viennese once did? Why do most Ashkenazi synagogues of all denominations seat their congregants in the same fashion as churches? Why did Verdi introduce a Sephardi melody in *La Traviata*? Etc.

We have assimilated everywhere we ever settled. Cultures do that. Ironically, Israel is now one of the best examples of cultural assimilation. Israelis eat Middle-Eastern Arabic food and call it Israeli, used to sing Zionist words to Russian folk melodies, now sing Hebrew words to Greek tunes, and wear designer clothes of the west. To assimilate is either natural or inevitable. But when does assimilation become a danger? When it is mixed with indifference and ignorance.

When Jews forget their own treasure house of history, literature and spiritual values and become indifferent to the pulse of Jewish creative life, the majority culture and its values become dominant, easily overpowering the Jewish spirit. A case in point was an advertisement I recently saw in the Ashkenaz program booklet. Since it had nothing to do with Ashkenaz, this is not a criticism of that wondrous community happening. One of the new klezmer groups in Toronto played for a wedding "of a nice Jewish boy… to a sweet Jamaican woman." The music was a fusion of klezmer melodies with reggae beats – cultural assimilation that we know and love. Indeed, that is the very essence of klezmer.

The danger point for the Jewish spirit is when multiculturalism becomes a supreme value that blurs the real differences between the nice Jewish boy and the sweet Jamaican woman. A priori, their marriage is not healthy for either Jamaican or Jewish culture. In any given couple, it might be a romantic union between two lovers, but in the larger picture, it is the heat under the melting pot rather than the caring and careful preservation of a mosaic.

The klezmer music is assimilation at its best; intermarriage is indifference at its saddest.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

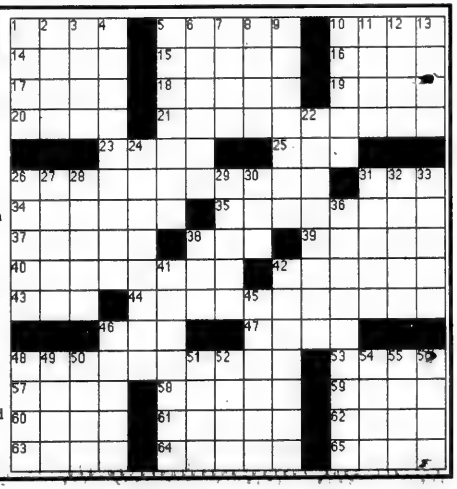
The Canadian Jewish news — CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 46.)

Autumn Leaves a Clue
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. This season's unitary player
5. Altitudes, to a Cockney
10. Takes a m'nucha
14. Hebrew word root for splendor
15. Buckwheat (var.)
16. Befuddled
17. Word, in Hebrew
18. It's what "You've got!"
19. Marcy and Rainier
20. Dictator foiled by Israel at Entebbe
21. What October brings to Israel
23. Combining word form for tumor
25. Sodium chloride, in Soissons
26. Tinted black-and-white film again
31. Hearty soup
34. My cloud, in Hebrew
35. Scottish tree berry preserves (var.)
37. Pertaining to a voluted capital form
38. Teeny-weeny island
39. Dynamic prefix and the like
40. Warm things to have in Autumn
42. Lively person, elfin type
43. Reverse curve
44. "The spoil of the poor is _____ of the rich" (Isaiah 3:14)
46. Wifly and friends
47. Bush subliminal ad word
48. Where foliage color change reigns
53. Me'al, in English
57. Reputation, in Shakespeare
58. Eagle's home
59. One of David's instruments
60. Father
61. Mother
62. Makes mistakes
63. Summers in 31 Down
64. Very long 43 Across
65. Johnny, of Celtics radio fame

Down
1. Why, in Haifa
2. Witnesses, in Hadera
3. ISP king's first software?
4. _____ Notch, mecca for fall color
5. Arctic winter phenomenon
6. Meat a bit more redolent
7. 16th century Incan prince (var.)
8. Not that
9. Israel's brinish water body, properly translated from the Hebrew
10. Harbor, in Hebrew
11. Italian wine-making vicinity
12. Sean, William, or Robert
13. Chutzpah
22. To minister to others' vices, mirrored?
24. It has Al, Ralph, and 'W' all a-buzz
26. Elevate
27. Khayyam's 'sufficient' in the plural
28. Sugar and candy
29. Sea west of Wales
30. B.C. comic strip anteater noise
31. Gershwin was an American there
32. Gush
33. Judah's animals of burden, tillage
36. City of gold and copper and light
38. The field of Chagall and Agam
41. Final phase in a match with Fisher
42. What trees and awnings are
45. Kovacs and others
46. Former Israeli P.M., Rabin ally
48. A mare could win by one
49. Take cues from proof marks
50. Donned
51. Meadows
52. Martial or fine
54. Rookie
55. NHL Hall of Famer Bobby and family
56. Termite or nudnik



Israel is Our Mission...Why Wait?

With the advent of a New Year, many of us are asking how we can personally assist Israel. One of the most powerful ways is just by being there. Your presence will help to fuel Israel's struggling economy, revive the tourism industry and improve the morale of every Israeli you meet. With so many missions and individual travel options available, there's no time to wait and there's no better time to go. If you want to make a significant difference for Israel, make a commitment to visit our indescribably beautiful land as soon as possible.

After all, Israel is yours. So please say I care and I'm going.

THE SYNAGOGUE CHALLENGE

Several synagogues have organized missions for their members. Just by taking this crucial step, they are, in effect, challenging every synagogue across the country to do the same. If your synagogue is planning a group trip, please let us at the Israel Government Tourist Office know, so that we can let others know and provide some helpful advice as well.

November 3-10, 2002 – Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation (BAYT): Visits to Yesha communities & Laniado Hospital; archaeological tours; political & military briefings. Contact: Moishe Posner, 416.896.4451; Paul Samuel, 416.481.4427 or Larry Zeifman, 416.256.4000 ext. 239

November 3-10, 2002 – Holy Blossom Temple, Toronto: Solidarity Mission. Contact Rabbi John Moscowitz, 416.789.3291

November 10-21, 2002 – Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation Community Solidarity Mission — An independent solidarity community mission, including Eilat. Contact: Peerless Travel, 905.886.5610

February, 2003 (Dates to be determined) – Temple Har Zion, Toronto: A mission to coincide with the Reform Movement convention in Israel. Contact: Karen Graham, 905.889.2252.

ORGANIZATION MISSIONS

Monthly Missions, October-December, 2002 – UJA Federation of Greater Toronto – Educational missions conducted by UJA Federation for its donors. Contact 416.635.2883 ext. 177

October 3-10, 2002 – Jewish National Fund President's Solidarity Mission: Solidarity visits to several communities; escorted tour of the Green Line and meetings with Israeli officials. Contact: 416.638.7200 in Toronto or 514.934.0313 in Montreal.

October 13-20 & November 3-10, 2002 – B'nai Brith Canada and **Christians for Israel** - Heart to Heart Missions: strategic assessment of border areas; meet IDF personnel and senior government officials. Families welcome. Contact: Uniworld Travel & Tours: 416.493.3322 ext.356 or Sunworld Tours: 403.245.9181.

October 20-November 3, 2002 – Sar-El (Volunteers for Israel) – A volunteer program hosted by IDF. Contact: 416.781.6089.

October 26-November3, 2002 – Winnipeg Jewish Federation Leadership Solidarity Mission – Join the Premier of Manitoba and many other senior provincial officials. Open to those who have made the minimum gift required to Winnipeg's Combined Jewish Appeal. Contact Gerry Koffman: 204.477.7426

November 7-14, 2002 –The Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science - Annual General Meeting and introduction to the Weizmann Institute of Science. Tours of the Institute and scientific sites in Eilat. Contact: Sheri Federman, 416.733.9220

December, 2002 (Dates to be determined) – Canada Israel Committee – LIAT Advocacy Mission to Israel. Contact: Marra Messinger, 613.234.8271

December 17-25, 2002 – Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem – 2nd Annual Overseas Alumni Homecoming & Solidarity Mission. Contact: Adam Silver, 416.485.8000

November 19-28, 2002 – Hadassah-Wizo Mission. Contact: Lily Frank at 514.937.9431

December 19, 2002-January 2, 2003 & December 22-January 5, 2003 – Family Bar/Bat Mitzvah Missions – Peerless Travel – an unforgettable family experience while demonstrating solidarity with Israel. Contact: Peerless Travel at 905.886.5610

December 24, 2002-January 2, 2003 – Montreal Family Mission – A family tour which will connect with March of the Living. Contact: Annie Krespil, **Bronfman Israel Experience Centre**, 514.345.6449 ext. 3399

January 22-February 20, 2003 & January 22-March 16, 2003 – Jewish National Fund Canadian American Active Retirees in Israel –. Contact: 416.638.7200 in Toronto or 514.934.0313 in Montreal.

INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL

El Al Summer Flight & Hotel Packages, until October 31, 2002 – Flight from Toronto plus five nights in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv. Contact: 416.967.4222

Peerless Travel Weekly Tel Aviv Packages: A week in Tel Aviv, return air and five nights hotel of your choice plus other benefits. Contact: 905.886.5610

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Bubby's menorah

Bat Mitzvah girl!

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This Winter, encourage your children to accept their Canada Israel Experience birthright israel gift

birthright israel is a unique partnership between the people of Israel through their government, local Jewish communities (through the United Jewish Communities, Keren Hayesod and The Jewish Agency for Israel), and leading Jewish philanthropists. **birthright israel** provides a gift of first time, peer group, educational trips to Israel for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26.

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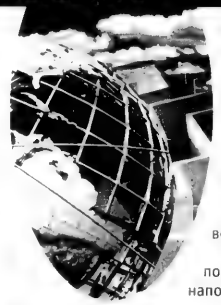
CANADA ISRAEL EXPERIENCE

THE MYSTERY OF THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION: THROUGH THE EYES OF THE MASTERS OF KABBALAH

Wednesday Evening Lectures: Oct. 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 13 8-9:30PM
Jewish Mysticism Series
with Rabbi Tzvi Freeman, best-selling author

The account of creation exposes all the secrets of the cosmos. Firmly based on the ancient wisdom through the lens of the modern mind, this course unveils these secrets and how to apply to them to your life to make it more meaningful.



Повествование о сотворении мира раскрывает все секреты космоса в их толковании древнейшими коментариями. Курс раскрывает секреты творения, основываясь на древней мудрости, преломлённой современными возрениями, и говорит нам о том, как принимать их в повседневной жизни, чтобы наполнять её новым смыслом.

ТАИНСТВО ШЕСТИ ДНЕЙ ТВОРЕНИЯ: ГЛАЗАМИ МАСТЕРА КАБАЛЫ

Вечернии лекции по средам
из серии "Еврейский мистицизм"
16, 23, 30 октября; 6, 13 ноября 8-9:30 вечера

Ongoing Classes
(classes are held at 18 Rockford unless otherwise indicated)

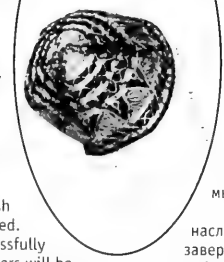
Date	Time	Class	Instructor	Place/Level	Lang.
Sunday	5:30AM	Chassidus	Rabbi Zaltzman	Call for location	Rus.
	8:00AM	Halacha	Rabbi Hildeshaim	Advanced	Eng.
	10:20AM	Parsha	Rabbi Karpilovsky	Beginners	Rus.
	9:30PM	Kabbalah	Rabbi Jacobson	Call for location	Eng.
Tues.	8:00PM	Chassidus	Rabbi Karpilovsky	Advanced	Rus.
Wed.	1:00PM	Lunch'n'Learn	Rabbi Hildesheim	Midland Metals	Eng.
	8:30PM	Kabbalah	Rabbi Drukman	Concord com. Shul	Eng.
Thurs.	8:00PM	In-depth Torah	Rabbi Karpilovsky	Intermediate	Rus.
	9:00PM	Parsha	Rabbi Jacobson	135 McMorran	Eng
Friday	before Shabbos	Parsha	Rabbi Drukman	Concord com. Shul	Eng.
Shabbos	9:00AM	Chassidus	Rabbi Jacobson	JRCC Thornhill shul	Eng.
	9:00AM	Chassidus	Rabbi Drukman	Concord com. Shul	Eng.
	9:00AM	Chassidus	Rabbi Karpilovsky	Intermediate	Rus.
	Afternoon	Parsha	Mrs. C. Zaltzman	Thornhill homes	Eng.
	Afternoon	Parsha	Rabbi Vorovitch	North York homes	Rus.
	After mincha	Pirkei Avot	Rabbi Karpilovsky	Beginners	Rus.
	After mincha	Halacha	Rabbi Drukman	Concord com. Shul	Eng.

NEW COURSE
НОВЫЕ ЛЕКЦИИ

A SERIOUS JEWISH EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Judaism Literacy Series–Topics covered in our first semester (16 classes in 8 week sessions) include: Jewish Living, Jewish Home, Jewish Ethics, Jewish Thought, Jewish Lifecycles
Tuesday Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26, Dec. 10, 17, From 8:00-9:45PM
Cost for this course: $36

This program is designed for every Jewish adult who wants to upgrade his/her Jewish education in a formal, thorough and consistent manner. Over the course of three semesters throughout the year, almost the entire spectrum of our Jewish heritage will be covered. Candidates who successfully complete the tri-mesters will be awarded a Jewish Literacy Certificate attesting to their basic knowledge in all areas of our traditions.



Этот курс расчитан на лубого взрослого еврея, желающего повысить уровень своего образования, обучаясь по полной и последовательной программе. На протяжение курса, расчитаного на три семестра в течение года, мы изучим практически все аспекты еврейского наследия. Кандидаты успешно завершившие трехсеместровый курс обучения, получат сертификат по Еврейскому Образованию, свидетельствующий об основополагающих познаниях всех аспектов нашего наследия.

СЕРИЯ ИЗУЧЕНИЯ ИУДАИЗМА-

ПРОГРАММА ВРЕЙСКОГО ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ; ВЫДАЁТСЯ СЕРТИФИКАТ

Темы нашего семестра (16 занятий за 8 недель) включают: Еврейский образ жизни, Еврейский дом, Еврейская этика, Еврейская мысль, Еврейский жизненный цикл.
Вечернии лекции по торникам окт. 22, 29, нояб. 5, 12, 19, 26, декаб. 10, 17 8:00 - 9:45 вечера. Стоимость урока: $36

No charge for most of our classes
but donations are most welcome to cover our costs
and to keep our Institute viable.
To register for one or more courses, to receive a brochure, or for more information, please call Chana Weisberg, Dean of the Institute at
416-222-7105 x 30.

Мы с радостью примем пожертвования,
которые помогут окупить наши затраты.
Для записи на лекции и за дополнительной информацией обращайтесь к ХАНЕ ВАЙСБЕРГ, декану института по телефону
416 – 222-7105 x 30

Sponsored in part by a grant from UIA FEDERATION

Занятия проводятся на английском языке

The JRCC's Institute of Torah Study
For Today's Modern, Thinking Jew

Men and women welcome.

A Great Learning Experience.
Professional, in-depth courses in all areas of Jewish thought and traditions. Join a semester and experience firsthand why our courses have become so popular.
All classes take place at the JRCC, 18 Rockford unless otherwise noted.
To register: **416-222-7105 x 30.**

Профессионально подготовленные глубокие лекции по всем аспектам еврейской мысли и традиции
Примите участие в этих занятиях и узнайте из личного опыта, почему они столь популярны.
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Программы для мужчин и женщин

Институт по изучению Торы при JRCC
Для современного мыслящего еврея

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

ЛЕКЦИИ ДЛЯ ВСЕХ

FINDING FAITH IN TURBULENT TIMES

With Chana Weisberg, Dean of the JRCC's Institute of Torah Study, author, columnist
Sunday, Oct. 13, 2002 at 8:00PM at the JRCC

A Lecture Paying Tribute to Women's Strength Now and Throughout the Ages.

Men and women welcome.

In honour of Dora Salamon, beloved wife, mother and holocaust survivor on her 77th birthday.

Воздадим должное силе женщин в наше время и всегда.

В честь Доры Саламон - любимой жене и матери, пережившей Катастрофу и дожившей до 77 дня рождения.

Мужчины и женщины - Добро пожаловать!

КАК НАЙТИ ВЕРУ В БЕСПОКОЙНЫЕ ВРЕМЕНА

Лекцию читает, Декан Института по Изучению Торы, Хана Вайсберг
Воскресенье, 13 октября, 2002 в *8:00 вечера в помещении JRCC*

TRIUMPH OF LIGHT

Sunday, Nov 24, 8-10:00PM

Chassidim the world over celebrate this day of the release of the Alter Rebbe from Czarist Russian imprisonment as a day of victory of the forces of good, freedom and education over those of evil and suppression.
Join us for a **"A Yud Tes Kislev Farbrengen"** as we tap into the power of this day with noted guest speaker, Rabbi Akiva Wagner, Dean of Yeshivas Lubavitch, Rabbinical Seminary.

Этот день, который празднуют все хасиды в мире, знаменует освобождение Алтер Ребе из царской тюрьмы. Это день победы сил добра, свободы и знания над силами зла и угнетения. Давайте вместе проведем хасидский фарбренген, где мы поговорим о величии и глубоком значении этого дня с нашим знаменитым гостем, выдающимся лектором, раввином Акивой Вагнером - Главой Любавичской ешивы - Раввинской семинарии Торонто.

ТОРЖЕСТВО СВЕТА

Воскресенье 24 ноября; 8 - 10:00 вечера.

COMMUNITY CHANUKAH PARTY

Saturday Night, Nov. 30 at 8:30PM

Song, Story and Inspiration by the Chanukah Lights.

Песнь ханукальных огней, их история и их волшебное действие.

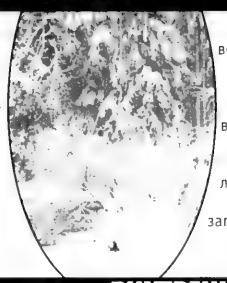
ПРАЗДНОВАНИЕ ХАНУКИ

Шаббат - суббота 30 ноября, 8:30 вечера в помещении JRCC 18 Rockford Rd.

INNER HARMONY—BODY AND SOUL REJUVENATED

A WEEKEND RETREAT
With Guest Speaker: Rabbi Zushe Silberstein, Montreal
Friday, Dec. 27 until Sunday, Dec. 29

Seize this opportunity to realign your emotional and spiritual wellbeing at the JRCC's annual mid-winter get away. Warm your soul as you rejuvenate your body. Call for more info.



Воспользуйтесь возможностью привести в соответствие Ваше эмоциональное и духовное здоровье - и все это в расслабляющей, непринужденной обстановке одного из лучших курортов Онтарио на ежегодном зимнем загородном шабатоне JRCC. Согрейте свою душу и восстановите тело.

ВНУТРЕННЯЯ ГАРМОНИЯ -ВОССТАНОВЛЕНИЕ ДУШИ И ТЕЛА

Загородный шабатон на изумительном курорте Barklake Resort
Наш гость - известный лектор Робби Зуся Зильберштейн из Монреаля
Пятница 27 декабря - воскресенье 29 декабря

COURSES

ЛЕКЦИИ

SHABBAT, AN ISLAND IN TIME

Sunday Evening Lectures: Oct. 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17
8-9:30PM—Jewish Living Series
With Rabbi Chaim Leib Hildeshaim

Learn how to tap into the rejuvenating experience of Shabbat on a weekly basis. Learn the basics of "how to" get started in making this meaningful experience a real part of your life.

Узнайте, как приобщиться и еженедельно испытывать на себе омолаживающее воздействие Шаббата. Узнайте, как и с чего начинать, чтобы это осмысленное времяпровождение стало частью Вашей жизни.

ШАБАТ, ОСТРОВОК ВРЕМЕНИ

Вечерние лекции в воскресенье:
20 и 27 октября; 3, 10, и 17 ноября 8-9:30 вечера
Серия лекций "Еврейская жизнь и пророчества"
Лекцию читает Равин Хаим Лейб Хилдесхаим

CHANA, MOTHER OF SAMUEL— A WOMAN'S VOICE OF PRAYER

Feminine Voices Series for women only
Monday Evening: Oct. 28, Nov. 4, 11, 18, 25 7:45-8:45PM
Tuesday Morning: Oct. 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19, 26 at 10:30-11:30AM
with Chana Weisberg, dean, author, columnist

This course starts off with a fascinating historical overview of society's regard for women throughout historical times, in other religions as well as in modern feminist thought, and leads to how this view contrasts with Judaism. The course culminates with an in-depth examination of one special woman: Chana, mother of Samuel, and examines as well the potency and philosophy behind a woman's prayer.

Этот курс начинается с интереснейшего обзора об отношении к женщине в разные исторические периоды, в разных религиях, в современном феминизме, а также о том, как это соотносится со взглядами иудаизма на эту тему. Кульминационной точкой этого курса является образ Ханны, матери Самуила. На её примере расматривается сила и философия женской молитвы.

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The Canadian Jewish news

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This Week

National

Feds won't change policy on Nazis. *Page 3*

Daniel Libeskind leads the ROM into the 21st century. *Page 14*

Hebrew U seminar not welcome at Concordia. *Page 31*

Arts & Travel

Macao: A slice of Europe in East Asia. *Page 45*

Author probes moral dilemmas of death camp inmates. *Page 45*

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Lithuanian emigré runs high-tech testing lab. *Page 48*

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A SONG OF PROTEST, A SONG OF SUPPORT: Visitors to Israel from Norway last week demonstrated outside the Norwegian Embassy in Tel Aviv against the policies of their own government that the protesters contend are hostile toward Israel. *[Israel Sun photo]*

Federal Court of Appeal rejects 'Green Line' policy on charities

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

The Federal Court of Appeal has rejected Canada's decade-old policy of disallowing tax-deductible donations to charitable groups that operate outside Israel's pre-1967 borders because the policy is not enshrined in law.

But the court upheld the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency's (CCRA) intention to revoke the charitable status of Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel (CMDA) on other grounds.

In a Sept. 13 decision, the court rejected arguments that CMDA should be de-registered as a charity because it provides services in the so-called occupied territories, meaning the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan Heights and eastern Jerusalem.

The court found the CCRA policy is not enshrined in legal statutes or tax regulations, and thus could not be applied in the case of CMDA, which is affiliated with Magen David Adom (MDA), Israel's equivalent of the Red Cross.

Partial victory in CMDA tax case

Yet, the court ruled 2-1 that a notice of intention filed by the CCRA, formerly Revenue Canada, in 2000 to de-register CMDA can proceed, saying it found no evidence that ambulances and other supplies transferred to Magen David Adom (MDA) were being used only for charitable purposes.

The court also found that there was no proper agency agreement between CMDA and MDA, which is a separate organization. In evidence, CMDA acknowledged only a "tacit" agreement with MDA.

The panel also raised the issue of whether, and to what extent, MDA is involved in Israeli military operations, since evidence showed that in Israel, the entire high-frequency FM radio network of the MDA system is available to the Israel Defence Forces in times of crisis.

Continued on page 36

Sharon meets Putin

Israel called an important partner

By YOSSI MELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin praised Israel on Monday for its decision to end the siege of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Ramallah compound.

Speaking during a photo opportunity with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Moscow ahead of a meeting between the two leaders, Putin said he was aware the decision was not a simple one and had been made under domestic and international pressure.

See related story on page 38

The Russian leader said he sees Israel as an important partner in the international war on terror, adding that he supports U.S. President George W. Bush's efforts in this matter.

Putin also condemned acts of terror and said he would discuss various related issues with Sharon, including the Iraqi crisis, in order to find a real solution through diplomatic channels and according to UN resolutions.

Sharon, who arrived in Russia Sunday evening, was to spend Monday in Moscow with Putin for talks on bilateral and international issues.

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Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Bereshit
Candlelighting: 6:37
Havdallah: 7:42

UK Jews angry over media's Israel coverage — please see page 37

The News in Brief

CANADA

Rogers to be Honoured

TORONTO — B'nai Brith Canada will honour Ted Rogers, president and CEO of Rogers Communications, with its Award of Merit at a ceremony here Oct. 7. B'nai Brith's highest honour recognizes people who have greatly contributed to the business, political, social or cultural leadership of Canada. Past recipients include CN president Paul Tellier and Toronto Blue Jays president Paul Godfrey.

Hebrew Program

TORONTO — During October and November, the Pride of Israel Synagogue will be one of 1,000 North American Jewish institutions participating in a campaign to teach Jews to read Hebrew. Conceived by the National Jewish Outreach Program in New York, Read Hebrew Canada and Read Hebrew America hope to reach 20,000 Jews. Since the program began in 1987, more than 160,000 people have learned to read. A five-week crash course on basic Hebrew reading skills, led by Blima Rhodes, begins Sunday, Oct. 6, at 11 a.m. at the Pride of Israel. To register, call 416-226-2111, ext. 10.

ISRAEL

Christian Crusade

JERUSALEM — More than 2,000 Christians from around the world were in Israel last week to show their support for the Jewish State. On Sunday, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon addressed the gathering. The visit was sponsored by the International Christian Embassy, a Christian Zionist group based in Jerusalem.

Parents Rejected

JERUSALEM — Israel's interior minister has refused to register a gay couple as the parents of a boy they adopted in the United States. Eli Yishai said last Tuesday that he does not recognize the couple as a valid family unit. Yishai, a member of the Shas party, also said the boy would be raised in an incorrect, unhealthy and negative way.

WORLD

Deportation Requested

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Justice has asked a federal immigration court in Philadelphia to deport a former SS Death's Head Guard who served at three Nazi concentration camps. The request follows a July 2000 decision by the U.S. District Court to revoke the citizenship of Theodor Szehinskyj, 76, a retired machinist who was posted at the Gross-Rosen, Sachsenhausen and Warsaw camps. The native of Galicia, Poland, guarded prisoners from 1943 to 1945.

Insurance Settlement

BERLIN — Germany has agreed to pay some $100 million (US) to cover unpaid Holocaust-era insurance claims. In a deal reached Sept. 18 with the International Commission on Holocaust-Era Insurance Claims, Germany also agreed to pay roughly $174 million (US) for a humanitarian fund. The settlement, reached after two years of difficult talks, also calls for German insurers to publish lists of policies taken out by Jews before and during the Holocaust.

'Shop for Israel' Day

SAN DIEGO — The California-based non-profit Web site Shopinisrael.com, which lets people buy Israeli goods directly from Israeli merchants, is promoting Dec. 1, the third night of Chanukah, as Support Israel Day. Jews are urged to exchange gifts purchased through the site to support Israeli merchants hurt by the drop in visitors since the start of the latest intifadah.

Israeli Arab Warned of Attack

JERUSALEM — An Israeli Arab seriously wounded in a suicide bombing in northern Israel had alerted police before the attack, officials said.

Israeli police initially suspected that Rami Mahamid, 17, helped the bomber carry out the Sept. 18 attack near the Israeli Arab city of Umm el-Fahm.

However, it later emerged that Mahamid was the person who first reported the presence of a suspicious person to police.

Mahamid struck up a conversation with the terrorist and asked to borrow his cellphone on the pretext of calling a friend, reports said. Instead, he called police and asked them to send a patrol. When the police van arrived, the bomber blew himself up, killing an officer and wounding three other people, including Mahamid.

Police said Mahamid acted courageously.

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Feds say they won't change policy on Nazis

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A spokesperson for federal Citizenship and Immigration Minister Denis Coderre is denying media reports the ministry may allow Nazi war crime suspects to remain in Canada once their citizenship has been removed.

Mark Dunn, director of communications for Coderre, told *The CJN*, "revocation and deportation won't change ... The policy is not changing."

Dunn was responding to a report that Coderre had asked for a review of the policy of deporting elderly Nazi war criminals. One option being considered was that suspects would lose their citizenship but not be removed from Canada, a report in the *National Post* indicated.

Citing unnamed "senior officials in the Immigration Department," the *Post* reported that the ministry was considering ways that Canada could demonstrate it did not condone a war criminal's actions while avoiding the costly deportation process.

Dunn acknowledged the minister had asked for a review of all ministry policies – including those affecting Nazi war criminals – and that one of the policy options being floated involved denaturalizing suspects without deporting them. "But most options won't see the light of day," he said, including the one involving Nazi war criminals.

Dunn repeated a longstanding government policy formulation: "We don't want war criminals in this country at all. Canada will not be a safe haven for any kind of war criminal.

"We will continue to actively go after them."

Since focusing its strategy on denaturalizing and deporting war criminals in 1995, the government has launched 17 cases.

Continued on page 33

CANADIANS ON THE STREETS OF JERUSALEM: A delegation of Christian tourists from Canada join more than 2,500 co-religionists from around the world for their annual Succot march in Jerusalem. [Isranet photo]

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Greater Toronto Area

What the debates omit

From the editor's desk

The justification emanating from Washington for confrontation with Iraq shifted somewhat over the past few weeks.

Originally, President George W. Bush spoke about the need for "regime change" in Baghdad. Implicit in the argument, of course, was the underlying reason for the need to change the Iraqi regime, namely, that it poses a major danger and threat to the peace and security of a number of nations in the world.

By speaking about regime change, however, Bush was confusing the issue by interchanging the effect of an impending military campaign with its cause.

Thus, when he stood recently before the UN General Assembly, making the case for a showdown with Saddam Hussein, Bush set straight any confusion by focusing on the cause. He spoke, not about regime change, but about the ever-growing threat to the world arising from the weapons of mass destruction that the Iraqi dictator has acquired over the past decade, his record of having used such weaponry in the past and his undoubted readiness to use them in the future.

In the process, Bush conscripted the UN in the possible campaign against Saddam by reinvigorating with new urgency the call for inspection of the secret Iraqi storehouses of weapons.

Judging by the unequivocal remarks made earlier last week by Foreign Minister Bill Graham regarding Saddam's need to be completely forthcoming with any system of weapons inspections required by the UN, it appears that Canada might be edging closer to the American-British point of view on the subject.

This would be a welcome development, although without a definitive statement by the prime minister, one cannot know for certain where Canada stands on the matter.

In the ubiquitous discussions and debates surrounding Iraq, however, one seldom hears or sees any reference to Saddam's unprovoked, gratuitously vile attack on Israeli civilians during the Gulf War more than a decade ago.

Israel was not part of the war, sent no soldiers to fight in the war; nor did it lend any military hardware to the coalition forces, yet Saddam launched 39 SCUD missiles into the Tel Aviv area with the aim of destroying Israel's Ministry of Defence headquarters and of killing as many Israelis as possible. It is, frankly, a disturbingly telling omission.

The defenders of Saddam Hussein and their anti-American fellow travellers, of course, supported his strikes at Israel. Indeed they cheered the rain of missiles upon the Jewish state.

The opponents of Saddam, at least most of them – the non-Arab members of the coalition – did not support the SCUD strikes. Indeed, a great deal of the American effort was dedicated to eliminating the missile launch sites.

But even so, the assault by Saddam was seen as expected, accepted as inevitable – thus mitigating somewhat its inherently evil nature – a sound tactical move on his part, hoping to evoke an Israeli response that would thereby disrupt the assiduously crafted coalition of forces. (*What this says about the world's expectations of Israel and of the nature of the coalition forces whose loyalty to the cause depended upon the Jewish state willingly submitting to the possible deaths of hundreds, if not more, of its own citizens, is another matter.*)

When the Israelis publicly announced they would pay the patently unreasonable, unfair price in order to keep the coalition intact, Saddam nevertheless continued his missile launches against the Jewish state.

And again, some people simply saw this as somehow expected, the military confirmation of his oft-expressed support for the Palestinians, again "understanding" and again mitigating somewhat the inherent evil in the SCUD attacks.

In truth, however, Saddam's gleeful attempt to slaughter Israelis was self-serving and cynical. It had much less to do with support for the Palestinians than it did with his long-standing aim of wanting to harm if not destroy the Jewish state. It was another proof of the man's mammoth malevolence.

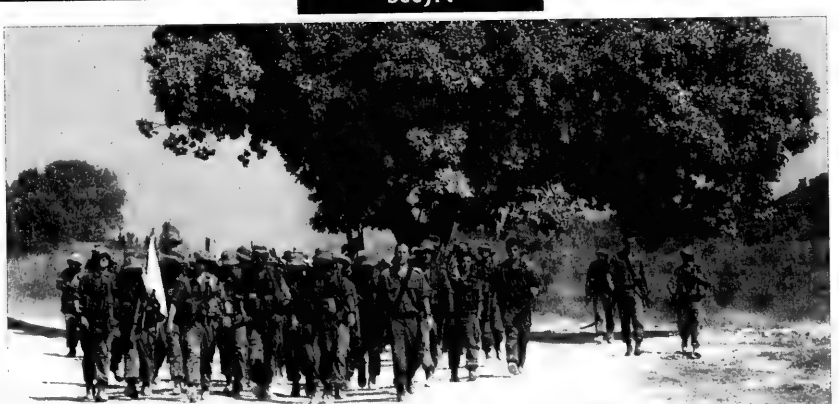
More than a decade later, the sick scenario has returned. Israel again is under threat from Saddam, although it has not acted aggressively towards Iraq. And once again, the threat is being "accepted" or "understood" as soundly tactical or as merely a manifestation of the linkage of Saddam's cause to that of the Palestinians.

It is our duty, however, to remind the world that there must never be any "acceptance" or "understanding" of Saddam's plotting. Moreover, we must firmly resist any effort at linking the campaign against him with the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians.

In the *Wall Street Journal* of Sept. 27, noted Middle Eastern scholar Bernard Lewis, effectively debunked that false linkage. "The conflict with Israel certainly receives overwhelmingly major attention in the Arabic media, but since this is the only specific grievance that may be publicly expressed in a region of numerous and painful problems, that is hardly surprising. One may therefore wonder whether Middle Eastern governments indeed wish for a peace settlement, which would deprive them of this valuable safety valve, leaving them to face the undeflected anger of their subjects, including those who live under the rule of the Palestine Authority. From the almost monotonous regularity with which a series of promising peace processes have failed at the moment when they seemed most likely to succeed, one may be driven to the conclusion that they prefer to keep the conflict unresolved."

– MBD

SeeJN



TRAINING FOR A NEW BERET: After 18 hours and 90 kilometers of marching, the new Nahal reconnaissance group Topaz received the coveted Green Beret from their commanding officers. [Israel Sun photo]

Greater Toronto Area

No apology given for U of T *Anti-Calendar*

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Jewish students at the University of Toronto have stepped up their advocacy efforts on behalf of Israel – but early results have been mixed at best.

Students associated with Hillel, a Jewish student campus group, last week were rebuffed in their efforts to extract an apology from the Arts and Science Students Union (ASSU), publishers of the controversial *Anti-Calendar*, an annual publication containing student evaluations of more than 1,600 courses and instructors in U of T's faculty of arts and science.

This past summer, Jewish students were alerted that this year's *Anti-Calendar* was to be dedicated "to the memory of the Innocents, Afghanistan and Palestine, murdered," as well as to Islamabad murder victim Iqbal Masih, Chinese students and workers in Beijing and women engineering students who were murdered in Montreal.

The exclusion of Israeli terror victims angered Jewish students, as did the omission of those killed in the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

After last week's meeting with ASSU president Ranjini Ghosh, which Hillel representatives called productive, the Jewish students were hopeful she would be able to convince the ASSU executive to support an open joint letter with Hillel in which ASSU would apologize for the *Anti-Calendar's* dedication.

However, Ghosh said she made the suggestion to the four-person executive, but it was turned down. "I don't know why," she said "Possibly they didn't want to be tied up with a campus group."

Under the auspices of Hillel, and with the counsel of Canadian Jewish Congress' Simon Rosenblum, Jewish students had met earlier to discuss an appropriate response, said Adam Cutler, chair of Hillel's student co-ordinating committee.

The students decided to establish a Task Force for a Respectful Anti-Calendar and to approach various U of T colleges and clubs for their support, Cutler said.

The students also launched a petition citing the "unconscionable" omission of "the innocent victims of Sept. 11 and Israel" and calling on the ASSU executive "to publicly apologize for this disrespectful and offensive dedication."

Cutler said he was disappointed at the failure of the ASSU executive to apologize for the *Anti-Calendar*'s dedication.

"Obviously we're still looking for something. We're going to press forward until we get a public apology," he said.

The various colleges and clubs on campus were receptive to Hillel's critiques of the *Anti-Calendar* and he said their governing bodies were scheduled to begin meetings last week to discuss their response. In addition, efforts will be stepped up to gather 1,000 signatures on the petition.

Ghosh said she assured Cutler "there was no malicious intent" when the *Anti-Calendar's* dedication was vetted by ASSU.

She said the dedication was conceived prior to the summer and "we got caught up in events of the time.

"When I read it before, I didn't think it was exclusive. After talking to Adam, I can see why they'd get angry."

Ghosh said that at no time did she feel the dedication was disrespectful to any group, but she conceded that given subsequent events during the summer – particularly the terror attack on the Hebrew University cafeteria – "it made us look really bad.

"In my opinion, if so much of the stuff that happened in the summer didn't [happen], it wouldn't have been so bad."

* * *

Hillel's response to the *Anti-Calendar* is part of a "more pro-active approach" to campus issues affecting Jewish students, Cutler said. For the last two years, Jewish students have resolved to fight back when they see Israel under attack.

Hillel's response part of 'more pro-active approach'

An Israel Advocacy Group has been established and two weeks ago, 25 students met to discuss ways to boost Israel's image on campus. In addition, an Israel Awareness Group, which aims at giving Jewish students more information about the Middle East situation, has also been busy at work, Cutler said.

UJA Federation has boosted funding towards Israel-related programming and Congress' Rosenblum has lent his expertise to helping Jewish students counter pro-Arab propaganda.

"My advice is to really get out there and make a campaign of it," Rosenblum said, referring to the *Anti-Calendar* controversy. "This is an eyesore and most students would see it that way."

Meanwhile, the University of Toronto Objectivist Club is sponsoring an event on Oct. 6 titled, the Moral Case for Supporting Israel. The club's members are interested in philosophy and are considered strong supporters of Israel.

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Wiesel still an optimist at 74

By HEATHER CHEIFETZ SHERMAN
Special to the CJN

Terrorism may be evolving, but its evil roots remain unchanged, Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel told a Toronto audience recently.

"Sept. 11 was just a phase in the process," warned Wiesel, who has studied the history of terrorism for decades. "But, actually, suicide killing began long ago."

What has changed, he said, is the motivation behind acts of terror.

"In the past, terrorists left behind a message, or a demand of some sort," Wiesel said. "For the first time in history, terrorists are killing without leaving a message. They want death to become the message."

Wiesel was the keynote speaker at a tribute dinner honouring Dr. Zane Cohen, a colorectal surgeon currently serving his third term as surgeon-in-chief at Mount Sinai Hospital.

"I never miss an opportunity to honour a physician," joked Wiesel at the start of his speech. "I never know when I might need one."

Wiesel, 74, is an internationally renowned human rights activist who has has taught at Boston University since 1976 and has received numerous awards, including the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Nobel Peace Prize.

His first book, *Night*, which has sold millions of copies and been translated from the original French into 25 languages, spawned an entire generation of Holocaust memoirs after its publication in 1958 and started Wiesel's professional journey from journalist to author and activist.

The book is an autobiographical portrayal of Wiesel's experiences as a 15-year-old boy sent to Auschwitz and then Buchenwald before being liberated by the Allies in 1945. Both of Wiesel's parents and a younger sister were murdered in the death camps.

In his talk, he discussed past and present manifestations of anti-Semitism.

"Why does anti-Semitism exist?" Wiesel asked the audience. "The reasons that they have are as old as history."

He acknowledged the "anxiety" and "uncertainty" many Jews feel right now with the worldwide rise in violent anti-Semitic incidents, suicide bombings in Israel and the threat of international terrorism.

"Of course we are worried, for ourselves and for Israel," he said. "We don't know what will happen."

But, if and when America strikes Iraq as part of its campaign against terrorism, "there is absolutely no doubt that [Iraqi leader] Saddam Hussein will strike Israel again," Wiesel said, adding that he fully supports the U.S.-led war on terror.

Commenting on the deteriorating relationship between Israel and the Palestinians, Wiesel said he staunchly supports Israel's right to defend itself against terror. He decried Palestinian terrorists' use of random targets by vehemently insisting that "an Israeli general would never purposely kill a child."

Wiesel also reflected on his close friendship with the late Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, recalling the pivotal day in September 1993, when Rabin and PLO leader Yasser Arafat shook hands on the White House lawn, with former U.S. president Bill Clinton looking on proudly.

Tribute dinner honourees Dr. Zane & Joan Cohen and with Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel.
[Stephen Epstein/Big Dipper Communications photo]

Wiesel, who sat in the audience that day, recalls being stunned at his own reaction. He remembers feeling that peace was "so close you could taste it."

Getting back to the current climate, he said that no matter what is going on in the world, the international Jewish community must stick together.

"Today, a unity has been achieved," Wiesel said. "The people of Israel are one people. We know it, we feel it."

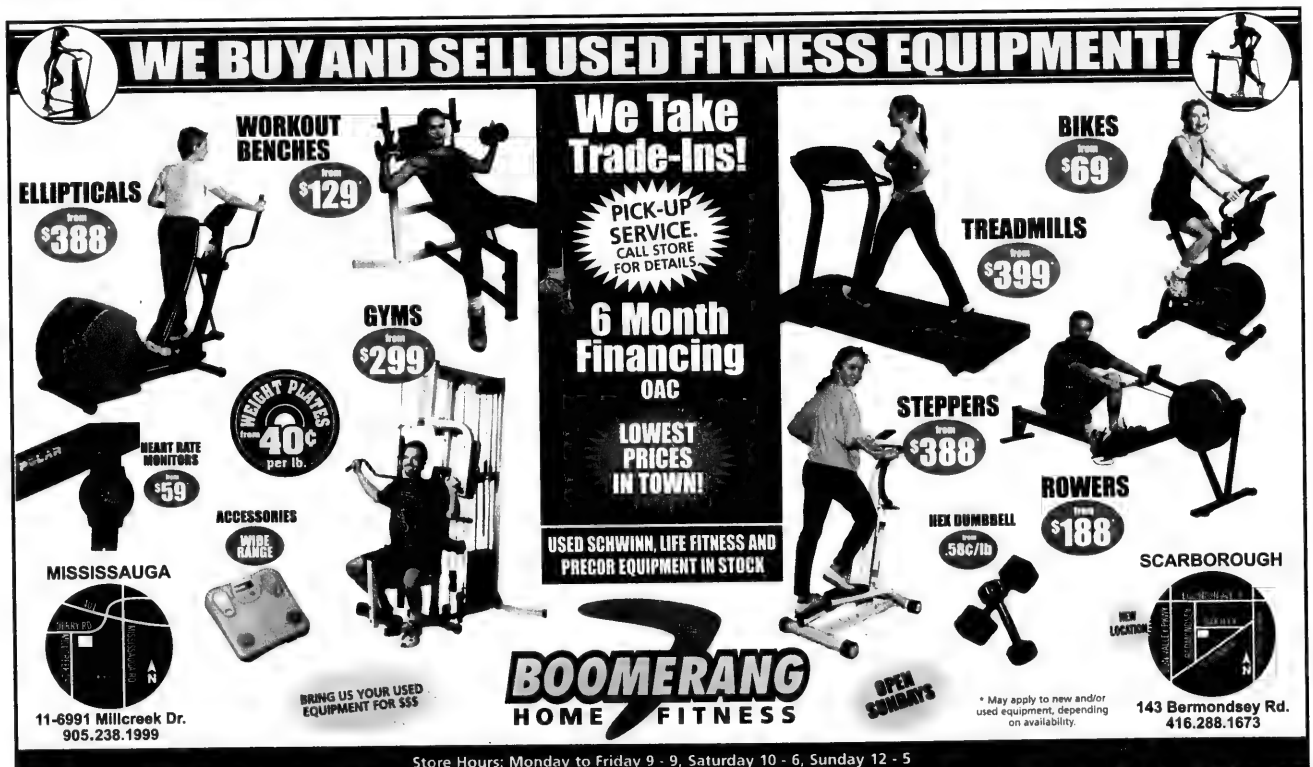
Wiesel urged the crowd not to miss what he said is a fleeting opportunity. "Life is not made up of years, but moments. We need to seize this moment, define our Jewishness and ask ourselves, 'What is my obligation as a Jew today?'"

Wiesel said he remains hopeful about the long-term prospects for peace.

"Should we be smiling pessimists or weeping optimists? Let's not weep, let's smile."

More than 800 guests turned out for the event, sponsored by the Toronto chapter of the Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University and Mount Sinai Hospital.

Proceeds will go toward the Zane and Joan Cohen Endowment Scholarship Fund, which supports research into gastrointestinal diseases at BGU and a new surgical same-day admitting unit at Mount Sinai.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Greater Toronto Area

Israel and Diaspora conference at U of T

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A two-day conference on Israel and the Diaspora gets under way this week at the University of Toronto.

The symposium is called Israel, the Diaspora and the Jewish Past: Continuity or Rupture?

It takes place at the Munk Centre for International Studies, 1 Devonshire Place, and is sponsored by the Halbert Exchange Committee.

Featuring Canadian and Israeli scholars, the conference is scheduled to begin on Monday, Oct. 7 at 9 a.m. with introductory remarks by Derek Penslar of U of T and Israel Bartal of Hebrew University.

The first talk, set to begin at 9:30 a.m., is by Aviezer Ravitzky. The Hebrew University professor's topic is The Jewish People Today: Between Determinism and Freedom.

Ravitzky will be followed by David Novak of U of T. The subject of his speech is The Jewish Textual Base for a Secular Polity.

From 11:15 to 12:45 p.m., Michael Silber and Bartal will respectively discuss The Unorthodox Vision of a 19th Century Zealot, and Secular Zionism and the Reinvention of Orthodox Messianism.

From 2:30 p.m. onward, Dan Avnon and Jonathan Frankel, both of Hebrew University, will speak on The Hebrew Notion of Citizenship: Biblical and Modern and Jewish Power, Then and Now.

Menchem Brinker of Hebrew U kicks off the second day at 9 a.m. with a talk on The Jewish Literary Heritage and Modern Hebrew Literature.

The conference ends with a speech by U of T's Michael Bodemann on post-war German Jewry and its relationship with Israel.

Addressing Judaism in a turbulent world

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

An all-day conference at Beth Jacob V'Anshei Drildz Congregation on Oct. 13 will deal with Judaism in a turbulent world.

Sponsored by Torah in Motion, the title of the event is Renewing Our Spirit: Self, Family, Nation.

Some of the topics to be covered are spirituality, the Jewish family, ethics in the modern world, women's health and Israel.

Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, executive vice-president of the Orthodox Union, will deliver the keynote address, How Can Judaism Thrive in Modernity? The evening will have a town hall format to facilitate a dialogue between Rabbi Weinreb, the audience and conference organizers, rabbis Jay Kelman and Michael Skobac, and teacher Elliott Malamet.

David Berger, professor of history at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center of City University of New York, will discuss Jewish messianic movements throughout the centuries.

Rabbi Mordechai Becher, the popular former senior lecturer at Ohr Somayach and now senior lecturer at Monsey, N.Y.'s Gateways Organization, an educational outreach program, will discuss parenting and how Judaism can enhance spirituality.

The relationship between science and Halachah will be discussed by Rabbi Michael Broyde, academic director of the law and religion program at Emory University. He will also speak on homosexuality. There will be special programs for children at a nominal charge.

Cost of admission is $36 for the whole day and evening, including lunch for pre-registrants; $18 for full-time students and $10 for only the evening program.

Torah in Motion is dedicated to presenting programs which address the relationship between Torah and society, focusing on, a media release says, the interface of modern society and Jewish law and thought.

For more information or to register, call 416-633-5770, or on the Internet, go to www.torahinmotion.org.

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Beginners Hebrew (For those able to decode the Hebrew alphabet)
Beth David, 55 Yeomans Dr., 10 a.m. Sundays, Oct. 20, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24 & Dec. 1. A follow-up to the Hebrew reading marathon. No charge. Instructors: Norma Rubin, Shirley Vernon, Zena Wise

Basic Hebrew Reading
Beth David, 55 Yeomans Dr., Mondays, 7:30-8 p.m. Sept. 30/02 through Apr. 28/03. Fee: $25. Instructor: Hana Werner

Intermediate Hebrew
Beth David, 55 Yeomans Dr., Mondays, 8-9 p.m. Sept. 30/02 through Apr. 28/03. Fee: $25. Instructor: Hana Werner

Davening Skills Workshop (Beginners & Intermediate)
Beth Tikvah, 3080 Bayview Ave., 10-11 a.m. Sundays, beginning Oct. 6. No charge. Light breakfast included. Instructor: Hazzan Avi Keller

Intermediate/Siddur Hebrew (For those able to decode the Hebrew alphabet)
Beth Tzedec, 1700 Bathurst St., 10 a.m. Sundays, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17 & 24. 1:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 8, 15, 22, 29, Nov. 5, 12, 19 & 26. 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, Nov. 6, 13, 20 & 27. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24 31, Nov. 7, 14, 21 & 28. No charge. Instructors: Cantor Meir Finkelstein, Loretta Tanenbaum, Yvette Lerner. Students may come at any day or time for any given week

The Meaning of Prayers
Beth Tzedec, 1700 Bathurst St., 9:30 a.m. Shabbat mornings, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30. Instructor: Rabbi Aubrey Glazer

Basic Hebrew
Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd. Thursdays, beginning Oct. 10. No charge. Instructor & time to be announced

Beginning November

Introduction to Hebrew
Beth Tikvah, 3080 Bayview Ave., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10. Fee: $30 includes book, materials, lunch, and snacks. Instructor: Rabbi Wayne Allen

Introduction to Hebrew Skills
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, 100 Elder St., 9:30-11 a.m., Sundays, Nov. 10, 17, 24, Dec. 1, 8, & 15. No charge. Instructor: Michael Kinrys

Beginning December

One Day Prayer Fluency
Beth Tzedec, 1700 Bathurst St., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8. Lunch charge. Instructor: Cantor Meir Finkelstein

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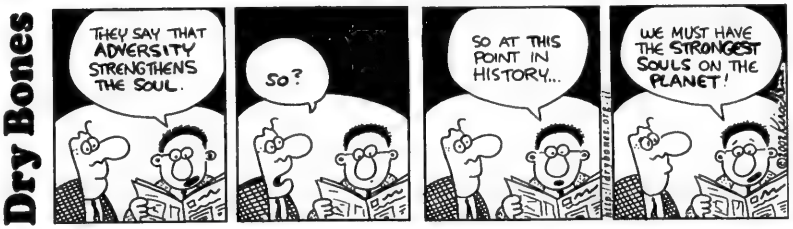
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Removing a policy of discrimination

The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) seems determined to de-register Canadian Friends of Magen David Adom (CMDA) as a charitable institution under the Income Tax Act capable of issuing tax receipts to Canadians who make contributions to the organization.

Two weeks ago, the Federal Court of Appeal granted the CCRA permission to continue with the de-registration process. But in doing so, the court effectively struck down a policy of the CCRA that we (see *The CJN* editorial, July 11) and others considered unconscionable. The CCRA had adopted the policy that CMDA violated the Income Tax Act when, in the course of rescue and life-saving services in Israel, CMDA-donated ambulances were being used outside of Israel's pre-June 4, 1967 borders. Such use of the ambulances was deemed by the CCRA to be an "activity which lent support to Israeli settlements" beyond the June '67 borders, thus undermining Canadian public policy regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In our view, the CCRA stance was bad policy.

As we wrote in our editorial, it was "illogical, inconsistent, discriminatory, offensive, hypocritical and just plain wrong." We are indeed pleased therefore, that the CCRA policy was rejected by the Federal Court of Appeal.

The court noted that it was wrong for the CCRA, in effect, to apply policy that it had authored without any legislative or regulatory underpinning. Writing for the court, Justice Karen Sharlow found that "certainly no such policy has found expression in any act of Parliament, in any regulation, or in any publicly available government document of any kind."

As Arthur Drache, counsel for CMDA, told *CJN* reporter Ron Csillag, "It's a wildly important decision for Jewish organizations. It opens the door to a lot of charities which would [otherwise] be at risk. If they're run properly, [the ruling implies] they can operate any place."

Drache also noted that the application by the CCRA of its discredited policy may have caused substantial harm to members and organizations in the community. Writing in the *National Post*, Sept. 16, he speculated: "What is not clear as yet is what, if anything, the CCRA will do to make amends to the large number of Jewish organizations which have suffered, even to the extent of winding up, because of the wrong-headed interpretation of the law."

Though there is still a jeopardy to the charitable status of CMDA, the issue will not be decided on the unfair application of a questionable and odious policy that effectively discriminated only against Jewish Canadians. The issue, we hope, will now be decided on its substantive merits, on sound, well-established principles of statutory interpretation and on the specific facts and circumstances of the case.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani (Hamid) Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

Claims against Claims Conference

Readers respond to "A survivor's claim against the Claims Conference" by Eli Pfefferkorn (CJN, Sept. 5)

Who do all the funds administered by the Claims Conference belong to? These funds belong to all aging Holocaust survivors in need of health care, home care and, in some instances, simple financial assistance to meet everyday expenses.

Slave labour funds should be distributed expeditiously. Many survivors have waited two years and endured frustration and aggravation. As well, many survivors live on the edge of poverty. Giving assistance to Jews in Argentina and Brazil is important. But these immediate needs should be met from funds of the World Jewish Congress philanthropies. It is inappropriate to divert funds belonging to Shoah survivors.

Let's hope that the newly installed board of the Claims Conference will do justice to their responsibility to survivors in their "golden" years. Holocaust survivors, of whom 48 per cent live in Israel, 36 per cent in the United States, 6.5 per cent in Canada, 6 per cent in Australia and the widely dispersed balance of 4 per cent, deserve the benefits, even so late in their lives.

Michael Rosenberg, President,
Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada

* * *

I wish to commend Eli Pfefferkorn for writing such an insightful article.

I am a Holocaust survivor. I applied to the Claims Conference 12 years ago for some compensation for my suffering and for the loss of my whole family. I am the only one left. They keep telling me that I do not fit their criteria.

Pfefferkorn's article expresses my feelings about the Claims Conference.

Something should be done about the way the Claims Conference handles the survivors who are still left.

Sarah Menczel
Toronto

* * *

I congratulate Eli Pfefferkorn on this well-documented article which is long overdue.

For years, many survivors refused to apply for "blood money" from those who murdered our families. However, we are now talking of slave labour payments, insurance claims and bank deposits, monies the banks and insurance companies held in trust for customers and their heirs. This is not blood money but money that they should have given back. Now that these institutions have been exposed by our representatives, why must we fight with our representatives for proper accounting of monies they won on our behalf?

No leader should be above question nor above reproach lest his or her noble deeds become tarnished with suspicion. Beware of the legacy we leave our children.

Arnold Friedman
Toronto

* * *

The article spelling out the reprehensible actions of the authorities in charge of the claims of Holocaust survivors is noteworthy. It is imperative that there be proper accountability carried out at the very earliest time — legally, honestly and thoroughly.

Enough of the shameful nonsense!

G. Helperin
Toronto

* * *

I am not a survivor, nor am I a child of survivors. Yet I found my insides churning as they were touched by the anguish, desperation, and feelings of betrayal expressed by Eli Pfefferkorn in his article.

It is beyond my qualifications to either challenge or corroborate Pfefferkorn's indictment against the Claims Conference for its alleged failure to discharge its responsibilities "with the sensitivity, integrity and responsiveness that the survivors' human situation warrants." However, it is clear that he has made a serious case and that he is not alone in his assessment of the activities of the Claims Conference.

One would hope that the Claims Conference itself would respond, point by point, to Pfefferkorn's allegations, as well as to those made by other serious critics over the years. What is probably required to get at the full truth is a thorough and unbiased inquiry by those organizations that purport to represent the Jewish community, such as World Jewish Congress, International B'nai Brith and UJA Federations. Ideally, such an inquiry should be monitored by a free Jewish press, to the extent that it is, in fact, free.

Within these organizations, a sense of urgency and priority must be felt regarding this matter. As Pfefferkorn wrote, "Time is running out on us at a shocking rate."

Marvin B. Pachino
Toronto

* * *

Tucked away near the back of your Rosh Hashanah edition was a well-researched, well-documented and well-written essay by Eli Pfefferkorn containing serious and disturbing allegations against the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany. Although you are to be commended for publishing this article in its entirety, surely its content deserves more prominence in your paper.

Vivian Felsen
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

A Zionist state in 1939

By KENNETH W. STEIN

Finally, the syllabus is finished and the 600-page "documents book" is reproduced and awaits distribution to some 100 students registered to take history/political science/Jewish studies 169, a course called History, Politics and Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict.

Spring training for teaching comes each summer when my lecture notes are revised to incorporate new material. My game plan for the first half of the course includes discussion of Arab and Jewish claims to Palestine; how Arab and Jewish communities were different sociologically, economically and demographically; what role the British played in the evolving conflict; what led to the British and then the UN decision to divide Palestine into Arab and Jewish states in 1937 and again in 1947; and finally, what Arab and Jewish populations knew about the struggle to control Palestine as it actually unfolded. The second half of the course will focus on 1948 to the present.

A raft of revelations caught my attention in this year's course re-preparation. One was the origin of the Palestinian historical narrative. It emerged after I read what Usamah al-Baz, one of the Arab world's leading contemporary political analysts and a longtime adviser to Egyptian presidents, said on May 21 this year: "Had not the Nazi crimes been committed against Jews during World War II, the Jewish state would have never come true."

And then the Danish foreign minister, now the president of the European Union, asserted in a July 16 letter to U.S. President George W. Bush that it was not "the Palestinian Arabs... who launched the Holocaust against the Jews. That happened in Europe. [The] inhabitants of Palestine... found themselves looking on as... their country was taken over."

If the aftermath of the Holocaust led to Israel's creation, then the Palestinians can be painted as the victims who were displaced by the Jews who fled Europe. Equally important, Arab leaders and Palestinians themselves would have no complicity in Israel's becoming a state, nor share any of the responsibility for the creation of Palestinian Arab refugees.

Newly-arrived immigrants, part of youth aliyah in the mid-1930's, dance in their new kibbutz community.

Already part of my lectures, reasons why the Zionists won their independence war were the absence of Palestinian leadership, societal fragmentation and economic distress among the vast Palestinian peasant population, the squabbling at the time for the territorial spoils of Palestine between Jordan's King Abdullah and Egypt's King Farouk, and the poor performance of the Arab armies in the 1947-1949 period.

Since 1917, immigrating Jews had slowly established an infrastructure for a state and were protected in their state-building by British strategic needs to control the eastern side of the Suez Canal and its route to India, while preventing French interests in Lebanon and Syria from creeping south. For years, I have made the case that there was a nascent Jewish state in existence by 1939, but this summer's reading added statistical weight to this argument.

According to British parliamentary debates, League of Nations records and *A Survey of Palestine* (1946), while the Jewish population was only 17 per cent of the total population of Palestine in 1928, Jewish contributions amounted to 44 per cent of the British Palestine administration's revenue. In 1936, the Jews in Palestine contributed more to the Palestine public treasury than did the Arabs. In 1939, the Jewish community represented 31 per cent of the total settled population, yet Jewish capital investment in industry represented 86 per cent of the total net output. In the same year, Jewish workers constituted 79 per cent of the total work force and the salaries and wages paid to Jewish workers were 89 per cent of the total wage bill.

Young people arrive on Kibbutz Ein Harod in 1934. [Encylopedia Judaica photos]

In the inter-war period, in the Jewish sector of Palestine's economy, the ratio of gross investment to gross national product averaged 31.3 per cent per annum, whereas the Arab sector averaged 11.4 per cent. For all the countries in the world, this was estimated as the highest rate of investment of its kind in the first half of the 20th century! The Jewish financial and economic sector grew phenomenally, not from British taxpayer funds or subventions from the British government, nor from British intrusion into the financial or monetary sector to protect the Jewish economy, but from capital imported by Jews for the Jewish economy. Thus, before World War II, capital imported by Jews came primarily from private sources [75 per cent], consisting mostly of immigrant transfers. (See Jacob Metzer, *The Divided Economy of Palestine*, Cambridge, 1998, pp. 104-115.)

Having read Arabic newspapers published in Palestine in the 1930s and their translations, I jotted down some quotes for my students. These dealt with Arab land sales to Jews. As I re-read them, I wondered if the Danish foreign minister had any clue. I was sure that Usamah al-Baz did, but for political reasons could not acknowledge some of the facts on why or how Palestinians lost their patrimony in the 1930s.

From *al-Jami'ah al-Islamiyyah*, Aug. 21, 1932 and Sept. 2, 1932, respectively: "because the Jews are alert and our leaders are asleep, the Jews are buying the lands" and "the Arabs will never regard these sales as legal although the Jews possess the titles to these lands... When political conditions change, the Arabs will demand that their lands be given back to them."

From *al-Jami'ah al-Arabiyyah*, Sept. 16, 1932: "There is no doubt that the question of the sale of land is about one of the greatest dangers that threatens the future of the country."

From *al-Difa'*, Nov. 5, 1934: "The frightened Arab who fears for his future today melts from fear when he imagines his offspring as homeless and as criminals who cannot look at the lands of their fathers."

Barbara Smith in *The Roots of Separatism in Palestine: British Economic Policy, 1920-1929* (Syracuse University Press, 1993) asserted that "by the end of the 1930s, the Zionists in Palestine had formed virtually a 'state within a state' with military organization and political, social, economic and financial institutions separate from those of the indigenous population as well as from the British Mandatory Administration."

Chassidic families too in the mid-1920's helped plough the fields, here in Kfar Chassidim near Haifa.

In my own book, *The Land Question in Palestine, 1917-1939* (North Carolina Press, 1984), I showed that throughout the period 1920-1939, Jews purchased relatively small amounts of land in Palestine, but enough to create a territory in which the British proposed and then withdrew the idea of establishing Jewish and Arab states in 1937!

Enlightening summer reading! The Zionist state was *not* handed to the Jews by the international community or by the United Nations out of guilt. Israel was not created simply as a result of European guilt over the Holocaust. Before Adolf Hitler invaded Poland in 1939, Arabs in Palestine knew the political realities in Palestine but lacked capital, organization and unity to compete with a dynamic and goal-oriented Zionist movement. The evidence is startling. And there is more.

Kenneth W. Stein is a professor of Middle Eastern history and political science at Emory University in Atlanta, Ga.

How secure is Israel?

I am writing this column on the day after Yom Kippur, when perforce I have returned to the problems of the everyday. Not surprisingly, the list of concerns is headed by the dangers and problems facing Israel.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Public opinion in general believes that Israel is a very strong and secure nation, and that belief is certainly correct to an important degree.

Israel's ultimate security comes from two different sources: its own material strength and the crucial support of world Jewry. We are, in a manner of speaking, the backstop that assures Israel of ultimate security.

I get around the community quite a bit, and from the questions I am asked by its members, I have found there are two main views concerning Israel's fate and future.

One is that regardless of what its enemies will plan and plot, Israel has enough military capability and popular devotion to make it secure in every respect. That sounds reassuring, but it is not entirely correct. While the people of Israel are, in fact, determined to secure their own future, that in itself may, under certain circumstances, not be sufficient.

Another view holds that Israel is quite isolated in the Middle East and that Arab forces might decide Israel is weak and thus mount an attack, which could very well prove to be a mortal threat to the Jewish State. What would prevent such a scenario is the presence of world Jewry and its devotion to making the Jewish State secure in every respect possible.

This is where our own dedication comes into play.

As long as it's clear that we – along with non-Jewish nations and forces that believe in the importance of a Jewish State's existence – are determined to secure Israel under any circumstances, its enemies will hesitate to risk a confrontation.

Since none of us wants Israel to be put to the test, the responsibility for seeing that such a test never happens will remain urgent.

Friends tell me that I have issued this message from time to time, and that my readers may indeed find it repetitive.

So, dear readers, forgive my repetition of this theme. I do not write in order to entertain, but to reinforce convictions that I believe my readers should cherish and embrace.

If that proves to be the case, I am well rewarded, for our future will be more secure in every way.

Hatred knows no boundaries

I hate group e-mails – I find them impersonal at best and the equivalent of pure spam at worst. But when I reluctantly clicked on a group e-mail in my inbox the other day, I found myself propelled into a dizzying state of emotions and thoughts within mere seconds.

Barbara Balfour in Calgary

In the e-mail, a young woman named Sara Ahronheim gives her eyewitness account of the riots that occurred at Montreal's Concordia University when former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu was scheduled to speak there last month. She asks that her letter be passed on to as many people as possible.

She writes of spending three hours in the auditorium waiting for Netanyahu to speak, but finally being told that he would not be speaking after all.

She writes of emerging into the light outside and being bombarded by the sight of the chaos, the garbage in the street and the sting of the police tear gas unleashed in a weak attempt to control the rioters.

As countless disappointed people exit the building, they sing peace chants together instead of fighting back at the rioters who scream out their hatred and throw bottles at their heads.

In one of humanity's most ancient ways of taunting Jews for their supposed money-grubbing, piles of pennies are chucked at their feet.

Although I myself have never fallen victim to this kind of abuse, the wheels of memory start to turn inside my head.

"Today I saw raw hatred, and it cut me to the core," Ahronheim writes.

And I start to remember some of the times I encountered raw hatred in my life, and the memories come all too easily. The reasons for it weren't always ethnically linked, but the intensity was there all the same. All those little moments suddenly seem much more dangerous when you realize exactly what they could morph into.

I remember in particular a girl who used to taunt me in junior high – who went out of her way to make my life a living hell. She succeeded in turning her friends against me, using that arsenal of whispered rumours and cattiness that so many young girls possess. For years, I believed what they told me – that I was stupid, ugly and unworthy.

Now that I am an adult, my perspective has changed significantly. And when I saw her behind the counter at my favourite coffee shop almost six years later, the unmistakable venom in her eyes as she took my order shook me.

She wasn't sorry for what she had done. She hadn't grown up since those girlish days. My idealistic visions of her begging for my forgiveness remained just that – visions. And it scared me to see that she would do it all over again if she could.

I can remember befriending an Egyptian woman at the bus stop one day.

She was the one who made the first move – she put her hand out to touch my hair, her own concealed underneath a tightly wrapped white shawl, and asked me what kind of dye I used. When I told her it was my natural colour, she gasped and told me I was beautiful. She started chatting with me over the next few weeks as if we were best friends.

One day on the bus, I mentioned in passing that I was getting ready to go on a Birthright trip to Israel. She drew away from me in confusion, asking, "Are you Jewish?" She almost spat out the last word in disgust.

Suddenly the colour of my hair didn't matter anymore. And I felt suddenly exposed – afraid, but also very sad.

At first, the Palestinian protest against Netanyahu's speech at Concordia made me feel, for the first time, ashamed to be Canadian.

Then I realized it is naïve of me to feel surprised this sort of thing could happen in Canada. Hatred knows no boundaries, nor does it recognize any sort of geographical barrier. It's a raw human emotion that makes its first appearance on the playground and unleashes its fangs on the battlefields of life.

While Ahronheim writes of her wishes to fix the rift between the warring factions, I don't think it's going to happen.

Sometimes I think it's hatred, not love, that makes the world go round.

Balfour can be reached at bbalfour@ucalgary.ca.

Yom tov away from home

Tradition: so comforting when retained and so refreshing when renewed. The high holy days are always the time when tradition seems to be the most powerful. For my entire life, I have celebrated the holidays in the exact same way, so at the end of the summer, when I made the decision not to be home for the yamim tovim, I wasn't quite sure what the result would be. As it turns out, my decision to stay in Halifax, as opposed to returning to Toronto, was one that taught me an immeasurable amount.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

For Rosh Hashanah, I was invited into three warm and welcoming homes. I was welcomed with open arms for my first Haligonian new year. I received a taste of traditions other than my own, and at tables with families, friends and hungry university students, my concept of Jewish family was broadened. While the gefilte fish may not taste the same as it does at home, the love and devotion that go into it are universal.

The next Friday night, a small group of students and young professionals got together for Shabbat dinner at the bayit, our Jewish Sudents Association house. When I lived in residence last year, a Friday night was hardly something that had a Jewish connotation for me. So to be at the bayit, discussing our distinct perspectives on the culture we all share was both an unexpected and yet thrilling experience. As we expressed our visions for the growth of Jewish student life in our city, my whole concept of Jewish life in Halifax was evolving before my eyes.

Kol Nidre night, my roommates and I hosted our first official heimishe Jewish meal, complete with homemade challah and kugel. There and then, even with the hectic craze of getting to shul on time, we couldn't help but stop to appreciate the Jewish life and family we had created for ourselves.

Yom Kippur itself seemed to fly in a sort of introspective daze. Being away from home gave me the distance to reflect on relationships with family and friends and give true thought to both past and future. Then, with the sound of the shofar, I was thrust right back into Jewish student life.

We were holding a breaking of the fast at the bayit, our first official event of the year. As is the case with every event, you can't help but plan for the best, all the while dreading the worst. After hours of planning, shopping, baking and preparing, we had enough food to feed an army, but I couldn't dismiss my fear that no one would come.

To my surprise and excitement, I entered the bayit after shul to find some 25 new faces already happily munching away. Within half an hour, there were some 50 people there: new smiling faces, students from Dalhousie, King's College and Acadia universities. As people entered, they openly expressed their amazement at the bayit, not to mention the classic Jewish fare that hit the spot after a day of fasting.

For me, that night was the moment of truth. I had to prove both to myself and to the students that this year would be different, that student life would be vibrant and successful. The feelings of accomplishment and sheer joy that ran through me that night cannot be adequately expressed. We succeeded beyond our wildest expectations.

This wasn't the end though. As we enjoyed our bagels and lox, conversation turned to Sukkot. My roommate Naomi declared that we had to have a sukkah of our own. She spent the rest of the week on the phone explaining the concept to every craft and hardware store in Halifax.

Thanks to Naomi's tireless efforts, Friday afternoon a beautiful sukkah stood proudly on our front balcony. Complete with the obligatory paper chains and our Israeli flag, our sukkah became a neighbourhood gathering spot for friends, both Jewish and not.

Had anyone asked me a month ago, how things would have played out for my first yom tov in Halifax, I would not have thought of this tale. While it was hard to relinquish my own family traditions back home, I have to admit that the acquisition of new Haligonian traditions has made for a totally unexpected and fulfilling new year. Of all the lessons I have learned this month, and there have been many, the most resounding has to be that Jewish family can be found wherever you are.

A Palestinian writer appraises Yasser Arafat

Mohammed Abdel Rahman Abdel Raouf Arafat Al Qudua Al Husseini, otherwise known as Yasser Arafat, is a slippery character. Western biographers who have attempted to take the measure of the man, from Alan Hart (*Arafat*) to Thomas Kiernan (*Yasser Arafat, the Man and the Myth*), have been confounded by his persona and policies.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

"Among all the Arab leaders of modern times he stands as the most contradictory," claims his latest biographer, Said Aburish, a Palestinian who was born near Jerusalem, lives in London and holds an American passport.

Arafat, he writes in *Arafat: From Defender to Dictator* – published by Bloomsbury and distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books – is an amalgam of "17th century Arab thinking and today's street smart wisdom…"

Aburish has written a balanced, though iconoclastic, work that goes far in separating fact from fiction. He pays tribute to Arafat's contributions to Palestinian nationalism, but exposes his defects and his mistakes. Thankfully, *Arafat* is not hagiography.

Although Arafat has tried to perpetuate the myth that his birthplace was Jerusalem, having described himself as "the son of Jerusalem," he was actually born in Cairo, on Aug. 24, 1929. Aburish offers a rational explanation for this discrepancy. In trying to establish his credentials as an authentic Palestinian leader, Arafat could not afford to disclose facts that might diminish his Palestinian identity.

Arafat's half-Egyptian farther was a small-time textile merchant and policeman who moved his family from the Gaza Strip to Cairo in 1927. His mother was a member of an old Muslim family in Jerusalem.

Raised in a traditional Muslim home, Arafat attended Cairo University and was active in Palestinian student circles. On behalf of the Muslim Brotherhood, he bought arms for Arab fighters in Palestine. Arafat fought fearlessly with the Egyptian army in Gaza, but Aburish debunks the myth that he personally knocked out an Israeli armoured column.

In 1949, he began publishing *The Voice of Palestine*, a polemical magazine that railed against "the Zionist entity, the cancer in our midst." Then he was elected chair of the General Union of Palestinian Students.

Though he was not a compelling public speaker, Arafat could draw on useful qualities. He was a tireless worker, he could coax loyalty out of people and he was supremely self-confident. In other words, Arafat was a great salesman.

He and his friends founded Fatah – the armed wing of the PLO – in Kuwait, where he toiled as a civil engineer. From the outset, he believed that Palestine could be "liberated" only though the barrel of a gun. His model was the successful Arab insurrection in Algeria. "Armed struggle," to him, was a way of keeping the flames of Palestinian nationalism burning.

In 1961, Arafat made his first trip to Syria, the government of which was sympathetic to his cause. During this period, he established contacts with a variety of foreign regimes – China and Cuba, for example – that would be of subsequent assistance.

The PLO was founded in 1964 at an Arab summit. The brainchild of Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, it was designed to satisfy Palestinian nationalist aspirations while keeping Palestinians in check. The PLO's first leader, a demagogue named Ahmad Shukeiri, is described by Aburish as "a Palestinian diplomat for hire" who had represented Syria and Saudi Arabia. Yahya Hammouda, a colourless lawyer, replaced Shukeiri in 1968. Arafat, in a stroke of intrigue, supplanted him 1969.

Before he won control of the PLO, Arafat was worried that it would pose too strong a challenge to Fatah. He thereby attempted to undermine the PLO. Aburish claims that Fatah mounted its first raids into Israel in order to preempt the PLO. How ironic.

Yasser Arafat

The 1967 Six Day War was a catastrophic setback for the Arab world, but for Arafat it was a golden opportunity to transform himself, and Fatah, into stellar symbols of Palestinian resistance.

Shortly after the war, Arafat attempted to foment an uprising in the West Bank, which had fallen into Israel's hands. But Arafat ran into a brick wall: the pro-Jordanian powers-that-be there viewed Fatah as a threat to their respective positions. Besides, Israel's security and intelligence apparatus in the West Bank was extremely effective.

After three months, Arafat left the West Bank, joining colleagues in Jordan. From bases in the Jordan Valley, he dispatched infiltrators into Israel. Nearly all were killed by Israeli forces.

Like many observers, Aburish believes that the 1968 battle of Karameh, during which Israel attacked an important Fatah base near the Jordan River, was a turning point in Arafat's fortunes.

Israel destroyed the camp, at a cost of 29 soldiers, and forced the Palestinians to move deeper into Jordan. But after Karameh, which Arafat portrayed as an heroic victory, volunteers from all over the Middle East and elsewhere flocked to join Fatah, while Arab governments increased their financial support for the Palestinians.

Arafat's reaction to the plague of airline hijackings that convulsed the Middle East in the late 1960 and 1970s was typical of his modus operandi. He eventually condemned the hijackings, but took no action to stop them. (Shades of his response to Hamas and Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades terrorism).

"Arafat's handling of hijackings was indeed cynical," Aburish observes. "He wanted the benefits, yet rejected these acts when speaking to the world media or Arab leaders."

As well, Aburish criticizes Arafat for having broken the agreement under which the PLO was permitted to operate in Jordan. In violation of Jordanian laws, the PLO created its own police force and courts, and Arafat refused to control "the loutish, high-handed behaviour" of his fighters – a mistake he would repeat in Lebanon. Arafat, he notes, could not imagine that King Hussein would have the temerity to confront the PLO.

In line with his belief that Israel should be replaced by a secular state, Arafat stifled all initiatives by local West Bank Palestinians to reach an accommodation with the Jewish state. But after concluding that a military victory over Israel was impossible, he quietly let it be known that he was not opposed to a peaceful solution, and allowed the PLO representative in London to publish a series of articles advocating a two-state solution.

When hardliners questioned this tactic, he denied responsibility or feigned ignorance. Be that as it may, he appointed an aide, Bassam Abu Sharif, to enter into negotiations with Israel. This occurred in July 1987, five months before the eruption of the first intifadah. At first, Arafat did not commit to the uprising, thinking it might be a flash in the pan. But when he realized it would not fizzle out, he co-opted it under the aegis of the PLO.

Some of the most captivating material in this intriguing book turns on two topics: Arafat's decision to begin a dialogue with the United States after saying that he recognized Israel's existence and renounced terrorism, and his brief alliance with Iraq, whom he saw as a military counterweight to Israel.

Aburish's discussion of the events surrounding the Oslo peace process is edifying, and his appraisal of Oslo as a political triumph for Arafat is credible. But Aburish has a dubious opinion of Oslo, claiming it was a one-sided agreement that left Israel completely in charge. In addition, Aburish is of the opinion that Benjamin Netanyahu's election in 1996 as Israel's prime minister was "a low point" for Arafat, given Netanyahu's fundamental hostility to Oslo.

Since *Arafat* was published before the collapse of the Camp David summit and the outbreak of the second intifadah, both of which occurred in 2000, we will have to wait for a revised and updated edition of Aburish's views of those momentous events.

But in the meantime, readers will learn much from Aburish concerning Arafat's personal shortcomings and his tolerance of corruption.

Arafat, he writes, is a self-promoting and hands-on administrator with "dictatorial tendencies" whose " blind spots" range from the compulsion to act independently to the misguided belief that Arab states will protect him from the consequences of his behaviour. Yet Arafat's major shortcoming is also his strength: his view that he alone is capable of realizing Palestinian ambitions. Summing up Arafat, whom he claims is "best" under pressure, Aburish says he is "a throwback to another age – the age of a brave, uneducated, wily Arab chief."

In another critique, Aburish accuses Arafat of tolerating corruption and of cushioning himself behind a layer of yes-men and sycophants. In a final blast, he calls for his replacement.

Considering what has happened of late, from the abrupt resignation of Arafat's cabinet in mid-September to Israel's virtual destruction of his headquarters in Ramallah last week, Aburish's book must be music to the ears of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and U.S. President George W. Bush.

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Glueckel's seven little books

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

If, as historian Jacob Shatzky observed in 1926, catastrophe of one sort or another has been the usual impetus for the bulk of Jewish autobiographical writing, the celebrated chronicles left to us by Glueckel of Hamelin (1646-1724) are no exception.

Roots & Remembrance

The pious Glueckel took up her quill in 1689 after the accidental death of her beloved husband, Chaim Segal of Hamelin, who succumbed to internal injuries after falling on a slippery pavement. Beginning with the aim of "distracting my soul from the burdens laid upon it," she wrote seven small books of memoirs over many years, strictly for the benefit of her dozen children.

Hailed as the first autobiography in Jewish letters by a woman, Glueckel's memoirs provide a warm, intimate and unique glimpse of her family and commercial affairs over an extended period. She writes with great candour, whether the subject is finding desirable matches and dowries for her children, or suitable partners and equity for new business ventures. She possessed a shrewd business sense and was deeply involved in most of Chaim's mercantile activities despite the demands of motherhood.

"In its graphic account of intimate experiences, its lively sketches of character, its warm humour and frank self-revelation, [Glueckel's life] not only throws a flood of light on the period but also introduces a plucky, intelligent, independent woman whom it would have been a joy to know," writes anthologist Leo W. Schwarz, who included a chapter of her narrative in his anthology, *Memoirs Of My People: Jewish Self-Portraits from the 11th to the 20th Centuries* (Schocken edition, 1963).

Like Anne Frank's legendary diary, Glueckel's highly readable memoir falls into a category of literature that the *Encyclopedia Judaica* calls "unconscious autobiography" – that is, writing not meant for publication. Reflecting her unconscious and unliterary approach, she frequently dips her pen into the meditative ink of devotional parables, Talmudic lore and sayings from the popular Yiddish ethical books of the day, as if wanting to instruct her children as well as leave them a better sense of their family's dealings in the world.

Surprisingly, the book was kept within the relatively narrow circle of her own family for two centuries. What is less surprising is the level of discussion and scholarship it aroused after its initial publication in 1896. It has been reprinted numerous times since.

Living in Hamburg, Glueckel and Chaim were connected by blood or marriage to many leading German-Jewish families of the day, and her narrative contains enough genealogical information to allow roots-minded readers to sketch out an extensive family tree. The book has proven invaluable to numerous contemporary researchers seeking information about their lineages.

Most likely, Glueckel couldn't have imagined that the seven little books she penned for her children's edification would ever have merited publication, the attention of thousands of readers, and a hallowed place on the shelf of Jewish autobiographical literature. She stands today as a fine model for anyone with the notion that their knowledge of family history is worth recording.

Over the years, I've had the good fortune to attain copies of several unpublished essays, typewritten or scrawled by hand, that relatives have left to posterity. A few have even seen their reminiscences into print. I've always been enormously impressed by the industriousness and generosity of people who diligently record their own and their family's saga for the benefit of future generations.

* * *

Clarification: The Leo Baeck Institute of London has published a "re-translation" into German of Selma Sage's classic work *The Court Jew*, not a new edition as stated in a previous column. For details, visit the web site, www.mohr.de.

One wife too many

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

All the way back, beginning with our patriarchs, then on to King David, King Solomon and on, Jewish men, indeed all men, freely married and maintained multiple women as wives.

As difficult to comprehend as this may be today, bigamy, or even polygamy, was once commonplace. It was simply the accepted norm, both morally and socially. Biblical law completely condones a man being wed to more than one wife at the same time.

Through A Sephardi Window

Rabbeinu Gershon was a leader of mythical proportions who lived in Germany about 1,000 years ago. His legacy to the Jewish people is felt to this day. It was he who united the rabbis of his era to formalize a ban against polygamy. Today, this is seen as a concession to the times. In much the same way, the Mormon Church distances itself from this very practice, even though it was the very reason for its birth as a church and was clearly sanctioned by its founder.

At the turn of the first millennium, the world was just coming out of the dark ages. The issue of polygamy was seen by the European populace as primitive and as a pagan throwback. Judaism had to follow suit. Intense social and political pressure, as well as the general negative perception, brought about this change. Jews in Europe were also marrying just one wife. Rabbeinu Gershon and his rabbis essentially formalized the then-current practice of monogamy as a sensible and enlightened one.

What was true in Europe and continues to remain so in the western world was not the case elsewhere. In the world of Islam, the Qu'ran, like the Torah, permits a man to have several wives. For Islam, the turn of the millennium was not an awakening. In fact, Islam then saw itself, and rightfully so, as progressive and enlightened.

The practice of polygamy in Islam is well established, accepted and practised to this very day. This is not particular to Islam, but true for other cultures as well. Hence, Sephardi Jews never felt compelled to "update" their practices. There was neither pressure nor stigma associated with polygamy. Sephardi Jews, like their Muslim neighbours, continued with their lives as usual. The ban in Germany of Rabbeinu Gershon was not accepted by Sephardi Jews in Muslim countries.

Until contemporary times, it was not unheard of, and it was certainly not looked down upon by the community (by either men or women), for a household to have more than one wife if they so chose.

With the establishment of the modern State of Israel, monogamy became enshrined in law. Within this legislation however, a clause was inserted to allow and recognize those immigrants who brought more than one wife with them.

The case of monogamy versus polygamy is an excellent example that illustrates the difference between the Sephardim and the Ashkenazim, a difference in practice that is based on historical and geographical forces.

It illustrates how Judaism is one religion that took two routes through time and place, but yet remained one religion.

Jewish Life

Making sense of the Jewish Diaspora

***Scattered Among the Peoples: The Jewish Diaspora in Ten Portraits*, By Allan Levine, McClelland & Stewart, 2002, $36.99**

Books
Bernard Baskin

When did the Jewish Diaspora begin? It's all a matter of perspective. For Allan Levine, a Winnipeg novelist and historian, it begins – at least for the purposes of his book – with the expulsion from Spain in 1492.

Levine approaches Jewish history in a singular and original manner. In snapshot fashion he describes ten diverse Jewish communities: Seville, Venice, Amsterdam, Constantinople, Vienna, St. Petersburg, Paris, Vilna, Kiev and New York. Each represents a distinctive era in the Diaspora.

For every time period, he focuses on individuals who shaped and moulded the Jewish experience. Some of these influential personalities time were rabbis, teachers and writers, others were merchants, physicians and religious zealots.

In their widespread dispersion, Jews often fell under the yoke of Islam. The author indicates that from 1453 onward, almost until the fall of the Ottoman Empire in the early 20th century, religious persecution by the sultans and their officials against Jews was minimal. Pressure to convert to Islam was minor, particularly when compared to events in Spain, France, and the rest of the Christian-controlled continent. Among the influential doctors in the court of Suleiman "The Magnificent," whose reign lasted from 1521-1566, was Moses Hamon, the scion of a distinguished and honoured Jewish family.

How can we understand the dramatic rise and fall of Shabbetai Zevi (1626-1676) the infamous false messiah? In May 1665, Zevi proclaimed himself the messiah and predicted that the day of judgement would arrive on June 18, 1666. His followers, in a mad frenzy, sold their homes and businesses, prayed, fasted, held parades and named their children Shabbetai.

This collective madness came to an end when he was arrested and given a simple choice: Convert to Islam or die. He became Aziz Mehmed Effendi. It took decades for Jews to recovers from this debacle. Some, contrary to all reason, continued to believe in him and his mission, which they believed would one day achieve fruition.

More than 200 years later, the notorious Dreyfus affair, politically speaking, split France in two. It was almost impossible for a French citizen to be progressive without being for Dreyfus – and it was equally impossible to be pro-Church and pro-army without being against him.

So assimilated was Dreyfus that in his memoirs he does not even indicate that he was born a Jew. Likewise, in the numerous letters he wrote from his prison hut on Devil's Island, he never mentioned that it was anti-Semitism that was mostly responsible for the tragic injustice done to him.

The book's final chapter deals with Jewish life today and in the recent past. Levine describes the influence of Abraham Cahan, legendary editor of the *Forward*, which at its zenith had a readership of half a million. When Cahan died in 1951 at the age of 91, more than 10,000 mourners lined up at the Forward Building to hear the eulogies of politicians and dignitaries.

Levine concludes his accessible, colourful and never boring narrative with this observation: "To be a Jew in North America in the 21st century – or in Spain at the time of the exile, or in France when Alfred Dreyfus was sent to Devil's Island – is to be blessed with a special burden. Seeking life's true meaning and coming to terms with the Jewish condition as it pertains to each new age – this is part of the mystery of the Jewish people and always will be."

Brit milah & the Internet - Part 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Mazel tov. It's a girl!

Mazel tov. It's a boy!

If you are expecting to hear those words in the near future, then you may also want to think about the festivities that follow shortly after the birth. There are many wonderful Web sites that can provide you with a wealth of information and advice about the brit (or bris) milah ceremony for boys and the newer simchat bat celebrations for girls. We'll look at some of the best.

This week, the boys.

In the book of Genesis, we read about one of the cornerstone commandments given from God to Abraham and the Jewish people: "This is My covenant which you shall keep between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised." (Genesis 17:10) **[http://bible.ort.org/books/torahd5.asp?action=displaypage&book=1&chapter=17&verse=10&portion=3]**

Just why is a Jewish circumcision considered such a joyous ceremony? According to Circumcision.net **[http://www.circumcision.net/Joy.htm]**, the brit milah represents the Jews' eternal bond to God. It is the choicest of offerings, offering oneself (the physical body and the mind) to the service of the Creator. Also, look at the LifeCycles essay on this topic. **[http://www.torah.org/learning/lifecycles/milah/milah1.html]**

But why on the eighth day (for healthy boys)? Rabbi Yehuda Lebovics of Los Angeles offers a spiritual explanation **[http://www.torahview.com/bris/html/the_bris.html]**: "The kabbalistic writings teach us that seven days represent the physical world of creation. Thus, when a child has lived for eight days, he has transcended the physical to the metaphysical. The covenant joining body and soul, physical and spiritual, can now take place." If you would like to read the actual halachot of brit milah, see an incredibly detailed site which lists the laws of circumcision in both English and Hebrew. **[http://imohel.com/texts.htm]**

The controversy over performing circumcisions is not a new one. There are many Web sites that deal with the issue, such as one called Intactiyism. **[http://www.circumstitions.com/]** In the article, "Bris Milah: Beautiful or Barbaric?" Rabbi Shraga Simmons explains the importance of the commandment and surveys some of the medical research that supports the procedure. **[http://www.aish.com/literacy/lifecycle/bris_milah_beautiful_or_barbaric$.asp]**

Of course, preparing for a brit can be stressful. California's Dr. Fred Kogen provides a helpful checklist **[http://www.beritmila.com/setup.html]**. Practical tips include such things as making sure the mohel has a parking space, feeding the baby until the mohel arrives in the house, preparing a pillow for the Chair of Elijah, and being sure to disconnect the telephone during the service.

If you've attended a brit but have been afraid to take a peek at the events, you can look in – thanks to the Net. Don't worry. All the photos at Mohel Zachary Hepner's site are shot from a safe distance. **[http://imohel.com/ceremony.htm]**

Although not strictly an article solely about circumcision, I would like to conclude with an excerpt from a touching piece by Jeff Jacoby, a columnist for the *Boston Globe*, with his wishes to his newborn son, Caleb. **[http://www.jfl mail.com/articles/166.html]**

"You are so tiny, little one. You have so much growing to do. As I cradle you in my arms or watch you sleep in your crib, I pray that life brings you vigour and health, delight and fortune. Like every parent, I want you to do well. But more than anything else, I want you to do good. Sixteen days ago, you entered this world. One day – far in the future, I hope – you will leave it. If I could wish for only one thing, it would be this: that you leave it better than you found it."

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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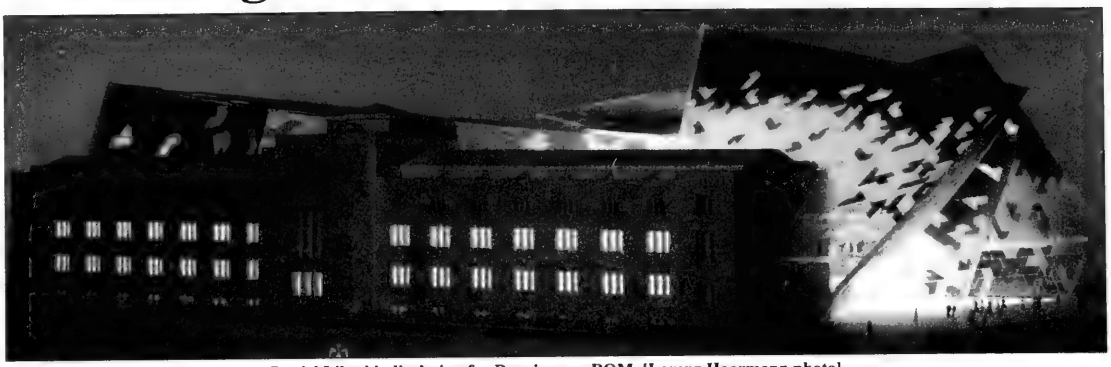
Architect leading ROM into the 21st century

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter



Daniel Libeskind's design for Renaissance ROM. [Lorenz Haarmann photo]

The Crystal, Daniel Libeskind's design for the Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), will help bring the museum into the 21st century, the architect says.

Libeskind's architectural plans for the ROM were selected in February, as part of a project that will revitalize the area around Bloor Street and Avenue Road and position the museum within an arts and cultural centre.

The Royal Conservatory of Music, the Gardiner Museum of Ceramic Art, the Bata Shoe Museum and parts of the University of Toronto will be included in the redevelopment.

"Aspects of the traditional buildings will be renovated and vistas will be opened up... it will bring a new life to the ROM," Libeskind said in a recent interview at the museum.

"The Royal Ontario Museum isn't just a building," the architect said.

It's a cornerstone of Toronto with a historical development that began at the turn of the century and has evolved over the years to reflect the development of Ontario and Canada, he said.

The project will eventually convert the museum from a "labyrinth of complicated galleries" and "black box experiences" into an international museum that Libeskind predicts will attract people from all over the world.

"The museum will offer an unprecedented display of collections in distinctive spaces."

The building's new entrance on Bloor Street will change what Libeskind described as "the current dark hole on a desolate corner of two streets anywhere in North America" into a more inviting "experience for visitors."

The award-winning Polish-born Israeli-American architect is married to Torontonian Nina Lewis and they currently live with their family in Berlin. Libeskind calls himself the quintessential "wandering Jew."

The couple have three children – each born in a different place. Lev Jacob, 24, was born in Toronto, Noam Isaac, 22, in Detroit and Rachel, 13, in Milano, Italy.

Born in Lodz in 1946 to Holocaust survivors, Libeskind moved to Israel with his family in the late 1950s and studied music. At the age of 13, he won the America-Israel Music Prize for his work as a virtuoso. At 17, he moved from Israel to the United States and began to study architecture.

At Camp Hemshekh, a Yiddish socialist camp in New York, Libeskind met Nina, the daughter of David Lewis, New Democratic Party leader from 1971 to 1975.

In July, Libeskind was selected as the first holder of the Gehry Architectural Chair at the University of Toronto and last year, he was the first architect to win the Hiroshima Art Prize for work promoting peace.

Fragments of sky and water found in the ROM's crystalline design and the recently completed Imperial War Museum North in

Continued on page 15

5¢

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Libeskind designed Jewish Museum in Berlin

Continued from page 14

Manchester, England, are recurring images in many of Libeskind's projects.

In his war museum designs, Libeskind said he moves away from trends that glorify weaponry and uses "broken shards to emphasize the catastrophic nature of conflict."

The Jewish Museum in Berlin, designed by Libeskind, opened in September 2001 to replace the original destroyed by the Nazis. The museum traces the history of the Jews in Germany from Roman times through the current German Jewish revival.

The outside of the building contains irregular lines that leave disturbing voids in the otherwise smooth glass. Inside, the museum houses a Holocaust tower with a concrete chamber at its centre.

The building, which has already attracted almost one million visitors since it opened, is meant to communicate several messages and "to connect intellectually and emotionally," Libeskind said.

Daniel Libeskind

The museum's architecture and content portray the complex nature of Jewish German history – the achievements of Jews in Germany, the void that was left by the Holocaust and the current challenges that Berlin, Germany and Europe face in integrating this history into their future, he said.

Although it is difficult for a child of Holocaust survivors, Libeskind felt it was important for him to live in Berlin while the museum was being built.

Life in Berlin brought him face-to-face with positive and negative aspects of German culture.

The bat mitzvah of his daughter, Rachel, at the Oranienburger Strasse Synagogue, was the first bat mitzvah ever to be celebrated in a synagogue destroyed during the war.

On the other hand, Libeskind said that over the years, he has been the subject of several anti-Semitic articles.

Libeskind said he sees himself as a spokesperson for Jewish ideas. He is often interviewed on television about the government of Germany and its relationship with Israel and the current wave of anti-Semitism in Europe.

Now, Libeskind feels it's time for another move. "I'm not sure where I'm moving next, but it will be somewhere unexpected."

TERRY FOX RUN: Associated Hebrew Schools students from the Kamin and Posluns campuses participated in the annual Terry Fox Run recently. Associated has consistently placed in the top 20 out of over one thousand participating elementary schools across Ontario. Here, a student counts laps for another student.

legacy of life

Lewis Moses 1919 – 1999

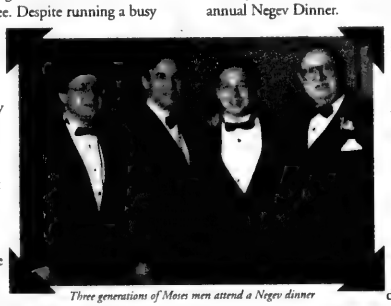
When it came to the welfare of the Jewish people, there was no stopping Lewis Moses.

Mr. Moses – known affectionately as Captain Zaida by the neighbourhood children – was recognized as a man of action throughout Toronto's Jewish community. When a Jewish school needed funds, Mr. Moses established scholarships. When Israel was suffering, Mr. Moses ordered the sanctuary doors locked during his State of Israel Bonds appeal until he was satisfied with the dollars raised. And when the neighbourhood kids wanted to learn how to make the bracha over a lulav and etrog, their beloved Captain Zaida in his trademarked sailor's cap patiently taught each of them how to fulfill the important mitzvah.

"My Dad taught me to work for my community by giving of my time and money," says son Sam Moses. "He always said that it was easy to write a cheque but if everybody gave a cheque there wouldn't be anybody to do the work. He was a big believer in seeing all the money go to the cause. By drafting lay people, he said, organizations could eliminate their overhead and direct funds where they're needed most."

Lewis Moses made it his business to help out wherever he could. He came by it honestly, having grown up in a family that was extremely devoted to Jewish life. His father Isadore Moses, a deeply religious man, brought the family to Ottawa in 1928 and settled in downtown Toronto several years later. The Moses' door was always open, with many Hungarian Jews sitting down to their very first meal on Canadian soil at the Moses' home. Isadore became president of Toronto's Husiatiner Klaus Shul, volunteered to co-design Bathurst Lawn Cemetary's floor plan, and was committed to Jewish education.

Lewis, the youngest of seven children, didn't fall far from the tree. Despite running a busy chartered accountancy practice, the former air force officer devoted much of his energy to Jewish causes. He worked diligently for the Zionist Revisionist Organization, United Jewish Appeal, United Israel Appeal, State of Israel Bonds, Jewish National Fund, Canadian Zionist Federation, the Board of Jewish Education, Eitz Chaim Schools, and many other organizations. He was co-founder of Torath Emeth Congregation and a Board Member of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, both in Toronto.



Three generations of Moses men attend a Negev dinner

"My Dad was busy 26 hours a day," recalls daughter Harriet Altman. "I don't know how he did it. Yet even with such a hectic schedule, he was a very loyal son who went to his mother's house for lunch every day. And he was always put Shabbat aside for his family."

Mr. Moses' fundraising efforts for both Jewish and non-Jewish organizations earned him much praise, and in 1992 he was feted at the annual Negev Dinner.

"He never refused anyone who came to his door, even if they weren't Jewish," says Sam of his father's charitable nature. The family still chuckles about the time a Seventh Day Adventist came a-knockin'. The outgoing Mr. Moses handed over a few dollars, only to be inundated later with a busload of missionaries thinking they'd found an easy convert.

But Mr. Moses was steadfast in his love for Israel and all things Jewish. A proud Herut-Likud member, Mr. Moses and his wife Ethel visited Israel every chance they could and counted former Prime Minister Menachem Begin as a personal friend.

"Many years before Israel became a state Lew was pushing for its creation," says longtime friend Ben Prossin, Executive Director of Jewish National Fund of Canada. "He had strong feelings for Jewish peoplehood and Jewish nationhood and was a strong believer in what Menachem Begin stood for. He was a very generous and giving fellow with a wonderful outgoing personality, and people who came into contact with him genuinely liked him. He was simply a wonderful guy."

Adds Harriet: "When my daughter applied to dental school they asked her who her mentor was and who she admired the most," she said, "My grandfather. He fought for his country. He did so much community work that it was unbelievable. He had a strong family life. And he was successful in his career. That's what I truly aspire to..."

If you have a suggestion for future Legacy of Life profiles, please call Perri at 416.631.5728.

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto — UJA Federation

Jewish Toronto

Torontonians help Israeli honour his son

Countless Torontonians who have been to Israel over the years will recognize **Ezra Eini**, a long time tour guide. If it's not his face they remember, it's his love and knowledge of Israel which quickly rubs off on everyone he meets.

For Ezra Eini, much of that passion temporarily faded when, in the early morning of February 20, 2002, an ominous knock on his front door changed everything.

He was told that his 22-year-old son, **Moshe**, an IDF captain, had been killed by Palestinian terrorists at a checkpoint near Ramallah, hours earlier.

"In a split-second, life turned upside down," says Eini. "Right after the death of my son, my view of life changed drastically. There was a huge hole in my heart, a hole that can only be filled by my incredible family, and by moving forward to a better life, a better future."

That's what Ezra, his wife, **Nurit**, a high-school teacher in Ramat Gan, and their sons have been trying to do ever since.

During his short life, Moshe Eini was a keen sportsman who enjoyed a variety of sports, most notably, rock climbing and basketball.

To honour their late son, Ezra and Nurit established a sports centre in his memory. ***The Moshe (Moishale) Eini Sports Centre*** will stand on the campus of the **Rest & Recreation Centre for Combat Soldiers** in Ashkelon.

Joining with individual donors, **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto** has already contributed **$100,000** to the fund responsible for the centre. Most of these donations came from Toronto men and women who have participated in UJA solidarity missions over the years, and came to know and love Ezra Eini.

The centre gives about 600 soldiers per day the chance to take a break from their military duties. It includes residential accommodations, a games room, swimming pool, and much more. The new sports centre will include two basketball courts, a tennis court, a handball court, and a soccer field.

> ***"our spirit has not been broken"***

Another way in which Eini is "moving forward" is by telling his story to various North American communities, including a Canadian visit which brings him to **UJA Federation** from **October 2 to October 4**. These cathartic visits are how he expresses his gratitude to fellow Jews in the Diaspora.

"I want to come to Toronto and tell everyone who cares so much about us, just what is going on in Israel, through my eyes," he says. "I want them to know that after two years of this horrible situation, our spirit has not been broken. Maybe we turn our heads around a bit more when we walk on the street, but people are trying to get back to normal as soon as possible."

Ezra Eini

Eini feels that ongoing Diaspora support is more important to Israelis than most people might think.

"You can't believe how much Israelis need you," Eini asserts. "The fact that Israel can hold the hand of the Diaspora is everything to us. For me, knowing that you in Toronto are thinking about us is like an infusion of oxygen, it means that we are never alone."

To make a donation to the Moshe Eini Sports Centre, please call **Michelle Spring** at **416.631.5685**

Real estate community fills Sheraton

According to acclaimed Canadian economist, **Dr. Sherry Cooper**, the "world of risk" we currently live in has resulted in low investor confidence.

Dr. Cooper was one of three speakers at a recent **UJA Federation Real Estate Cabinet** program, attended by more than 500 people – Jews and non-Jews alike – at Toronto's Sheraton Centre Hotel.

The evening's other speakers were **Peter Gilgan** of **Mattamy Homes Ltd.**, and **Robert Julien**, president of **Kolter Property Company**.

According to a National Post survey, Dr. Cooper, a regular guest on *CNN, CNBC, CBC,* and *CTV,* is considered the third most influential woman in Canada.

Citing the ongoing situation in the Middle East as well as a possible attack against Iraq by the United States, Dr. Cooper said, "consumer confidence is at a very low ebb with the fear of an all-out war in the United States".

"What concerns me the most," said Dr. Cooper, "is not the business sector right now, but the cracks on the consumer side, including an increase in personal bankruptcies."

UJA Federation's Real Estate Cabinet is composed of Toronto developers, real estate professionals, homebuilders, and suppliers.

This year, a group of over 60 fundraising volunteers from all sectors of the real estate industry will raise over $4.5 million from more than 1,500 donors as part of **UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003**.

Leonard Abramsky (l) and Richard Diamond

"This evening was a tremendous success," says **Leonard Abramsky**, who, along with **Richard Diamond**, chaired the event. "It continues to grow and is now viewed as one of the premier real estate events in Toronto."

"First of all, it's great to see such a turn-out from the Toronto-at-large real estate community, 30 per cent of whom were non-Jews. Through this event we educate people on Israel's current situation, update them on Campaign 2003, and bring a greater understanding of real estate and the economy."

Dr. Sherry Cooper

For more information on how to get involved in UJA Federation's Real Estate Cabinet, please contact **Jennifer Cohen** at **416.631.5708** or at jcohen@ujafed.org

visit our website at www.jewishtoronto.net

Minding their business

Plans are underway for a new **UJA Federation** initiative, and for Jewish men and women with big business aspirations, it's an idea whose time has come.

When brought to fruition, UJA's **Jewish Chamber of Commerce**, will be all about providing Toronto's Jewish community with an opportunity to build and develop a network of outstanding business contacts.

> ***"It produces new community leaders"***

An event-driven initiative, its objective will be achieved through business networking opportunities, and programs co-sponsored by UJA and various Toronto business organizations.

Toronto's Jewish Chamber of Commerce is modeled after a similar initiative in Montreal which originated in 1995 and has already held over 50 successful events with keynote speakers such as **Michael Bregman**, then CEO of Second Cup, and **Laurent Beaudoin**, the former CEO of Bombardier.

The man behind Montreal's success is **Richard Wajs**, chair of the new Toronto Jewish Chamber of Commerce who came here in 1997 and saw the great potential to set up shop.

"The early feedback in Toronto has been tremendous," says Wajs, 38, a former practicing lawyer who has worked with major international banks. "The Board is made up of 22 people from a variety of professions and industries. We have everyone from merchant bankers to CEOs and entrepreneurs."

Richard Wajs

"It was very successful in Montreal with more than 500 members so far, and I know that it'll be a hit here. It produces new community leaders, and it's really a great way for community members to help themselves," adds Wajs.

The inaugural Jewish Chamber of Commerce event, scheduled for November 6th, 2002 will feature **Issy Sharp**, Chairman and CEO of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts.

For more information, please call **Elana Carr** at **416.631.5736** or **ecarr@ujafed.org**

JEWISH TORONTO IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Jewish Toronto

Service for a slain daughter

By Chen Kotes -Bar, Ma'ariv

Among those receiving certificates of merit for volunteering to do reserve duty, at a recent IDF ceremony, was **Eli (Eliya) Polonsky**, a soldier with a mission. Plonsky's daughter, Kochava z"l, was killed in a hit-and-run terror attack, some 18 months ago. She had five months left to serve until her release from the army, and her father decided to complete what she couldn't. At age 50, he volunteered for the military reserves, and over the last four months he has served three times, 35 days in all. Brigadier General Yitzhak Eitan, awarded Pvt. Eli Polonsky the rank of Private First Class. The audience in the hall stood up and applauded and Polonsky himself wiped away a tear.

"I thought about Kochava," he says. "She had five months left to serve; it was so important to her, but she never got the chance to finish her service. Therefore, I'm doing the time for her. It's what she would have wanted me to do. People think I'm contributing something to the army, but it's just the opposite – the army has contributed something to me. Reserve duty has saved me. This is where I became rehabilitated, where I began living again, laughing again, where I was reborn. I see the soldiers and imagine Kochava among them. I didn't leave the house for over a year after the catastrophe. Now, thanks to my reserve service, I can breathe again."

Eli Polonsky, who was born in Kishinev, immigrated to Israel in 1978, with his then wife and their eldest son, settling in Ashkelon, where Kochava (Kochi) was born. The couple also have another child, a 16-year-old boy.

On February 14th, 2001, Kochava Polonsky left her mother's home in Ashkelon. She took a bus from the city's central station to the Ezor Junction, where she was supposed to take another bus to her army base. As she was walking toward the stop, a bus driven by a terrorist jumped the curb and struck her from behind. She was killed instantly.

"I was sitting at home at the time," says Eli, reconstructing the scene. "I turned on the television and heard them announcing a terror attack at the Ezor Junction. I knew that was where Kochava took the bus. I knew her route. I picked up the telephone and started dialing her cellular phone. She didn't answer. I kept ringing her – there was no answer. Nothing. I understood my daughter is dead."

About four months ago, Eli Polonsky was sitting in front of the TV watching an IDF officer speaking about a volunteer reserve program.

"They gave a telephone number to call, and I immediately rang up," he recalls. "I understood that this would save me, rehabilitate me, that this was how I could complete what Kochava could not. At long last, I felt I had a goal, a future, something to live for."

Central Campus: The Dream Uptown

A briefing on the new Jewish Toronto Tomorrow Central Campus was held on September 17 at the Lipa Green Building. Situated in the geographic heart of Jewish Toronto within a magnificent ravine setting, the new Central Campus (current site of the BJCC/Koffler Centre for the Arts and the Lipa Green Building) will be a vibrant hub of cultural, educational, athletic, recreational and communal activity, all housed within a state-of-the-art facility. From left: Murray Koffler, Malka Green, Al Latner, Tiana Koffler Boyman and Aaron Latner.

JEWISH TORONTO IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

North American Israel Emergency Campaign soars

Ronnie Appleby (l) and Howard Sokolowski (r) at the launch of UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003.

The North American Federation-wide **Israel Emergency Campaign** organized by **United Jewish Communities (UJC)** in April 2002, has already surpassed its original goal of **$300 million** U.S. UJC is the umbrella organization for Jewish Federations across North America.

The impressive UJC total is over **$340 million** U.S. from American and Canadian donors. Close to **$20 million** (Cdn) comes from Toronto, where **UJA Federation** played a strong role in creating the North American fundraising effort.

"The North American campaign is a wonderful example of the how much we, as Jews, can accomplish when we work together," says **Howard Sokolowski**, **Campaign chair**, along with **Ronnie Appleby**, of **UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003**. "Hundreds of thousands of Jews across North America are coming together as one entity for the sole purpose of helping Israel."

"It's a role model for others"

"We refer numerous communities to examine Toronto's campaign, because it's a role model for others," says **Mike Fischer**, Senior Consultant with UJC in New York.

One way UJC measures campaign success is based on a simple ratio of donors to population, and Toronto counts 144 donors per 1,000 Jewish citizens. Pretty impressive numbers when you consider that Boston comes in at 76 per 1,000, Miami at 92, and Los Angeles with 59.

Those numbers place Toronto in the top 10 per cent of all North American Federations, and number three behind New York and Chicago in total fundraising dollars.

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 which is now entering the home stretch, stands at **$56 million**, with more than **$19 million** designated for Israel's emergency needs.

To make a campaign gift, call the UJA Federation Hotline at **416.631.5705**.

CAMPAIGN CLOSING

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Challenges surrounding double cohort year examined

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Parents, students and schools need to get organized and start planning – the double cohort is about to enter the college and university application process.

This is the year the first wave of Grade 12 students in the new Ontario secondary school program will be graduating at the same time as the last Grade 13 students. Many will soon begin applying for the next stage of their education.

While the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities has guaranteed "a place for every willing and qualified student," it is likely that fewer applicants than usual will get their university, college or program of first choice.

At a meeting sponsored by Jewish Vocational Services of Greater Toronto (JVS) last week, four education professionals discussed the challenges currently facing these students.

JVS senior psycho-educational consultant Joy Koplowitz, JVS senior career consultant Jane Rendely and educational consultants Judy Libman and Judy Winberg explained some of the issues.

Since the number of positions available in some programs next year may not be sufficient to meet the doubled demand, Winberg suggested students consider alternative routes to their career goals.

Some students could decide to take another year of high school. Others may apply out of province, Winberg said.

The path to university shouldn't be rigid and students could pursue job shadowing programs and internship opportunities.

However, if students decide to pursue the university application process, they should continuously check the accuracy of their information. "We are in a state of constant change," Winberg said. "Don't rely on what you hear from your friends."

Rendely encouraged students to remember that pursuing a career is an explorative process that takes time.

Each high school student should consider several possible career opportunities and she recommended gathering information about potential paths that will match "your values and personal style."

For those with special needs, Koplowitz recommended finding universities and colleges that will accommodate different learning styles.

An assessment can help students focus on their strengths and weaknesses, she said.

Plan to attend the various university and college fairs that will be taking place over the next few weeks, Libman told the group.

Use the time to ask questions about the schools and when it comes time to fill out application forms, "don't confuse preconceived ideas with real facts," Libman warned.

"Prestige names" may not always be the best place for a quality education that will meet your needs, she said.

Look for schools that offer some small classes so that students can get to know their professors, she advised.

It's important to feel comfortable at your school, so be sure to visit the campuses and investigate each culture, she said.

Libman pointed out to the students in the group that at this point in their lives, they don't have to have all the answers to questions about their future goals.

Bookstore says no to Jewish buttons

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Toronto Women's Bookstore has refused an offer by National Council of Jewish Women Toronto section and Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, to supply the store with buttons that read "Stop the Homicide Bombings."

The offer came in response to the bookstore's decision to carry buttons that read "End the Occupation Now," which are designed with a Palestinian flag containing a stylized blue-and-white logo representing the women's movement, as well as the acronym WAO (for Women Against the Occupation) in blue letters below the flag.

Anjula Gogia, co-manager of the store, said it was decided not to carry the buttons "because we feel the buttons we do carry do not only express one side." The pins being sold by the bookstore contain a women's symbol in the colours of the Israeli flag, "and we feel [the pins] represent a plurality of positions," Gogia said.

"As a bookstore we condemn suicide bombings and we support movements for peace in Israel, Palestine and around the world."

But Len Rudner, CJC Ontario's director of community relations, said he did not pick up that the women's symbol on the button is depicted in blue and white, and "if we showed this button to 10,000 people, not one would say it was about Israel."

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A sin by dereliction

This is the fourth in a series of articles on drug abuse in the Jewish community. We have chosen to end the series with this article by the renowned scholar, Rabbi Abraham Twerski, to emphasize the importance of education about addiction, for all members of our community.

By RABBI ABRAHAM J. TWERSKI, MD

The Talmud states that an unintentional sin committed by a scholar is equivalent to an intentional sin, because the scholar, who is in possession of knowledge, *should have known better*. In his case, ignorance is not a defence.

Lay people are not necessarily scholars, nor is their counsel frequently sought. Rabbis, on the other hand, are learned and are considered authorities who can provide proper counsel. If they fail to do so because of lack of adequate knowledge, even though their intentions were good, they are held responsible as though it were an intentional transgression. I therefore suspect that "*Yoatznu ra*" (we have given bad counsel), a confession we make in the *Viduy* (confessional prayer) on Yom Kippur, is a confession intended for rabbis.

I have had considerable experience with cases brought before rabbis for advice and guidance, where, due to inadequate knowledge, the rabbis have given advice that has turned out to be extremely harmful. There are many problems in the Jewish community of which rabbis may be unaware, such as addictive gambling, alcoholism and/or drug addiction, spousal abuse, child abuse and other social ills. For some reason, there is a misconception that these do not occur among Jews, and certainly not among observant Jews.

Couples have come to the rabbi with marital problems, and no inquiry is made as to whether there is a problem of alcohol or substance abuse. Both men and women are susceptible to alcoholism, and there is fairly widespread abuse of prescription drugs, which can be every bit as devastating as heroin and cocaine. Incidentally, the latter occurs, even among some of the finest families.

Drug Abuse in the Jewish Community

Furthermore, there are families who are in financial straits, and it does not occur to the rabbi to inquire about the possibility of addictive gambling.

Spouses and children may be victims of both physical and emotional abuse, and this may go unsuspected. One battered wife complained, "Our rabbi would never believe it if I told him about my husband's behaviour at home. On the outside he is an absolute tzaddik, and if I told the rabbi about how he mistreats me, the rabbi would think I am fabricating and consider me meshuge."

A number of rabbis have consulted me about the problems of their congregants who were alcoholic, whose problems became so manifest that denial was no longer feasible. They have become interested in some of these problems, and have said to me, "I am shocked at how ignorant I was about these conditions."

I recall very well that when I received my smichah, I was quite well-versed in Halachah, and could render reasonable decisions on problems of ritual. However, nowhere in my education was I exposed to the various problems that I have enumerated. Ironically, even in psychiatric training these were not taught, and unfortunately some psychotherapists who are otherwise quite competent fall into the same trap of not recognizing these conditions, and treating their patients for those diagnoses with which they are familiar but which may be incorrect.

While I do not wish to be an alarmist, let me point out that while making an error in most questions of Halachah is a serious matter, it pales before errors in *dinei nefashos* (laws relating to people's lives). Lives that are lost and families that are decimated by addictive conditions or abusive behaviour fall into the category of "defects that are irreversible." As rabbis, we should make every effort to see that when we beat our heart for "*Yoatznu ra*," that it not be a true confession.

Rabbi Twerski is a psychiatrist and the founder of the Gateway Rehabilitation Center in Pittsburgh, a leading centre for addiction treatment. An author and associate professor of psychiatry at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, he recently launched a new 12-step program for self-esteem development – www.12steps2selfesteem.com.

Day of learning honours mom's birthday

What do you give your mother when she turns 77? She probably has enough scarves and sweaters.

Jacob Salamon decided on a unique and memorable gift for his mother, a Holocaust survivor. He decided to sponsor a day of learning in her honour, which would pay tribute to her past and celebrate her role for the future.

It will also honour other women "for their dedication to our families and our people," according to a media release.

Together with Rabbi Yoseph Zaltzman of the Jewish Russian Community Centre, and Chana Weisberg, dean of the JRCC's Institute of Torah Study, Salamon arranged for a program to be held at the Jewish Russian Community Centre, 13 Rockford Rd., Oct. 13, from 2 to 5 p.m. It will include a lecture, workshops and dessert. Weisberg will be the keynote speaker, discussing Finding Faith in Turbulent Times – a tribute to women's strength now and throughout the ages.

The program will also launch the institute's fall semester. Men and women are welcome, but reservations are necessary. For more information, or to reserve, call 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

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Rabbi Kaufman becomes spiritual leader at Lodzer

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

As a college student, Rabbi Matthew Kaufman underwent a Jewish "awakening process" that led him to study in Israel on a program called Project Otzma.

But it wasn't until he spent a year teaching English in Thailand as a Peace Corps volunteer that he realized he wanted not only to become a rabbi but to attend a Reconstructionist rabbinical seminary.

"In my village [Surin], which was entirely Buddhist, Buddhism was wrapped up in a very natural way in the fabric of everyday life. There wasn't a division between the work and the temple…

"For me this was an important realization that in my own life I wanted to find a place where I could integrate in a natural and seamless way the secular life with the religious life and I wanted to find a community setting that embraced that idea that [Reconstructionism founder Rabbi Mordecai] Kaplan talked about creating.

"Reconstructionism best expressed my desire to have that, coupled with my understanding of a need for a progressive Judaism that retains its hold on tradition."

Rabbi Matthew Kaufman

Today Rabbi Kaufman, 34, is working with the community of 250 families at the Lodzer Centre Holocaust Congregation, where he was hired recently as spiritual leader.

Among his immediate goals is to start the congregation, which is unaffiliated but traditional Conservative in practice, on a path to becoming egalitarian.

"It will take time," said Sarah Senior, president of the congregation, adding that the decision to move in that direction was taken only recently, following a general meeting in May.

Currently, Rabbi Kaufman said, women are allowed to read the haftorah and maftir aliyah, but as a rule only bat mitzvah girls do that.

The first step in making the change, said the rabbi, is education about the issues associated with egalitarianism. His wife Sara, a Toronto native and PhD student at the University of Toronto, has already done the maftir and haftorah reading at the synagogue.

Rabbi Kaufman is hopeful the move will appeal to young families who live in the synagogue area, near Bathurst Street and Sheppard Avenue.

The Lodzer was founded by Holocaust survivors, who still form the majority of the membership, along with their children and grandchildren, and other young families.

A recent sukkah-decorating event and a special Sukkot celebration typify the type of "fun programming initiatives" that the rabbi hopes will build the congregation's sense of community, appealing to younger families and rejuvenating older members.

The rabbi's focus, he clarified, is on understanding the issues facing the Lodzer specifically – such as continuity and the role of women – and moving forward from there. His background in Reconstructionism is not an issue, he feels.

"I'm not a fan of institutional Judaism that divides," he said. "I think there are positive aspects to having the different movements. I want to see them all flourish, but I don't like to see [any] divisiveness."

Since his ordination in 1998, much of his professional association has been with the Conservative movement, first as spiritual leader at a small congregation in Turnersville, N.J., and more recently as director of Camp Ramah in Canada for 2000-2001.

Coincidentally, the Conservative congregation in which he grew up in East Lansing, Mich., eventually became affiliated with the Reconstructionist movement.

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Greater Toronto Area

Jews did not displace Palestinians, says author

Arab enmity towards Israel called root of conflict

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The claim that Jews displaced Palestinian Arabs from their land has no basis in truth, a controversial writer told an audience at Beth Sholom Synagogue recently.

Joan Peters, an American journalist and historian, called that assertion "a flight from fact."

In a 1984 book, *From Time Immemorial*, Peters suggested that numerous Palestinian refugees were actually non-Palestinian Muslims who had immigrated to Palestine to take advantage of economic opportunities created by Jews.

Challenging a pivotal assumption of the Arab-Israeli dispute, Peters said that what lies at the core of the conflict is not Palestinian rights but Arab enmity and rejection of a Jewish state in the region.

Peters also rebutted Arab claims that Jews had been treated well under Islamic rule, pointing out that Arab anti-Semitism is based on Islamic doctrine.

Some critics have praised her book, which has almost 200 pages of footnotes and appendices, as long overdue.

But others have questioned Peters' sources and methods, saying she underrepresented the number of Palestinian refugees in 1948.

As a result, *From Time Immemorial*, which took seven years to produce, became a subject of intense controversy, defended or attacked along ideological lines.

In her speech, Peters described *From Time Immemorial* as a "mystery story I uncovered."

She said left-wing critics have tried, without success, to smear its contents.

Introduced in glowing terms by right-wing Toronto newspaper columnist George Jonas, Peters said Arab attempts to convince the world that Israel is built on confiscated Palestinian land "turns history on its head."

Stating that the Palestinian refugee problem is not at the root of the Arab-Israeli conflict, Peters said the real issue is Arab unwillingness to accept a Jewish state, or, as she phrased it, "an unacceptable *dhimmi* state." (The term *dhimmi* denotes a Jew or Christian living under Muslim rule, where *dhimmis* are accorded protected, but second-class, status.)

Peters said she began investigating the Palestinian refugees, whom she once likened to downtrodden African Americans, because she basically empathized with their plight.

But as she delved into the archives, she said, she could no longer square her assumptions with the facts.

Joan Peters

She learned, for example, that the United Nations' definition of a Palestinian refugee was a person who had lived in Palestine for only two years before the proclamation of Israeli statehood in 1948.

She also discovered that the flight of upwards of 800,000 Jews from their homes in the Arab world was largely ignored.

Speaking softly but defiantly, Peters took Arabs to task for stealing the history of Jews in Palestine.

Belittling the notion that Palestinian Arabs form a distinct group, Peters, much like the late Golda Meir, dismissed the idea of a unique Palestinian identity.

Peters strongly criticized Britain, which had been entrusted with a League of Nations mandate in Palestine, for trying to keep Jews out while "importing" Arabs from all over the Middle East.

Britain's policy, she declared, was "perfidious and criminal."

What troubles her today, she said, is that many Jews have embraced the Arab version of events and that U.S. university campuses have become a forum for Arab propaganda and Israel bashing.

Peters criticized Jews who fight for other people's freedom and dignity but not their own. "What's wrong with standing up for the Jewish people? Why is that considered distasteful?"

Criticizing Jewish students who lack the knowledge to refute Arab claims, she urged them to inform themselves of the facts.

In a reference to Jewish parents, she said, "Teach your kids their history so they can stand up to Arab lies."

The Palestinian problem, she claimed, exists only in the minds of Arabs, who use the Palestinians as a weapon against Israel.

In a commentary on Israel's presence in the West Bank and Gaza, Peters said, "To say Israel occupied the… West Bank is to deny the history of the conflict."

Peters said that Israel's existence is the only "insurance policy" against another Holocaust.

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גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה

האם יש לסאדם נשק השמדה המוני, ואם כן- האם יש לו אינטרס להשתמש בו? שאלה קשה. בינתיים לא ברור אם בוש מסוגל לגייס את האנרגיה הדרושה למלחמה כזו. טוב ליהודים או רע ליהודים? אפשר להשמיע דיעות מכאן ועד הודעה חדשה, אבל במציאות תעלה מלחמה כזו ביליוני דולארים שיכלו להיות מופנים לעניינים אחרים, כמו עוני וחינוך. ספטמבר 11 שינה את כל המשוואה, והנשיא האמריקני נחוש בדעתו לחסל את סאדם. בינתיים, באולימפיאדה של ההישרדות ניצח סאדם את בוש האב ואת מרגארט תאצ'ר, ויש סיכויים שהוא יהיה שם גם אחרי הקדנציה של בוש הבן. אבל שישאר בינינו.

The Believer

סרט מרתק שמצאתי את עצמי מאוד מוטרד ממנו. זהו סיפורו של ילד יהודי שלומד בבית ספר דתי בברוקלין, ושעובר מטמורפוזה והופך לנאצי מגולה ראש שנהנה הנאה גדולה להכות ולענות יהודים. מבלי לפגוע במתח ובעלילה לאלה שלא ראו עדיין, מספיק לאמר שהסרט עשוי טוב מאד ומשוחק מעולה. כשלנו הגדול בעיני הוא שאינו מסביר, או מנסה להסביר איך ילד דתי יכול להפוך לנאצי- ויותר ספציפי- מה התהליך שעובר עליו. בסרט- שום כלום- מראים אותו כתלמיד ישיבה תיכונית- ובחיתוך מהיר- נאצי גלוח ראש שמכה תלמיד ישיבה עד זוב דם. במדריך הטלביזיה כתוב " מבוסס על סיפור אמיתי". לעומת זאת האתר הרשמי של הסרט באינטרנט איננו מזכיר אפילו במילה שזה סיפור אמיתי, וכך גם הביקורת ב- בי בי סי. יתירה מכך- הסרט עצמו לא מזכיר ואפילו בכיתוב קטן שזה סיפור אמיתי. עד היום, ללא יוצא מן הכלל, כל סרט שראיתי שבוסס על סיפור אמיתי טרח ואמר זאת, ואפילו סיים תמיד מה עלה בגורלן של הדמויות.

אפשר להגיד- מה העניין? מותר לבמאי לבדות מעיני רוחו כל עלילה שהיא. אבל לא בעניין כזה! אני אישית איני מאמין שבחור יהודי דתי יכול להפוך לנאצי מהסוג שהראו בסרט. היו כמובן ילדים יהודים שנאלצו להתגייס לוורמאכט- אבל הם עשו זאת בלית ברירה מתוך הישרדות, ומעולם לא שנאו את בני עמם. להראות סיפור דמיוני שבו יהודי יכול להפוך לנאצי- זה כמו להגיד שאם יהודי יכול לעשות את זה אז מה אתם רוצים מהגרמנים או מהפלשתינאים. אם מדובר בסיפור דמיוני- הרי הסרט הזה הוא סרט גזעני ממדרגה ראשונה. אבל שישאר בינינו.

סיפורים לחודש תשרי

עד שיתפרסמו דברים אלה- יחלפו החגים, ומחודש תשרי ישארו רק זכרונות של קדושה. אז היינה שני סיפורים עם ריח ספירטואלי שעשו לי טוב בזמן חצום.

איש אחד היה הניצול היחידי מאניה שטבעה. הוא נסחף לאי בודד והצליח לבנות צריף קטן להגן עליו מחיות הטרף. ערב אחד, כשחזר לביתו- ראה את הצריף עולה באש ואיתו כל רכושו הדל ומזונו המצומצם. התפלל האיש ואמר: "אלי, כמה נמוך אתה יכול לשים אותי? הרי אין לי כלום לתת". כל הלילה ישב האיש מפוחד ולא העז לישון שמא תבוא חיה טורפת. לקראת בוקר הוא שומע צפירה של אניה ורואה אנשים יורדים בסירה ובאים לחלץ אותו.
"איך מצאתם אותי?" שואל האיש הנדהם.
"פשוט מאוד- הם עונים- ראינו את המדורה הגדולה שעשיתי".

איש אחד היה במצוקה גדולה. הוא התפלל לאל והתלונן על כך שאין ריבוא עולם עוזר לו. ענה לו האל: "אל תדאג בני, מעכשיו תראה צעדים בחול ליד הצעדים שלך ותדע שאני הולך איתך."
הימים חלפו ומצבו של האיש החמיר. יום אחד הוא הסתכל לשמים ואמר: "ריבונו של עולם, למה עזבת אותי? איני רואה את הצעדים שלך בחול".
ענתה לו בת קול: "בני, אני הולך איתך כל הזמן. בימים האחרונים אני פשוט נושא אותך בזרועותי..."

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אמא של קולומבוס:
"לא אכפת לי מה גילית- היית צריך לכתוב!"
אמא של מיכלאנג'לו:
"למה אתה לא יכול לקשקש על הקירות כמו כל הילדים? אתה יודע כמה קשה לנקות צבע מהתיקרה?"
אמא של אלברט איינשטיין:
"אלוהים שישמור- זוהי תמונת המחזור שלך- אתה לא יכול לעשות משהו עם השיער שלך?"

The blood libel in 5762: one step forward, two back

By CHARLES HELLER

The blood libel was invented about a thousand years ago and has been periodically vanishing and reappearing ever since. The past year has seen some new twists and turns in this millennial story.

The blood libel is the accusation that Jews kill Christian children and use their blood, particularly for baking matzot. This libel runs

Guest Voice

through history, from Little St. Hugh of Lincoln in 1255 (not to be confused with Great St. Hugh, the Bishop of Lincoln who protected the Jews) to the Beilis case (1911) and Leo Frank (1915).

The case that concerns us here is that of Leopold Hilsner from the small Czech town of Polna (then part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire). Hilsner was accused of the "ritual murder" of young Anezka Hruzova on the eve of Passover 1899. Despite being defended by T. G. Masaryk (who later became the first president of Czechoslovakia), he was found guilty and sentenced to death, though his sentence was commuted to life imprisonment after international protests. Released in the general amnesty of 1918, he later adopted the name of Heller after his guardian (my grandfather, Siegfried Heller). He died in Vienna in 1928.

This important case split society and became known as the "Czech Dreyfus Case." The miserable saga contains two key elements: it was the only such case in Austro-Hungarian history that resulted in a guilty verdict, and the verdict was never annulled, so that the accusation of ritual murder still remains on the books. That is why you will read in today's Arab press that Jews drink Arab or Christian blood or use it for matzot or even, in the latest twist, use it to bake hamantashen. These allegations have all appeared as fact in the Arab press within the last year.

The faint glimmer of hope is that many people of goodwill, Jewish and non-Jewish, will not let this case go away. Just a few months ago, the Austrian Social Democratic Party raised the issue of annulling the verdict against Hilsner, although without effect. (In contrast, the Czech Law Courts have annulled the verdict in their records.) And just this past April, a plaque was dedicated outside Hilsner's apartment building in Vienna, thanks to the tireless efforts of Petr Vasicek. This plaque, in Hebrew, Czech and German, reads: "The last dwelling of Leopold Hilsner, who languished in prison for 19 years as an innocent victim of the blood libel."

The guests at the dedication ceremony included representatives from the City of Vienna, the IKG (Viennese Jewish community), the Jewish community in Brno (Czech Republic) and the German Embassy in Vienna.

The striking aspect of the Hilsner case is the split in people's attitudes: even among

Cutline: Seen are, from left, Cantor Shmuel Barzilai of Vienna, Charles Heller, City of Vienna counsellor Gerhard Kubik and IKG (Jewish Community of Vienna) president Avshalom Hodik.

Jews, there are those who think Hilsner must have been guilty of something. Why, then, should non-Jews go out on a limb to support the Hilsner case, especially in these times when there is so much public pressure to attack Israel and the wider Jewish community?

I believe the answer lies in the deep human need to acknowledge the truth. Czechs in particular respond to this. Having undergone centuries of repression and lies, first under the Austrian Empire, then under the Nazis and the Soviets, Czechs want to know the truth about their past. They are led to the history of Masaryk and to Hilsner. Who was this Jewish nobody? Why did Masaryk risk his career to defend him? The quest is summed up in the old Czech motto *Pravda zvitezi* – the truth will triumph.

Charles Heller is the choir director at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue in Toronto and a teacher with the Peel District School Board. He is also a consultant editor for the Cantors Assembly of New York.

City of History and Mystery

There's a different atmosphere in Tzfat (known as Safed in English) and it's not just because this ancient city, 200 kilometers north of Jerusalem, is 900 meters above sea level. It's because Tzfat, where mysticism is natural, makes mundane concerns seem trivial. According to religious tradition, the son and grandson of Noah established a centre of religious learning here. In the 16th century, Tzfat was home to towering religious leaders, such as Rabbi Yitzhak Luria, the leading teacher of Kabbalah, and Rabbi Yoseph Karo, who codified Jewish law in the *Shulchan Aruch*. Just two centuries later, an earthquake and an epidemic nearly decimated Tzfat, but today its majesty and mystery envelop visitors. So here are a few sightseeing suggestions:

The Artist's Colony – Tzfat's cobblestone alleyways are lined with small studios and galleries that attract thousands of tourists. There's also a general exhibition of works by artist colony members, which is housed in a former mosque from the early 1900's.

The Doll Museum – In 1994, founder Mila Rozenfeld built the museum in memory of her daughter. Here, you'll find custom-crafted porcelain dolls, with intricate, hand-made historical costumes.

Beit Hameiri (Hameiri House) – This historical museum documents the life of Tzfat's Jewish community over the last 200 years.

As for accommodations, both bed and breakfast and hotel lodging are readily available. Visit www.safed.co.il/hotels.html for more details.

For additional information about available missions to Israel and individual travel options, contact the Israel Government Tourist Office. Your presence will make a significant difference for Israel.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Oct. 7 is deadline for Oct. 17 issue and Monday, Oct. 14, is deadline for Oct. 24. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, Oct. 3

MAYIM

Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University sponsors Mayim, a fund-raiser for students and young professionals 19+, Court House, 57 Adelaide St. E. Tickets $15 in advance, $20 at door, 416-665-8054.

Saturday, Oct. 5

KLEZMER CABARET

Adath Israel Congregation's brotherhood, sisterhood and Club L'Chayim is sponsoring a Klezmer Cabaret, 8:30 p.m., $18 per person. Call 416-635-5340.

Sunday, Oct. 6

YIDDISHLAND

Workmen's Circle Yiddishland Cafe, 471 Lawrence Ave. W., features **Nathan Garnick** who will present *Stories of the Wise Men of Chelm* in Yiddish and English, and **Yeva** singing Yiddish folk songs. Tickets, $12, Israel's the Judaica Centre, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. (416-256-1010, or Workmen's Circle, 416-787-2081.

DANCE LIKE A BUTTERFLY

Morris Winchevsky School and Cranbrooke Friendship Club present **Aviva Ravel** in *Dance Like a Butterfly*, 2:30 p.m. at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Tickets, $8 in advance, $10 at the door. Call 416-789-5502.

HEALING SERVICE

Experience hope, comfort, faith and support at a healing service, 3-4 p.m., Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. Leaders are **Rabbi Reuven Tradburks** and **Ken Rabow**, music arranger. Free, open to the public. Call **Etta**, 416-944-3359.

HABONIM BREAKFAST

Habonim Breakfast Club, Congregation Habonim presents **Elisheva Gould**, talking about People to People: My Mission to Cuba, 10 a.m., 5 Glen Park Ave. Breakfast and lecture $6.

GIFT SHOW

Congregation B'nai Torah, 465 Patricia Ave., presents a gift show, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., featuring Judaica, jewelry, clothing, books, toys. Refreshments, free babysitting, 416-661-6745.

BOOK READING

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Brotherhood presents **Alvin Abrams**, author and storyteller, who will read from his Holocaust and mystery books, 9:15 a.m. Minimum charge at the door includes breakfast. Call 416-633-5500.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Celebration of Life features music of **Srul Irving Glick** performed by Amadeus choir, Lachan, Holy Blossom Temple Singers, Beth Tikvah choir, Holy Blossom Temple, $30. Seniors/students, $25. For tickets, 416-789-3291, ext. 224.

GENERAL WINGATE

General Wingate Branch, Royal Canadian Legion opening general members' breakfast meeting, 9:15 a.m., Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave., 416-782-5024.

FOCUS ON FOSTERING

Adath Israel's Chesed Committee is holding a brunch and panel discussion with members of the JF&CS foster care program. Subject is foster parenting in the Jewish community, 11 a.m.-1:15 p.m. Call **Nilly** 416-635-5340.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network reads *Roughing it in the Suburbs*, 1:45 p.m., Barbara Frum Library, **Ruth Goldsmith**, 416-782-6414.

Continued on page 25

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What's New

Continued from page 24

HEALING FROM TRAUMA

Dr. Danny Brom, founding director of Temmy & Albert Latner Israel Centre for the Treatment of Psychotrauma, speaks on Healing from the Trauma of Terror, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. Panel discussion follows, 416-781-3511.

Tuesday, Oct. 8

BALANCING MIND & BODY

Adath Israel Congregation's sisterhood opening meeting features Balancing Mind, Body & Spirit, with a dietician, a health promotion officer with the Ontario Breast Screening Program, and a chiropractor. $5 per person. Call 416-635-5340.

ONE HOUR, ONE PRAYER

Show solidarity with Israel at One Hour, One Prayer, One Purpose, Jewish People Unite. Includes footage from Israel, guest speaker, prayers and psalms. Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd., 8 p.m.

PROTECT YOURSELF

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am presents an evening with **Constable Wayne Peirce**. Non-members $3. Call **Rochelle Kerzner**, 416-630-9500.

Wednesday, Oct. 9

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Wendy Bateman, master weaver, is guest speaker at the Pomegranate Guild, Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 8 p.m. Call 416-948-2717.

FIVE LEVELS OF PLEASURE

Rabbi Aryeh Pamensky speaks about the Five Levels of Pleasure. Pride of Israel Synagogue, 7:30 p.m. Coffee House follows for unattached adults 20s-40s. Admission $5 or a non-perishable kosher food bank item. Call 416-226-0111, ext. 10 or office@thepride.org.

JUDAISM AND GENDER

Judaism, Gender and Sexual Ethics, with **Prof. Rachael Turkienicz**, continues with In the Image of God: Texts & Kabbalistic Concepts Addressing God's Gender, Beth Tzedec Congregation, 7:30 p.m.

IMPROVE YOUR MEMORY

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care presents **Dr. Angela Troyer**, who will speak about strategies for improving your memory, 7-9 p.m., Apotex Winter Garden, Baycrest Centre. Lecture and parking free. Call 416-785-2029.

Thursday, Oct. 10

SHUL ARCHITECTURE

Corey Keeble, curator of decorative arts, Royal Ontario Museum, presents a slide show on Architecture of the Synagogue, 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple. Call **Anne**, 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

ISRAELI SPY

Henry Alkin will talk about **Eli Cohen**, Israel's most famous spy, 7:30 p.m., Beth Shalom Synagogue.

JEWISH DIASPORA

Allan Levine will discuss his book *Scattered Among the People: Diaspora in Ten Portraits*, at Beth Tzedec Congregation, 7:30 p.m., admission free. 416-781-3511.

And What Else Is New

JEWISH MYSTICISM

JRCC Institute of Torah Study presents a five-part series on Jewish mysticism, with **Rabbi Tzvi Freeman**, Wednesdays, Oct. 16-Nov. 6, 8-9:30 p.m. No charge. To register, 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

YIDDISH CLASSES

Free Yiddish classes for children, Sundays 9:30 a.m.-noon, Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Call **Naomi**, 416-635-2883, ext. 150.

CRAFT AND GIFT SALE

Vendors wanted for Na'amat Canada's, craft and gift sale, Bayview Village, Oct. 14, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Call 416-636-5425 days or **Malka Mirsky**, 416-633-6538.

CURRENT EVENTS

Current events with **Doug Haddow**, Wednesdays, 1:30-3 p.m., Oct. 9, 16, 23, 30, sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, $3 members, $4 non-members, Council House, 416-633-5100, info@nchwc-ts.org.

JEWISH FAMILY INSTITUTE

JFI presents: Oct. 9, 9:30-10:30 a.m., **Daina Kalnins**, a dietician at Hospital for Sick Children will offer tips on healthy eating for children; Oct. 7, a 5-part parenting series begins and meets every alternate week, 10-11:30 a.m.; Oct. 8, 8 p.m., free introductory lecture by **Rabbi Aryeh Pamensky**, How to make Your Good Marriage Great, Village Shul. Call 785-1107, ext. 204 for information.

ISRAELI DANCING

Shaar Shalom Synagogue presents mother-daughter Israeli dancing with **Reuben Schiff**, for adults with children age 7+, Sundays, 6:30 p.m. beginning Oct. 6. No experience necessary. Cost $5 per person, max. $10 per family. To confirm e-mail youth@shaar shalom.ca or call 905-889-4975 and leave message for **Emily**, ext. 62.

MEKOROT INSTITUTE

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women begins its fall courses the week of Oct. 7, including morning and evening classes and four-week mini courses. Call 416-398-1510 or www.mekorot.ca.

HEBREW FOR PARENTS

Conversational Hebrew made fun with **Yael Lev**. Day or evening classes, all levels, ulpan method. Special classes for parents with children in Hebrew school. Fall term starts Oct. 7. Classes in co-operation with Associated Hebrew Schools. Call 416-225-6151.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama Oct. 9, 23, Nov. 6, 20; Saturday dances 7:30 p.m. Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 9, 30; Sunday dances Oct. 6, 29, Nov. 3, 17; Niagara Casino Oct. 17; trip to Atlantic City Nov. 3-6 $50 (US) in casino bonuses; fitness, ballroom and line dancing Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. beginning Oct. 3, 416-395-7881.

L.Z.A. Seniors Cultural Club meets Thursdays 10 a.m. in the boardroom, Borochov Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call 416-630-9444.

Beth Tzedec Congregation Senior Haverim presents its opening program, Oct. 7, featuring violinist and pianist. Call 416-781-3511.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays, 15 Hove St. On Tuesday, Oct. 8 is a day trip to the Muskokas. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking people meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. **Anna**, ext. 110.

Be an armchair traveller, alternate Thursdays starting Oct. 3, 10-11 a.m. Members $1, non-members $2.

Humour in the court system with **Barry Seltzer**, Oct. 8, 10-11:30 a.m. Members $1.50, non-members $3.

Hearing aid checkup, Tuesdays Oct. 8, Nov. 12; Dec. 10, 12:15-1:15, wellness clinic.

Fun with Yiddish, sharing stories, jokes, etc., Oct. 10, 1 p.m. Cost $1.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre for the Arts/Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880.

Lunch N'Learn, Friday, Oct. 4, noon-1 p.m.with **Rabbi Moshe Stern**, Room 202.

Yoga-fit with by **Estelle Altman**, begins Oct. 7, 1-2:30 p.m., 211 B.

The Music of Israel: Hava Nashira with **Rita Sue Fisher** starts Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2:30-3:30 p.m. Room 115.

Big Bands Revisited with **Al Basian** starts Thursday, Oct. 10, 1-3:30 p.m., Room 115.

Bridge with **Joel Shapiro**: beginners starts Tuesday, Oct. 8 1-3 p.m.; more modern conventions starts Wednesday, Oct. 9, 12-2 p.m., hands-on starts Thursday, Oct. 10 1-3 p.m. Senior bowling at Pro-Bowl, Tuesdays, 1 p.m. Ask for **Milty**. For more information on all activities, call **Janet**, ext. 259.

GOLF TOURNAMENT: Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Beit Halochem, recently held its 5th annual golf tournament. Funds raised are used to rehabilitate and assist disabled Israeli veterans and victims of terror. Seen from left are Alan Adelkind, Lynda Davis, Ken Davis and Brian Roberts, who supported the tournament.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 26

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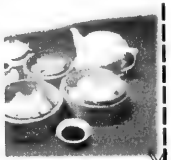

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Beth Tzedec & Intersynagogue Singles invite you to join us for our first Oneg Shabbat of the Fall season on Friday, Oct. 11. Eat, talk, mix and mingle. Service 6:20 p.m., dinner follows. 1700 Bathurst St. Prepaid reservation required by Tues., Oct. 8, $27. Visa & MasterCard accepted. Call 416-781-3514, ex. 34.

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Seen are some of the members of the planning committee of the Y All-Clubs reunion: standing, from left, are Hy Himmel and Herby Fruitman; seated, Sonny Langer and Ken Borden.

YMHA reunion will rekindle memories for club members

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Hail, hail, the gang's all here!

Memories of the old gang will prevail at The Y All-Clubs reunion and buffet dinner, which will bring together members of all the early YMHA clubs, going back more than half a century.

"The reunion will feature hundreds of wall-to-wall characters like you've never seen before," says Ken Borden, a member of the planning committee.

The first reunion to be organized in 28 years, it will be held Oct. 22 at the Bathurst Jewish Centre's (BJC) Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St.

First reunion set for BJC

The first clubs were formed in the 1940s at the YMHA's building at 15 Brunswick Ave. Some of the earliest clubs were Kenton, Dumaurier, Desmond, Baldwin, Gaylord and Daragon. In addition to the Brunswick Avenue building, the clubs began to meet at facilities at 12 Major St. and 44 St. George St., and in two houses at Bloor Street and Spadina Avenue, at the site of the current Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre.

When the Bloor Y opened in 1953, more groups were formed with younger members, and members of the original groups became the leaders. Seventeen boys' clubs and several girls' clubs were formed over the years.

"Anti-Semites played a huge role in the formation of the clubs' social and athletic activities, which included basketball and football, because there were so many places that restricted us or did not welcome us," says David (Sonny) Langer, a member of the planning committee.

"We were comfortable together. We felt secure and safe. The clubs became our extended families. That was the main part of our lives."

In an interview, Borden and Langer explained that the clubs became a centre of their world where they had a great deal of fun and also supported each other through tragedies and losses.

"In those days, no one had cars, so we spent time at the club or we walked on College Street, which was our promenade, where we met our friends," Borden said.

Despite divergent backgrounds, strong bonds were formed and many of the clubs still meet regularly for brunch or dinner. Borden said that when the members of Kenton meet once a month for breakfast, "it's as if no time has elapsed – we just continue where we left off."

"The club kept us out of trouble," Langer said. "It saved our lives. We were very busy with the athletics, putting on shows and socials, and we had fund-raising events."

Photos, old posters, old sweaters and other memorabilia will be on view when old friends gather at the reunion to share memories.

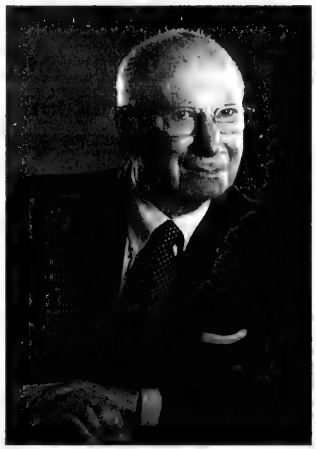
"We have come full circle and come back to our roots," Langer said. "With aging, more than ever, we want to hold on to our relationships.

Continued on page 27

Seniors Scene

'Mr. Baycrest' urges donors to keep on giving

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN



Sam Ruth

Sam Ruth, 81, known by many as "Mr. Baycrest," fulfils the definition of a pacesetter – a person who leads the way and serves as a model for others.

Despite having had heart surgery last year, Ruth, a former executive director of Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and founding president of the Baycrest Foundation, recently completed a 50-km bicycle ride as the oldest cyclist in a leg of the Barrie-to-Baycrest fundraiser.

His pacemaker has not slowed him down. "Now that I have a pacemaker, I worry less about my heart rate as I continue my physical activities and continue with my community responsibilities," he said.

Ruth retired in December 2000 after a 44-year career at Baycrest, leaving an indelible mark on elder care in Toronto's Jewish community and around the world.

"I believe that age can be ageless," said Ruth. "Therefore, each of us should continue to grow and be active and contribute to society regardless of what the calendar says."

To honour Ruth, Baycrest recently launched a planned giving program called the Sam Ruth Legacy Society.

"This reflects Sam's years of service and dedication to caring for the elderly in a compassionate and dignified way," said Florence Weinberger, Baycrest's director of development.

"Each gift makes a difference not only in the lives of Baycrest clients but also in the lives of the donors. It is an opportunity to leave a legacy for generations to come."

When asked why he lent his name to the new fund-raising project, the modest Ruth replied: "Baycrest depends on it."

Ruth believes in planned giving and spoke of his commitment and the commitment of others to include Baycrest in their wills.

"Baycrest's accomplishments have been made possible by people who preceded us. Therefore, it is now our duty to make sure that tomorrow's are well financed in the future."

Ruth said people who leave a gift to Baycrest in their will can expect to become members of the Sam Ruth Legacy Society. Members will be listed in the Baycrest Annual Review and have their name prominently displayed on Baycrest's Donor Recognition Wall. They will also receive a special gift.

"It is up to us to plant the seeds and to nurture them so that our children and grandchildren will benefit from the trees, just as we benefit from the generation who came before us," Ruth said.

Pacemaker fails to slow Ruth

Baycrest also made Ruth an honorary director, a rank that includes prominent volunteers who have retired from active involvement, retired members of management, retired professionals and other Baycrest supporters.

"I feel very strongly that Baycrest wouldn't be the international leader in geriatric care it is today without the financial support gained in the past from planned giving," he said.

Ruth said he is delighted that he and his wife Nancy have remained active in the community and that his three sons, Daniel, Alan and John, all work in health care. "And with seven grandchildren, I have no choice but to be active."

First all-clubs reunion held in 1974

Continued from page 26

"In the good old days," he added, "everyone had a nickname. We were like Damon Runyon characters. Ken was Ken (the Mole) Borden, and there was Al (the Hawk) Lando, Mike (Honky) Baida, Joe (Pecker) Packman, Harry (Putch) Greenblatt, Jerry (Blackie) Hoffman, Lou (de Ape) Goodfield and the list goes on and on."

Borden said that after the first all-clubs reunion in 1974, "over the years, I have been bugged to do it again. They wanted to see and shmooze with the guys again. Like, who's around, who's left, who's doing what, who is married or not married anymore, who's in town and who's not, or where is he now?"

The price for dinner and drinks is $75, and net proceeds will go to the BJC.

For more information on the Y All-Clubs reunion, call Ken Borden, 416-224-8184, David Himelfarb, 416-929-3989, or Sonny Langer, 905-881-4356

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-CONFERENCE SCHEDULE-

9:00 a.m.
TEXT BASED TORAH STUDY
for pre-registrants **featuring:**
Rabbi Yaakov Kerzner, Dr. Eric Lawee, Dr. Rachel Turkienicz

10:00 a.m.
CONTEMPORARY JEWISH SPIRITUALITY (I)
Rabbi Mayer Schiller
What Hassidut and Kabbalah can teach the Modern Jew

OR **THE JEWISH FAMILY (I)**
Dr. Deena Zimmerman
Not all According to Plan – Birth Control, Infertility and Reproductive Technology in Jewish Law

11:00 a.m.
ETHICAL CHALLENGES OF THE MODERN WORLD
Rabbi Michael Broyde
Bullets that Kill on the Rebound: Discrimination against Homosexuals and Orthodox Public Policy

OR **CONTEMPORARY JEWISH SPIRITUALITY (II)**
Susan Schneider
Making Prayer Work as a Real-Life Tool

OR **Rabbi Mordechai Becher**
How Can Judaism Make You More Spiritual?

12:15 p.m.
LUNCH **Book Signings**

1:00 p.m.
IS RELIGIOUS TRUTH ABSOLUTE?
Dr. David Berger
The Belief in Da'as Torah (Absolute Rabbinic Authority): Benefits & Dangers
Rabbi Michael Broyde
The Seal of God is Truth: The Conflict Between the 'Reality' of Science & the 'Accuracy' of Halacha

OR **WOMEN'S PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL HEALTH**
Susan Schneider
Eating as Tikkun: Feeding Your Body and Soul in a Holy Way
Dr. Deena Zimmerman
Mikvah, Cancer, Healing - Women's Preventative Health & the Search for Wholeness in Jewish Law

2:30 p.m.
THE SEARCH FOR SALVATION
Dr. David Berger
The Messiah and the Redemption: Beliefs, Movements and Calculations from Talmudic Times to the Present

OR **Rabbi Mayer Schiller**
Is Popular Culture Sanctifiable?

4:00 p.m.
ISRAEL & THE FUTURE OF JUDAISM
Rabbi Dr. Tzvi Hersh Weinreb
Can one be a Zionist in the Diaspora?

OR **THE JEWISH FAMILY (II)**
Rabbi Mordechai Becher
The Ten Commandments of Jewish Parenting

8:00 p.m. **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**
HOW CAN JUDAISM THRIVE IN MODERNITY? – A Town Hall Meeting
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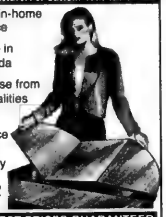
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On Campus

U.S. college editors tour Israel

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — For college journalist Evan Wagner, a tour along the seam line separating Israel and the West Bank brought Israeli security concerns into focus in a way that following the situation from afar could not.

Recalling the view of the Mediterranean from a vantage point along the Green Line, Wagner said he was surprised by how close everything is.

The tour "made a lot of those issues clearer than they could ever be by looking at a map or watching it on CNN," said Wagner, 20, a senior at American University in Washington and a managing editor of the campus newspaper, *The Eagle*.

Wagner is one of eight college newspaper editors who recently travelled to Israel as part of an intensive two-week seminar organized by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL).

The program, now in its 10th year, had special resonance this time around, with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict spurring heated debate – and tensions – on many American campuses.

This year's mission, which took place from Aug. 5 to Aug. 18, included college newspaper editors from American University, University of Michigan, Harvard University, University of California at Irvine, Oregon State University, Syracuse University, Wayne State University and Texas A&M University.

The group of editors visited Poland and Bulgaria as well as Israel on a program that was also designed to educate student journalists about the Holocaust and the Jewish State in general.

Wagner said he hoped the trip would help him provide context for his newspaper's coverage of campus activism related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"A trip like this, for me, translates into being able to put together better-informed [content]," he said.

While in Israel, the group toured Jerusalem, the northern region and the seam line separating Israel and the West Bank. They visited holy sites and museums, stayed on a kibbutz, were briefed by Foreign Ministry and defence officials and met with Israeli peers.

They heard from a diverse group of speakers, including Israeli legislators, Israeli Arab and Druze leaders, a representative from a regional settlement council in the West Bank, and Israeli, American and Palestinian members of the media.

Chatting in the lobby of a Jerusalem hotel on the last day of the seminar, the students said they were drawn to the program because of the opportunity it gave them to learn about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict up close.

"I believe very strongly that to understand any country, any place, any conflict, you have to see it first-hand," said Mariano Castillo, 22, a senior at Texas A&M University.

Unlike the other program participants, for whom this was their first trip to Israel, Castillo came here last winter on a mission organized by the American Jewish Committee.

"If there's one thing I learned when I came in December, it was that one trip is not enough to understand all the complexities of Israel and of the conflict," he said.

For Castillo, one of the highlights of the week in Israel was a meeting with Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna shortly after he declared his candidacy for leadership of the Labor Party.

"It was really great to meet a leader of that calibre, someone who's going to be a player in the next year or so and get his thoughts on where the country needs to go," said Castillo, who will be writing this year for the campus newspaper, *The Battalion*, after serving as its editor-in-chief.

Johanna Hanink, a junior at the University of Michigan, cited a chance encounter with a group of Israeli soldiers while visiting Auschwitz as one of her strongest impressions from the trip.

"Seeing that they are our age, that most of them are kids just like us, really changed my perspective on how things work here," said Hanink, 20, who is editorial page editor of *The Michigan Daily*.

Ken Jacobson, assistant national director of the ADL, said the main point of the program is to "expose people to a diversity of viewpoints."

While past groups spent some time in the territories, that was not possible this year because of the security situation, Jacobson said.

"We tried to find ways to compensate," such as arranging a meeting with a Palestinian speaker, he said.

The ongoing violence in the region also affected the size of the study mission, which had fewer participants than in previous years.

While some of the students admitted that their families had expressed concern about their coming to Israel, personal safety was not a major concern for them.

"There are millions of people living here, who are managing with all the terrorism and conflict to live somewhat normal lives, or at least lives," said David DeBartolo, 21, a senior at Harvard University.

"If they can do it, the least I can do to learn about the way they're living is to come for a week and see it with my own eyes."

DeBartolo and other student editors said their school papers' coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict split into two categories: wire copy on actual news events and original reporting on how the dispute is playing out among campus interest groups.

The students described varying levels of campus activism at their schools relating to the Mideast conflict.

At the University of Michigan, "there are a lot of people who feel like they have a large personal investment in what's happening here," said Hanink. "So that has bred a lot of activism and tension on the campus," which she said is addressed by her newspaper.

"Our editorial policy is unique in that in our unsigned editorials we never take a position on international affairs," she said. "But we view the role of those unsigned editorials to define the borders of acceptable debate on campus. We encourage both the Palestinian and Israeli activist groups to be vocal, to have a presence, but when one of those groups says something that we feel goes too far, we point that out."

Hanink said that if prior to the trip she might have hesitated over whether to run a particular opinion piece, "this trip has helped me define my own boundaries for what are the acceptable extremes."

DeBartolo, who is editorial chair of *The Harvard Crimson*, described a "politically charged" atmosphere on campus at the end of last year that was fuelled by distrust between Jewish and Arab student groups.

He said he hoped to be a better-informed editor as a result of the trip.

Calendar to raise funds for Jewish heritage centre

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Jewish Heritage Centre of Western Canada's new activity book and 2003 day planner highlights a century of Jewish education in Manitoba in words and pictures.

The 250-page coiled publication includes 101 archival photos taken in school settings – class photos, athletic events, performing arts and other school activities – along with a brief history of Jewish schools in Winnipeg written by JHC director Stan Carbone.

The book also has write-ups about the centre and its components, a list of holidays, calendars for 2003 and 2004 and coupons at the back. And there will be weekly prize draws for supporters who buy the books, which cost $25.

Winnipeg publication includes archival photos

The book is intended to be a fund-raiser for the JHC.

"Most museums receive some government assistance," says JHC president Gerry Posner. "We don't. We have to raise our own money. For most projects, we raise funds for the specific project. This book is our first independent fund-raiser.

"It has the potential to make us more self-reliant."

JHC fund-raising chairperson Rona Davies echoes the sentiment. "We could potentially raise as much as $50,000 if we can sell 2,000 books," she says.

The activity book was actually Davies' idea. Originally from Winnipeg, Davies grew up in Toronto and Montreal and had lived much of her adult life in Alberta, where she was involved in community work and fund-raising. She and her husband, Stephen, a research scientist, moved to Winnipeg three years ago. She has been a member of the JHC board for about a year.

The activity book was an idea she adapted from a similar project she had been involved with in Alberta. She notes that because all the photos are sponsored by donors, and because other donors, in particular the I.L. Peretz Folk School Endowment Trust, contributed to the cost of publication, all proceeds from sales can go directly to the JHC.

"The Winnipeg Jewish community's greatest export has been our people," Davies says. "A lot of those who have left still have family here. A heritage book like this should appeal to former Winnipeggers."

Posner says the book has value for both readers and the JHC.

"Our organization benefits from the sales and the publicity while people who buy copies of the book have the opportunity to win over $3,300 worth of prizes," he says. "This is a project that we can do year after year."

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BATHURST JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE

CLC to meet with Palestinian labour officials

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Some time this fall, likely in November, Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) president Ken Georgetti will travel to the Palestinian territories to meet with senior labour officials there.

The CLC, he explained, has been "in more regular contact" with the Palestinian labour movement than its Israeli counterpart. While in Israel, he's hopeful he can arrange similar meetings with members of the Histadrut, Israel's labour movement. In his three years as president of the CLC, he said, he has yet to encounter anyone from the Histadrut.

That admission will no doubt strike many in the Jewish community as odd, given that the Histadrut maintains a presence on the local labour scene and Jews have historically played a prominent role in the Canadian labour movement. As well, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), the community's umbrella organization, evolved to a large extent thanks to the efforts of Jewish workers, noted Bernie Farber, executive-director of CJC's Ontario region.

Congress talks with Georgetti

But, Georgetti pointed out, while at one time the CJC included an active labour caucus that maintained good ties between Jewish workers and the CLC, those ties seem to have been neglected in recent years.

CJC spokespeople agreed that Georgetti's observation is accurate.

Georgetti met Sept. 19 with CJC president Keith Landy in Ottawa in what both men described as a cordial and informative encounter.

Dialogue, Georgetti said, coupled with a description of the facts, is important to dispel "rumours" that the CLC had become anti-Semitic and anti-Israel. (One of the CLC's main critics at its Vancouver convention in June was former CLC president Dennis McDermott, who alleged anti-Semitism was creeping into the labour movement.)

For his part, Landy said the meeting with Georgetti afforded him the opportunity to express CJC's view that a resolution passed at the CLC's convention was "highly improper" and "filled with moral equivalence," condemning Palestinian terrorism in the same breath as Israel's response to it.

On that point, the two sides appeared to remain divided, as Georgetti maintained the CLC resolution was fair and even-handed in its approach to the Middle East conflict. He said it called on both sides to restrain themselves and urged Canada to push for international peace-keepers to police the area and allow both sides to resume peace negotiations.

Landy said he was also concerned about a policy statement adopted by the CLC's executive that compared Israel to South Africa under apartheid – a statement "that imported the language of Durban."

But Georgetti said the policy statement was no more than a discussion document that "does not form our policy. That policy is formed in formal resolutions."

Both sides acknowledged that the relationship between the two organizations needs more work – more meetings and more dialogue.

"It's clear we need to get more aggressive in that area unless we are prepared to write off the labour movement," Landy said. "I don't think we are going to do that. Now is the time to build a common ground."

At one time the Jewish community had stronger ties to the labour movement, Landy continued. While that has changed, many Jews remain active in local union politics and "I'm cautiously optimistic we can re-build the relationship."

Farber said Congress is in the process of scheduling meetings with "members of our community in the union movement and on the left, to link with them and work with them on approaches we'll make to various unions."

The goal of the meetings is to discuss Israel advocacy and ways of introducing a more favourable view of Israel in the wider labour movement, he added.

Congress was jarred out of its complacency this summer when an emergency resolution was adopted by the Ontario regional convention of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) that critics said was biased against Israel.

More recently, CUPE flags were seen among demonstrators protesting former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speaking engagement in Toronto.

CUPE has explained the flags were taken without permission, Farber said. But he noted that Palestinian workers and Palestinian friendship groups have helped influence the Ontario labour movement to take positions critical of Israel.

Jews in the labour movement can help redress that imbalance, he said.

"People on the left are still ardent Zionists and they want a way to advocate for Israel in a communal context.

"CJC and the Jewish community has to some extent let this element of the Jewish community down.

"We've not put in the effort to keep them in the fold. We have a lot of work to do."

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Hebrew U seminar not welcome at Concordia

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

The local president of the Canadian Friends of Hebrew University (CFHU) says it's "a measure of the desperation" of the Concordia University administration that an academic seminar his group was to hold at the Loyola campus Oct. 6 will not be allowed to go ahead.

Lewis Dobrin said he received verbal notice Sept. 19 from Concordia Jewish studies professor Ira Robinson that rector Frederick Lowy had decided the day-long public event, titled The Pursuit of Brilliance: The Best of Hebrew U, fell under Concordia's definition of a Mideast-related activity banned under the current moratorium on such events.

Lowy imposed the moratorium Sept. 9 after violent protests forced the cancellation of a speech at Concordia by former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The seminar features six Hebrew U professors giving a total of 16 lectures on topics such as medicine, technology, Jewish thought, law and political science, as well as the Mideast crisis.

"This event is not political at all, it is scholarly… I think the administration feels it not only has to show no bias, but has to have the appearance of showing no bias," Dobrin said.

Dobrin said the CFHU signed a contract with Concordia in July for the space at Loyola. The university was not charging the group, he said.

The event will now take place at McGill University's law faculty, which will charge the group for the space.

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota said the event was cancelled because it "contravenes the moratorium guidelines," and said Concordia offered to help find another location for it.

Dobrin said the CFHU had to scramble to find a new venue and inform the 3,000 people who received a seminar brochure in the mail about the change.

He acknowledged some seminar topics could be considered political.

Political science professor Meron Medzini will discuss Israel – Two Years of Intifadah and the Peace Options for Israel. Another political scientist, Reuven Hazan, will discuss Public Opinion and the Peace Process: From Golda Meir to Rabin and now Sharon, and Democracies at War: Lessons from Israel.

The day will conclude with a plenary session on Israel in Crisis, moderated by Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler.

But most of the program deals with such areas as women's rights in Judaism, brain research, Israel's hi-tech industry and the role of Israel's Supreme Court.

The event was to have been held in co-operation with Concordia's Jewish studies department.

The event is not a fund-raiser. In fact, Dobrin said, it is "a money-loser," because of the cost of bringing in the professors and publicizing the event. But the last-minute switch may attract people, he said, because the Concordia cancellation has people talking about it.

Hillel city-wide president Yoni Petel called the cancellation "disgusting… It's not just students affected [by the moratorium], now it's academics. How far will it go?"

But Petel said the change of venue of last week's "community rally/Hakafot Shniot celebration in support of Jewish students and democracy at Concordia" was not due to the moratorium.

Petel said reasons included the fact that police would not issue a permit for a march after dark and that the McGill planning office advised Hillel it does not allow outside groups to hold such gatherings on its premises.

* * *

A B'nai Brith Canada delegation was received at Premier Bernard Landry's Montreal office last week and asked that the province conduct an inquiry into the Sept. 9 events at Concordia University.

Speaking to reporters outside the Hydro-Québec building, B'nai Brith's national legal counsel Steven Slimovitch said a government-appointed inquiry is the only body that can subpoena witnesses and ascertain why the protest against former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu turned violent.

The violence at Concordia's Hall Building led to the cancellation of Netanyahu's planned speech there. Slimovitch said he hoped an inquiry would examine what led up to the protest and recommend ways to prevent a similar incident from recurring.

B'nai Brith believes everyone involved should be questioned, including the university administration, the police, officials from the city and other levels of government, as well as demonstrators and student organizations.

B'nai Brith Quebec region executive director Saulie Zajdel said "nothing spectacular" came out of the meeting with Roy, "who said he would discuss the issue with Landry. "That's all we could hope for," Zajdel said.

Roy said Landry is not commenting on B'na' Brith's request for an inquiry, which he said has been forwarded to the Procureur General for consideration.

CORRECTION

In the August 29, 2002 Jewish Community Focus Directory, there inadvertently was an error in the email address for Canadian Associates of Ben-Gurion University.

The correct email address is -

cdnbgu@on.aibn.com

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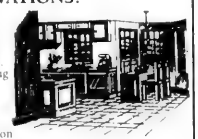

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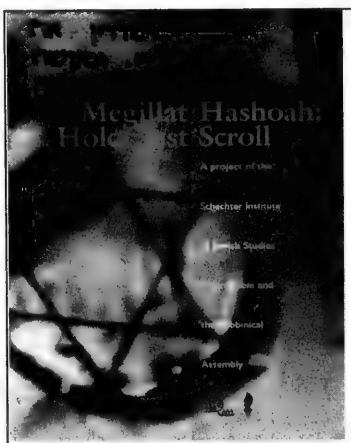

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Sentence boosted for Edmonton shul arsonist

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

EDMONTON – Almost two years ago, as Jewish communities around the world were being rocked by anti-Semitic attacks in the wake of the latest Palestinian intifadah, the Beth Shalom Synagogue in Edmonton was struck by a Molotov cocktail.

The firebomb succeeded in shattering one of the shul's windows and starting a small fire, but before Yousef Sandouga could throw his second incendiary device, things began to go awry.

Instead of lighting the second Molotov cocktail, the then-20-year-old Palestinian only succeeded in setting his own clothes on fire. Panic-stricken, he rolled around on the grass next to the shul, trying to put the fire out. He succeeded in doing so, but not before the cellphone he was carrying fell to the ground.

Alerted by the commotion, the synagogue caretaker, who lived in a residence next to the synagogue, arrived in time to see Sandouga flee. Police were quickly called to the scene, where they recovered the abandoned cellphone.

Then, as if trying to make the police officers' jobs easier, Sandouga attempted to retrieve the phone.

According to a recent Alberta Court of Appeal decision, police "soon received a number of angry and threatening phone calls. One caller identified the cellphone as Sandouga's and provided his address for its return."

Police later determined that Sandouga, who was born in Jordan and who immigrated with his family to Canada at age 7, had been treated in hospital for second degree burns.

Sandouga was located with the help of "elders in the Arabic community" and at trial, pleaded guilty to charges of arson. He told the court he considered himself a Palestinian and had acted against the Edmonton Jewish community "out of frustration with events in the Middle East."

Sandouga was sentenced to one year in jail followed by three years of probation. He also arranged for a restitution payment of $1,100, though the court noted "it is not clear from the record whether Sandouga himself paid it."

Both the Crown and Sandouga appealed the sentence – the Crown arguing it was insufficient, Sandouga contending it was too harsh.

In a unanimous decision released recently, a three-justice panel of the Alberta Court of Appeal boosted Sandouga's jail time to 2½ years in a federal penitentiary.

In doing so, the court employed extremely powerful language, saying "Sandouga's act of revenge-based arson was a terrorist act, a hate crime and an act of religious intimidation."

Moreover, "because of the nature of the offence, Sandouga may pose a threat to the community."

Writing for the court, Judge Adelle Fruman said Sandouga's crime "chips away at our human dignity, our fundamental freedoms, our multicultural tolerance and our sense of safety and security. All Canadians are entitled to live, gather and worship without fear of attack. To protect these shared values, to discourage anarchy and to maintain confidence in the judicial system, courts must mete out penalties that sternly denounce hate crimes and terrorist acts, and deter others from expressing their views through dangerous acts of intimidation."

The court rejected Sandouga's claims the arson was a spontaneous act that resulted from too much drinking. The judgment noted that he had obtained a can of gasoline and had collected bottles and wicks earlier in the day. He had then located a synagogue and proceeded there after midnight, dressed in dark clothing and a toque. Furthermore, he had discussed the firebombing with other people, all of whom had attempted to dissuade him from carrying it out.

The pre-sentence report noted that Sandouga denied full responsibility for the crime, claiming "'it was not really me who did it,' because he had consumed alcohol and used marijuana that evening."

The arson took place on Nov. 1, 2000, about a month after the start of the second Palestinian intifadah.

Canadian Jewish Congress applauded the Appeal Court decision, as well as the Crown's efforts. "We are very gratified at the seriousness with which the Crown prosecutor in Edmonton, John Hnidan, approached this case and we have expressed our appreciation to him for this," said Manuel Prutschi, Congress' national director of community relations.

Firebombing led to links between Muslims and Jews

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In Sol Rolingher's world view, it's important to try to turn a negative into a positive. So when he heard in early 2001 that the suspect in his shul's November 2000 firebombing was a young Muslim, his first impulse was to open lines of communication to Edmonton's 30,000-strong Muslim community.

At the time, things were getting hot for Jewish communities around the world and the last thing he wanted to see was Edmonton's 4,500 Jews subject to attacks. (In addition to the attack on the Beth Shalom, a second Edmonton synagogue, the Beth Israel, was firebombed the same night and two suspects were seen fleeing the scene. No arrests have been made in that case.)

As a lawyer with a number of voluntary involvements in the broader community, "I knew a number of prominent Muslims," he said. "I wanted to reach an understanding so that we can live in harmony.

"Our community," he continued, "is so vulnerable."

Finding a willing ear on the Muslim side, a meeting was held and common ground – which included tolerance of the other community and a live-and-let live attitude – was found.

What's more, members of the Muslim community subsequently helped to locate Yousef Sandouga, the suspect in the Beth Sholom firebombing. Sandouga had been released on bail and then disappeared, missing a court date. Police believed he had left the country, but Muslim elders tracked him down in Edmonton, Rolingher said.

"The imams [Muslim religious leaders] felt [Sandouga] embarrassed and brought shame on their community," Rolingher said.

In addition to establishing friendly relations with the city's Muslims, Rolingher approached Edmonton police to ask for enhanced protection. His queries eventually led to the creation of Edmonton's hate bias squad, consisting of two city police officers and an RCMP officer.

Police subsequently stepped up surveillance of Jewish community facilities and ironically, it was the hate bias squad that was called on to protect Muslim institutions in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington, D.C.

Police are also planning to host a meeting aimed at bringing the two communities closer together and ensuring political issues from outside Canada don't inflame tensions in the city, Rolingher added.

As to Beth Sholom's congregation, he said the firebombing led to record High Holy Day attendance as well as an increase in family memberships.

"I think people wanted to pray together, to show solidarity and to show Edmonton we're here and no one is going to make us not [pray together]," he said.

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Coast to Coast

Feds say they won't change policy on Nazis

Continued from page 3

Several suspects died while their cases were before the courts, and two left the country voluntarily. Only one person has been deported. Three have seen their citizenship removed but have not yet been deported.

Jewish groups reacted angrily to news the government had considered changing the deportation process. But, they said, they were not surprised.

Leo Adler, the Simon Wiesenthal Centre's director of national affairs, said "the government never wanted to do anything more than the bare minimum ...I would not be surprised if no further cases come up."

Keith Landy, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, said Congress met last week with the minister and was told there would be no change in policy. "My comment is there must have been something that prompted the story, and if it's that the government intends not to proceed with deportation, it would be a real shame and a slap in the face to the Jewish community, Holocaust survivors and the community in general."

Landy suggested the government lacked "political will and backbone" to deal with Nazi war crimes suspects.

What's more, he said,"how could Canada deal with modern day war criminals in any credible way if it now decides not to proceed with deportation?"

Adler speculated the government was considering allowing Nazis to remain in Canada because "they felt embarrassed by pictures of old men coming into court." He contrasted that attitude to one involving sexual assault suspects brought to court 30 or 40 years after the alleged offense took place, where no such reticence existed.

"I think they feel they can do it [not deport] at this stage and the unfortunate reality is that we can raise a fuss and be listened to, but Canadian Jews don't have substantial impact with the exception of at most two ridings in the country, and the government feels they don't need those two ridings," Adler said.

The issue became a political hot potato for the government when a court ruled more than two years ago that Kitchener developer Helmut Oberlander entered the country by lying about his service as an interpreter in a Nazi murder unit. Kitchener-Waterloo MP Andrew Telegdi (Lib.) jumped to Oberlander's defence, alleging the deportation process was politicized. He urged the government to change the law to allow a judge to make the final decision on deportation.

Oberlander's case remains stalled in cabinet, which has the authority to strip Nazi war criminals of their citizenship prior to deportation.

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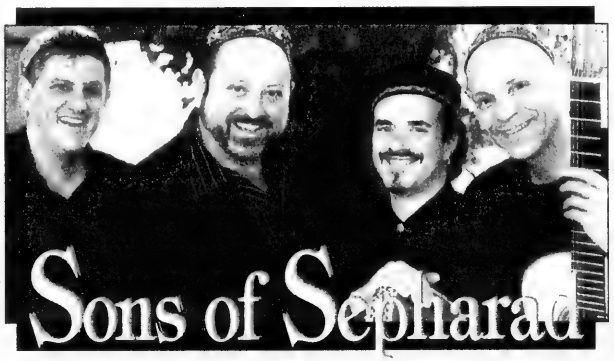

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Hornbrook and MacDonald: a study in contrasts

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Listening to Mike Hornbrook's reports on CBC Radio (Sept. 22) describing Israel's siege of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Ramallah compound makes one keenly aware of just how skewed so much of Neil Macdonald's reporting for the CBC has become.

Hornbrook began by describing in neutral terms the siege itself, and the extent of the destruction to Arafat's compound ("Israeli tanks and troops are closer to Yasser Arafat than they have ever been. Armoured bulldozers are slowly grinding away at what remains of his headquarters… ").

Hornbrook then described Israel's demand that 20 of 200 men holed up with Arafat be turned over. "[Israel] says that they are wanted for involvement in terrorism." But Hornbrook didn't stop there. He added relevant context: "All this comes after back-to-back suicide bombings in Israel last week left 5 Israelis and a foreigner dead."

Hornbrook paid attention to the Palestinian appeal for help and to their claim that "the Palestinian leader may be killed in the siege." Yet he also included quotes from Israeli spokesperson Dore Gold, who defended Israel's actions and explained that only those involved in terrorism against Israelis, not Arafat himself, are the targets.

Hornbrook's report was both revealing and scrupulously fair. It presented both sides impartially, as is demanded by CBC's broadcast regulations of its reporters. If Hornbrook has a personal opinion (and one can assume he does), listeners would never know what it is.

Later that day, Neil Macdonald reported for CBC Radio. He focused only on Israel's destruction of Arafat's compound and on harm to Palestinian interests. Virtually no Israeli perspective, nor context to its actions, was provided. Macdonald's tone and snide editorial comment ("Sharon has always believed that peace-making is best done at gunpoint") signaled to listeners his disapproval of Israel – a disapproval we're familiar with from his TV news reports. Have we ever heard Macdonald opine that for Arafat, diplomacy is best achieved through bombs?

The most glaring omission of context is evident in Macdonald's report for *Foreign Assignment* on CBC Newsworld (Sept. 14). His story accused Israel of exploiting the tragedy of Sept. 11 in order to "pounce" on Arafat and the Palestinians. Macdonald omitted mention of the unrelenting spate of terror attacks Israel had endured with great self-restraint in the preceding year.

He also failed to note that it was not until six months after Sept. 11, following a suicide bombing at a Passover seder in a Netanya hotel, that Israel finally felt compelled to go into the West Bank. In effect, he collapses the time frame and reverses the causal order of events, leaving viewers with a very stilted impression of what transpired.

A spokesperson presents the Palestinian case, and a highly respected Israeli academic, Ehud Sprinzak, is also heard criticizing Israel's actions. No countervailing view is presented. Viewers cannot be faulted for assuming that Israel is wantonly and ruthlessly oppressive.

In their avoidance of relevant context, these reports violate CBC's journalistic guidelines on integrity and fairness. What's more, CBC management seems fully supportive. Indeed, in its promotion of a feature item by their Middle East correspondent (the first instalment in the three-part series *Stories From The War Zone*, Sept. 17), CBC actually boasts (contrary to its own ban on reporters expressing viewpoints) that Neil Macdonald is "well known for his definitive views."

Someone should tell the CBC that Neil Macdonald is not Rex Murphy. Nor is he allowed to be. Actually, many people have. Our public broadcaster apparently does not care, but all Canadian viewers should.

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"CIAD MILE FIALTE"

Settlement marks 25th birthday amid security concerns

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

Rivki Sabo knows what it's like to feel vulnerable

The former Montrealer and her family – husband Itzy and two sons Zvi, 6, and Eitan, 4 – live on a settlement in the heart of the West Bank that has faced its share of terror since the intifadah started almost two years ago.

Three members of the yishuv, popularly called Neve Tzuf but also known as Halamish, have been killed on the by-pass road leading to Tel Aviv, about 40 minutes to the west. One of the victims lived across the street from Sabo. The yishuv is also just a stone's throw from several Palestinian towns.

Sabo said there have been "countless injuries" on the road, one that is regularly used by her husband to commute to Tel Aviv and his job in computer software security. The car's only protection are windows that can't be shattered by rocks.

The yishuv itself is surrounded by a fence that keeps it "more or less" protected, said Sabo, a cheery woman of 32 who grew up in the "Young Israel" area of Montreal.

Her husband is a member of Neve Tzuf's anti-terrorist squad, which tries to protect residents in emergency situations until professional defence personnel arrive.

Sabo was in Montreal recently as part of a month-long trip to raise awareness about the settlement's security concerns.

Specifically, Sabo was trying to raise the $20,000 or so it would take to hire a private security guard for the yishuv's preschool facility. So far, she admitted, her success has been limited.

Despite an "incredibly difficult" last couple of years, Sabo, with her two sons playing peacefully at her feet, appears surprisingly content when talking about life back home.

She is quick to point out that she and her family did not choose to live in Neve Tzuf in 1996 out of any ideological or religious fervour or to make a "statement."

Although her family is Orthodox, she and her husband were drawn there because it is observant and has a mixture of ages and backgrounds, and is also relatively close to both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. As well, it was well-established and they were able to build their own home.

"It felt natural to be there," Sabo said. "But if we had been able to find the same thing 10 minutes from Jerusalem or somewhere else, it could have been there too," Sabo said, "It could have been inside or outside the Green Line."

That being said, Sabo feels she and her family have every right to stay in "Yesha," the Hebrew acronym that settlers often use to refer to the West Bank.

"If the communities in Yesha go, so does the centre of the country," she said.

This year is Neve Tzuf's 25th anniversary, a celebration Sabo would not have predicted she would be part of while growing up in Montreal.

Born into a mainstream Orthodox family, Sabo attended the Beth Jacob School for Girls, and went to McGill and Concordia universities, as well as Hebrew University, where she earned a master's degree in library sciences.

Her first trip to Israel was in 1987, and she returned almost annually for educational and youth-oriented programs, as well as to attend a yeshiva in Jerusalem (Brovender's).

Sabo met her Israeli husband in the summer of 1990 at a program of Yavneh Olami, a politically unaffiliated international Orthodox student organization. But the couple did not get together permanently until two years later.

The day she made aliyah – Sept. 10, 1992 – was the same day they reunited and became engaged.

Sabo is currently helping to set up an archive for the community, which now boasts about 1,000 residents (200 families), including other former Canadians.

The yishuv also has full educational and medical facilities, with several plans in the works to reflect its continuing growth, such as separate Sephardi and Ashkenazi synagogues, a youth centre, and the yeshiva's first permanent structure.

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'Green Line' policy on charities rejected by court

Continued from page 1

As Ottawa tax lawyer Arthur Drache, who represented CMDA, put it, "the operation was a success but the patient died."

He said CMDA will ask the Supreme Court of Canada to hear an appeal of the decision to allow the de-registration process to move forward. In the meantime, CMDA can continue to issue tax receipts for donations.

The Federal Court of Appeal ruling marks the first time a Canadian court has addressed the issue, and its remarks regarding the CCRA policy on the territories should have far-reaching implications for all Jewish groups that raise money for Israel in Canada, Drache said.

"It's a wildly important decision for Jewish organizations," he said. "It opens the doors to a lot of charities which would [otherwise] be at risk. If they're run properly, [the ruling implies] they can operate any place."

Potentially, that would include Canadian charities that raise funds for Jewish communities in the territories, Drache said. In theory, even organizations that have been stripped of their charitable status for having aided causes operating outside Israel's pre-1967 frontier could apply to have their status reinstated on the strength of this ruling, Drache said.

For more than 10 years, Canadian Jewish organizations working for Israel have been restricted to sending money and aid solely for use inside the so-called Green Line. They have long argued that the policy, implemented by the CCRA, is wrong.

It hasn't been illegal for individual Canadians to send money to organizations that operate in the post-1967 territories – only to claim it as a tax-deductible charitable donation, and for charities to issue tax receipts.

That's because the government's approach in this area has been driven by Canadian foreign policy, which does not recognize Israel's control over territories occupied in 1967.

The problem was especially acute in Jerusalem, which is bisected by the Green Line. Donors could get tax receipts for contributions to a school, synagogue or hospital in one part of the city, but not to another facility sometimes literally metres away.

Over the years, a number of Jewish charities have run afoul of the policy. In 1996, the Toronto Zionist Council was de-registered for funnelling money to Jewish settlements.

All three judges on the court held that the CCRA's position on the Green Line was wrong and that as a matter of law, there was no reason why charitable work could not be carried on both in Israel proper and beyond the 1967 border. In effect, the court found the position to be an incorrect interpretation of "public policy."

The court noted that Ottawa's approach has been based "on an interpretation of a number of United Nations resolutions and conventions, which have been consistently supported by Canada. However, it is far from clear that these resolutions support the proposition that a Canadian charitable organization cannot operate in the occupied territories without offending Canadian public policy."

In the case of CMDA, the court said it sees "no logic in the proposition that the provision of emergency medical assistance can be a charitable activity in downtown Tel Aviv but not in the occupied territories."

The court also noted the difficulty of reconciling the policy with the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement.

But mainly, the ruling took issue with the fact that Canada has relied on an unwritten policy.

Writing for the court, Justice Karen Sharlow found that "certainly no such policy has found expression in any act of Parliament, in any regulation, or in any publicly available government document of any kind. I have no doubt that it is open to Parliament, if it sees fit, to amend the Income Tax Act to preclude Canadian charities from operating in the Occupied Territories or any other part of the world, or to empower the Governor in Council [cabinet] to make regulations to that effect."

However, "in the absence of such legislation or some equally compelling public pronouncement, it seems to me that the [CCRA] cannot justify the revocation of the registration of [CMDA] solely on the basis that it operates in the occupied territories."

Drache called the court's comments "a vindication... the community should feel very good about this. Now, it's a whole new ball game."

Drache, who has represented other Jewish charities before the courts, has long maintained that tax officials "invented" the unwritten rules in 1991. He said they stem from the presumption that because Canada holds Israel's presence in the territories to be illegal, ordinary Canadians would reject tax-deductible donations to Israel-based groups that operate there.

In a recent column in the *National Post*, Drache noted that Ottawa's policy did not apply to non-Jewish groups that supported Christians or Muslim schools, churches and mosques in the same areas.

A 1998 letter from Revenue Canada said that providing infrastructure for Jewish communities in the territories "serves to encourage and enhance the permanency of settlements, and is therefore contrary to Canada's public policy."

But Ottawa has never enunciated a legally entrenched policy on charitable activity in the post-1967 territories. The issue never went to litigation before because of the high costs involved, Drache said.

"I've long said that the only way to change this is through the courts," as opposed to lobbying the government.

Drache has been involved in two other similar cases.

In 1999, the Toronto-based Press Foundation, which has raised millions of dollars for Jewish settlements, was stripped of its charitable status. It appealed, and the matter is still before the courts.

Drache said the Press Foundation could be helped by the finding in the CMDA case.

Also in 1999, the Tel Aviv Foundation, which raised funds for the municipality of Tel Aviv, was de-registered. An appeal failed, with the court ruling earlier this year that the foundation did not exercise sufficient control over its activities in Israel.

Drache said there is "some evidence" that the CCRA is "looking hard" at other Jewish organizations by conducting audits.

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The University of Haifa is offering a new language in its foreign language department – Israeli sign.

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The course will be given at the same intensive level as other foreign languages in the department.

Although Haifa is not the first university to offer the language, it will be the first to accord it the same status as other languages in the foreign language department.

Israeli sign language will be open to any student at Haifa University. It will be taught by someone whose native language is Israeli sign language, according to University officials.

Sandler, originally from the United States, recently co-authored a book in Hebrew on Israeli Sign Language. The pioneering volume received the Bahat Prize, one of Israel's literary awards for non-fiction works.

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U.S. pressure greater than anticipated, say Israeli MKs

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Amid a storm of domestic criticism of Israel's military siege of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's headquarters – abruptly lifted Sunday after requests from a White House fearful of disruption of its war plans for Iraq – Israeli officials said Monday that administration pressure to end the siege had been greater than Israel had anticipated.

Cabinet minister Natan Sharansky said government officials had failed to take into account how Washington would react to the operation as a possible hindrance to a future U.S. offensive against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"We did not assess the situation correctly when we made the decision two weeks ago, the extent to which America had already begun the countdown to an attack on Iraq, that just during those days America would enter into confrontations with the UN and Europe, and would be unable to tolerate one more confrontation," Sharansky told Israel Radio.

"We certainly should have taken this into consideration two weeks ago."

Officials accompanying Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in Russia were quoted Monday by state-owned Israel Radio as conceding that the administration pressures "were greater than had been first anticipated." They added, however, that "had the siege not been lifted, the relations between the two countries [Israel and the U.S.] would have been harmed."

Sharansky said that prior to taking the decision to besiege Arafat, "there were no hints from Washington" as to its negative reaction to the operation.

"At the same time, there is no question that the [cabinet] decision was taken in undue haste, and that this was the result."

Trying to put a positive spin on the decision, Education Minister Limor Livnat said, "It took a certain courage as well to make the decision to accept the American demand and to get out. That also takes a certain judgement."

After security officials and the cabinet misjudged the situation, and Washington had demanded the siege be halted, Livnat said, "the prime minister, along with the defence minister and others, came to the cabinet and recommended [that the operation be ended], and this too was accepted unanimously. Was this good? No."

Livnat stressed that security officials had been part of the original cabinet decision to besiege Arafat.

"I listened to the entire discussion along with my colleagues in the cabinet, and I did not hear the security people, the figures of the various defence arms and institutions, voice reservations or present a scenario under which things could have turned out the way they ultimately did."

Asked how one could trust a government that had unanimously adopted a course of action that it now nearly unanimously admitted was a blunder – a term she herself used to describe the affair – Livnat told the radio: "First of all, the decision was not mistaken. The decision was a correct one. But we could not continue to commit ourselves to it because of the American pressure.

"Had the United States not appealed to us through channels and – because of its interests at the moment in preparing for a war against Iraq – if they hadn't pressed us in this manner, we would have continued, and, in my view, the wanted men would eventually have been handed over."

Israel's Army Radio reported Monday that security officials believed most of the wanted men escaped the compound after the army withdrew from the area.

UK Jews up in arms over media's Israel coverage

By SHARON SADEH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

LONDON — Relations between British Jews and the British media have fallen to a new low in recent weeks after three anti-Israeli documentaries were broadcast on the three leading television channels.

Six weeks ago, Channel 4 ran *Dangerous Liaison*, about U.S.-Israeli relations. It was edited by Jacqueline Rose, one of the signatories to a petition calling on European universities to cut off scientific and cultural relations with Israel.

The BBC ran *End of an Affair* on the eve of the Jewish New Year, documenting Jewish MP Gerald Kaufman's reservations about Israel and its government policies, after he declared he would never set foot in Israel again.

And ITV ran *Palestine Is Still the Issue*, a film by John Pilger, one of the leading leftist writers in Britain. Israel was described as a violent apartheid state that had taken over Palestinian lands and sadistically tortures Palestinians.

Rose's documentary did not stir much interest – her anti-American posturing is well known – but the BBC treatment of Kaufman's trip to Israel and Pilger's documentary caused immense bitterness.

Kaufman, a Jewish Labour MP, was asked six months ago by the BBC to visit Israel to find out if his position had changed since he announced he would never set foot in the country again. He toured major cities and met Israelis and Palestinians, including senior officials. But he does not hide his negative feelings and opinions about the country.

"Not only has Jerusalem's unique skyline been raped," he says while touring the city. "But vast areas of the city have been taken over, infested by intolerant, ultra-Orthodox… self appointed guardians of the Jewish faith, [who] refuse to serve in the army that defends them. The Western Wall, a popular place for bar mitzvahs… for me, my bar mitzvah was an initiation into manhood… here … their bar mitzvahs… are not initiations into manhood, they are initiations into fundamentalism."

Pilger's film was commissioned a year ago by Steve Anderson, head of the news department at ITV. Pilger was asked to prepare a documentary on the same subject the writer had documented on film 25 years earlier. Pilger hired Ilan Peppe, an Israeli "new historian" as a consultant.

The film opens with the following statement: "Twenty-five years ago, I made a film called *Palestine Is Still the Issue*. It was about a nation of people, the Palestinians, forced off their land and later subjected to a military occupation by Israel – an occupation condemned by the UN and almost every country in the world, including Britain.

"But Israel is backed by a very powerful friend, the United States. Nothing has changed in 25 years, if we are to speak of the great injustice here. What has changed is that the Palestinians have fought back. Stateless and humiliated for so long, they have risen up against Israel's huge military machine, although they themselves have no army, no tanks, no American planes, no gunships or missiles. Some have committed desperate acts of terror like suicide bombing, but for Palestinians, the overriding routine terror, day after day, has been the ruthless control of every aspect of their lives, as if they live in an open prison."

He describes Operation Defensive Shield by saying, "Last April, troops and tanks of the Israeli army attacked Ramallah and other towns in occupied Palestine. This was reported as an 'incursion to stop terrorism.' In fact, it was also an attack on civilian life – on schools, offices, clinics, theatres, radio stations. This systematic vandalism is typical of one of the longest military occupation in modern times."

Pilger depicts Israel as capricious and sadistic. He describes the course of events leading to the current conflict with the Palestinians without any mention of the Camp David and Taba conferences, nor does he say that before the current conflict, tens of thousands of Palestinians worked inside Israel. And he accuses the Jewish people of a conspiracy to manipulate non-Jews, to make gentiles believe that any criticism of Israel is a form of anti-Semitism.

Hundreds of angry telephone calls to ITV, led Michael Green, chair of ITV's owner, Carlton Communications PLC, to tell the *Jewish Chronicle* that the documentary was "one-sided, it was totally unrealistic, but it was John Pilger… it was factually incorrect, historically incorrect… There's no doubt in my mind that this program is a tragedy for Israel so far as accuracy is concerned."

Jewish community leaders are in a quandary about how to respond. At first, Jewish community leaders considered pressing to get the shows dropped from the broadcasting schedule, but that idea was scotched for fear the pro-Israel lobby would be depicted as trying to gag criticism and censor what it didn't want heard.

Jo Wagerman, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, wrote to the BBC about *The End of an Affair*, complaining that Kaufman not only condemned the policies of the government of Israel, but also made many offensive comments about Jews and the Jewish religion. Wagerman told the BBC that such remarks were contrary to the BBC's producers' guidelines.

The board also complained to Carlton about *Palestine Is Still the Issue*, saying Pilger made no secret of his support and sympathy for the Palestinian cause.

In his complaint to the Independent Television Commission's board of deputies, the Board of Deputies of British Jews' director general Neville Nagler said the program portrayed "a one-sided view of the current conflict, focusing on Israel's alleged aggression and the plight of the Palestinian people. No effort was made to provide context or any kind of perspective from the standpoint of Israel.

"Pilger misrepresents Israel's wars in 1948 and 1967 as though they were initiated by Israel. He effectively accuses Jewish people of conspiring to manipulate the non-Jewish world into believing that any criticism of Israel is anti-Semitism. In view of the totally one-sided character of this program, we expect that, in the interests of balance and fairness, Carlton TV should apologize and present a film of corresponding length which portrays the recent history of Israel in an objective and fair-minded manner."

Kaufman, who was ostracized at his synagogue on Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, told *Ha'aretz* he had received hundreds of letters of support since the documentary was broadcast.

The BBC said, "We listen to complaints very carefully, but we are satisfied about the impartiality of our coverage, which we view regularly. Kaufman was chosen because he is a Jew who also made a public vow never to return to Israel. So we thought to see whether he would be willing to go back once more, to explore why he feels so critically about the country and whether he still holds his views."

Russia's dangerous dealings with Iran go on

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Commentary

At his meeting Monday with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was set to go through the ritual performed by all Israeli and American leaders during talks in Moscow: Sharon was to demand that Russia stop assisting Iran's nuclear program, and the Russians were ready to reply, as always, with smiles and understanding.

And afterward, the flow of Russian nuclear technology to Iran would continue.

Last month, an American delegation visited Moscow with a detailed list of all the technologies and raw materials supplied by Russia that could help Iran develop atomic, biological or chemical weapons or long-range missiles. It returned empty-handed, saying no progress would be made until U.S. President George Bush's upcoming summit with Putin. But Bush is currently focused on mustering support for his war on Iraq, and Iran has been pushed to the sidelines.

The United States has been trying for more than seven years to get Russia to end its dangerous dealings with Iran, but without success. The Russians did pledge to "tighten controls" on technology exports – but meanwhile, Iran's nuclear project and its long-range ground-to-ground missile project have both advanced.

Russian nuclear aid to Iran flows through two channels. The open one is its assistance in construction of the nuclear power plant in Bushehr, due to be completed by the end of next year. The secret one consists of Russian companies that supply know-how and parts that could aid in the production of nuclear weapons.

Time after time, the Russians have denied that such deals exist. Neither the United States nor Israel believes them.

Robert Einhorn and Gary Samore, who handled America's talks with Russia on this issue for the Clinton administration, analyzed this ongoing failure in an article published in the bulletin of the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London. In it, they note that America does not believe Russia's claim that these transfers of nuclear technology are a "private enterprise." The Americans believe that all such deals take place with the knowledge and consent of government agencies. Had the Russian government really wanted to, the writers contend, it could have turned off the tap – or at least reduced the flow substantially.

Russia, they said, actually shares America's reluctance to see Iran join the nuclear club, and privately, Russian officials even admit that they share America's assessment of Tehran's intentions.

But two considerations have caused Russia to prefer a partnership with Iran to strategic and technological co-operation with the United States. The first, they said, is economic: the Russian nuclear industry needs the Iranian market. The second is strategic: Russia views Iran as a key player in the Middle East, and also as one with influence on Russia's large Muslim minority. For both reasons, good relations with Tehran are important to it.

The two sides almost concluded a written agreement

Samore and Einhorn wrote that in late 2000 – just before Bill Clinton's presidency ended – the Americans were close to a deal with Moscow: Russia's then energy minister, Yevgeny Adamov, had agreed in principle to halt Russian cooperation with Iran in sensitive areas such as uranium enrichment and plutonium production in exchange for American acquiescence to Russia's role in the Bushehr project. The two sides almost concluded a written agreement, the article said, but the talks eventually foundered over Washington's fears that Adamov would not keep his word.

Samore and Einhorn also criticized the Bush administration for neglecting this issue, thereby making Russia think that the United States no longer cared about it. Recently, Bush's team has begun taking a more active stance. But Russia's position has not moved a millimetre.

Sharon meets Putin

Continued from page 1

During his two-day visit, Sharon was also scheduled to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and heads of Russia's Jewish community.

One of the main issues Sharon was to have raised with officials was Russia's arms sales to Middle Eastern countries, particularly Syria.

Israel is concerned that Russia may sell Syria new surface-to-air S-18 missiles. Sharon will tell Putin that the missiles could end up in the hands of Hezbollah in South Lebanon.

Sharon was also set to ask Putin to use his influence on Syria to restrain Hezbollah. Also on the agenda regarding the Lebanese government were Israel's concerns about projects diverting water from the Wazzani River.

Putin and Sharon were also expected to discuss the leaking of nuclear technologies to Iran.

Accompanying Sharon on the visit were the outgoing head of the Mossad, Ephraim Halevy, and three Russian-born survivors of the suicide bombing at the Dolphinarium nightclub in Tel Aviv in June 2001.

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Pro-Israel Web site criticized

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

PHILADELPHIA — A pro-Israel group's Web site that monitors professors and universities for pro-Arab, anti-Israel bias is being likened to McCarthyism by many academics.

The Philadelphia-based Middle East Forum said it had organized the Campus Watch site to counter pervasive bias in universities' Middle East studies. The site names specific schools and professors. Forum director Daniel Pipes said the think tank hopes eventually to monitor 250 North American academic institutions.

"Our goal is to monitor, critique and improve Middle East studies," Pipes said. "We're not at universities because our views are not welcome. We're trying to create an alternative voice within the field."

Opponents of the Web site immediately called the project a "McCarthy-like" attempt to gag opposition to American policy in the Middle East. Professors listed on the site said they had been bombarded with e-mails over the weekend.

In a show of support for those named on the site, about 100 other academics have asked to be added to the list. Judith Butler, a gender theorist at Berkeley, wrote that she would like to be included in the list of U.S. academics "who oppose the Israeli occupation and its brutality, actively support Palestinian rights of self-determination" and support an informed view of Islam.

The Campus Watch site accuses some American Middle Eastern scholars of being biased against the United States and being apologists for unfriendly regimes.

University of Chicago historian Rashid Khalidi, who is quoted on the Web site as sympathizing with the Palestinian cause, called the site "slimy" and intended to stifle opposition.

"What they're trying to do is exclude from public debate opinions that go against the neo-conservative consensus that dominates discussion of policy on Iraq or policy on the Israeli conflict by smearing us and calling us aliens," he said.

Pipes said he will not remove a "Keep Us Informed" page on the site that opponents say is an attempt to get students to turn in their professors. He said it gives students a place to complain about mistreatment.

"What you have in university is exclusion of alternate points of view," Pipes said. "You've got to subscribe to the party line and then you can make your career. If you don't, you're out."

The Week in Israel

Sept. 23

• An Israeli was killed and three children wounded when a Palestinian opened fire on a group from Jerusalem who had come to visit the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron.

Sept. 24

• Nine Palestinians were killed in gun battles that erupted after Israeli forces seeking weapons factories, entered Gaza. The army destroyed 13 workshops where rocket components were being assembled.

Sept. 25

• The military wing of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement threatened a group of Palestinian officials who have been attempting to appoint a prime minster to share power with Arafat. "[A] group of collaborators, in co-ordination with Israel and the U.S., seeks to create an alternative leadership," the Al Aqsa Brigades said in a leaflet that singled out Nabil Abu Amr, who has been openly critical of Arafat.

Sept. 26

• Capt. Harel Mermelstein, 23, was killed near Tulkarm while leading his unit in search of terror suspects.

• Using Apache helicopters, the army attacked a car in Gaza carrying Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif. It was not clear if Deif, Israel's most-wanted terror suspect, was killed by the strike. Two of his aides, however, were known to have died in the attack. *(Intelligence reports the following day suggested Deif had been wounded but not killed.)*

Sept. 27

• Thousands of mourners attended the funeral of Rabbi Zerach Warhaftig, one of the founders of the National Religious Party and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Warhaftig, 96, died the previous day in Jerusalem.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Iraq crisis moves closer to war

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

The growing crisis over Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction is moving inexorably toward war.

The United States and Britain, having lost faith in the United Nations' arms inspection system, no longer think Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein can be contained and deterred. Washington has abandoned its "smart sanctions" policy and now believes Iraq can be fully disarmed only through a regime change

Since the departure of UN weapons inspectors from Iraq in 1998, Iraq has had ample time to conceal its cache of chemical, biological and, possibly, nuclear weapons.

Last week, British Prime Minister Tony Blair released an intelligence report claiming Iraq is producing chemical and biological agents, drawing up plans to deploy them, attempting to acquire the materiel to manufacture atomic bombs, and developing long-range ballistic missiles.

On Sept. 16, Iraq, stung by the United States' iron resolve to settle the matter by military force, announced its willingness to comply with UN resolutions, some 16 at last count, and permit inspectors to return "without conditions." But the Bush administration denigrated the offer as disengenuous.

Arms inspectors began their work in Iraq in 1992, a year after the Gulf War. Although they managed to destroy much of Iraq's non-conventional arsenal, they ran into Iraqi obstructionist tactics designed to thwart their mission.

Washington is of the view that Iraq, its promises of free and unfettered access notwithstanding, would revert to the same cat-and-mouse games should the inspectors return.

In a letter to the UN on Sept. 19, Saddam claimed that Iraq is "clear of all nuclear, chemical and biological weapons." Typically, he blamed the United States for fabricating the crisis to promote the interests of Zionism and Israel, which he described as "the Zionist entity."

On Sept. 21, Iraq exacerbated the looming confrontation by rejecting the idea of a new UN resolution being proposed by the United States and Britain. It would threaten Iraq with military force if it does not allow truly unconditional inspections.

France and Russia, permanent members of the UN Security Council, prefer a motion that would first require Iraq's full co-operation with the inspection teams. France and Russia maintain that the crisis can be resolved through peaceful means. Canada has let it be known that a military assault should be conducted through UN auspices.

But the United States, having enunciated a post Sept. 11 strategic doctrine of preemptive action against hostile states and terrorist groups, will probably bypass the UN and act unilaterally. Last month, President George W. Bush asked Congress for sweeping authority to use "all means," including military force, to disarm Iraq.

Prior to that, Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney laid out the case for attacking Iraq and unseating Saddam.

Arab states, principally Saudi Arabia to Egypt, fear that a war would destabilize their own authoritarian regimes and encourage a new round of international terrorism, a point alluded to last week by U.S. presidential aspirant Al Gore.

In a bid to soften up Iraq's defences, the United States has been bombing fixed Iraqi air defence sites in northern and southern no-fly zones in Iraq and mobilizing its forces in the Middle East.

Washington has about 20,000 troops and an armada of aircraft and armoured equipment in the region. Tens of thousands of additional troops will be flown in once Bush makes a firm decision to strike Iraq. An offensive may begin as early as December or as late as February.

In the meantime, Bush is urging Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to desist from retaliation should Iraq attack Israel. Baghdad has warned Israel there will be severe consequences if it hits Iraq.

Mindful of an anti-American backlash in the Arab world in the event of a U.S. military campaign in Iraq, the United States has advised Israel to end its siege of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's battered compound in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

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Anti-Semitic campaign tactics may have hurt German opposition

By TOBY AXELROD
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BERLIN — Jewish leaders are celebrating the results of Germany's national elections as a sign that anti-Semitic campaign tactics do not pay.

As the results from last Sunday's election came in, one politician, Jurgen Mollemann, apparently paid for such tactics with his job when he resigned as vice-president of the Free Democratic Party (FDP).

Mollemann, who long has expressed sympathy for Palestinian suicide bombers, roiled Germany earlier this year when he said during the campaign that Michel Friedman, a vice-president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, helped provoke anti-Semitism by his manner and behaviour.

Though xenophobia and right-wing populism are rising in other parts of Europe, Mollemann's party was hurt by his statements, which many saw as anti-Semitic. His party's poor showing cost the opposition Christian Social Union/Christian Democratic Union a chance to build a governing coalition.

Instead, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's Social Democratic Party will remain in power with its partner of four years, the Green Party.

The election was described as the closest in Germany's postwar history.

"The most important result is that if you bring anti-Semitic ideas into an election campaign in this country, the people don't accept it," Friedman said in an interview.

Earlier this year, Friedman called Mollemann's anti-Israel statements one-sided and anti-Semitic.

Paul Spiegel, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, said last week he is pleased with Mollemann's resignation.

He was "thankful that the attempt to win with anti-Semitic slogans has failed," Spiegel said in a statement. "The voters showed clearly that German democracy is healthy."

Mollemann was not the only German politician to step down after the election results came in. Schroeder said Justice Minister Herta Daeubler-Gmelin announced she would not seek another term in the post.

In the week before the vote, Daeubler-Gmelin was reported to have said that U.S. President George W. Bush's sabre-rattling on Iraq was similar to what Hitler had done to divert attention from domestic issues.

She later denied having made the comment.

Molleman's attacks on Israel and Friedman continued into the campaign's final days, despite attempts by FDP leader Guido Westerwelle's to silence him.

In the tumultuous post-election hours, when it was clear the FDP had destroyed the opposition's chances of unseating Schroeder, Mollemann resigned his vice-presidential post. But he said he would not give up his role as head of the party in his home state, North-Rhine Westphalia, where the FDP managed to beat the Greens.

Friedman said he is "relieved" by Mollemann's resignation.

"But I don't believe this is solving the real problem, which is that 25 per cent to 30 per cent of the German population holds anti-Semitic beliefs," he said. "We had an election campaign that was anti-Semitic, anti-Zionist and anti-American."

He added that there should now be a public debate in Germany about such issues, "because we are speaking about the foundations of German democracy."

The Greens became the tie breaker in the election, which left the Social Democrats and CSU/CDU with exactly 38.5 per cent of the vote each.

The Greens barely beat the FDP, 8.6 per cent to 7.4 per cent. The reconstituted communist party, the Party of Democratic Socialism, ended up with 4 per cent of the vote nationwide.

Other parties from the far left to the far right pulled in less than 3 per cent combined.

Some warn that the post-election teeth-gnashing over anti-Semitism could have negative consequences.

"There is a danger when Jewish topics are considered to be the pivotal factor in an election in a country with less than 100,000 Jews," said Deidre Berger, director of the American Jewish Committee's office in Berlin.

While "there was a lot of discomfort with comments made by Jurgen Mollemann," she said, "I still think the party should look elsewhere" to explain its failure.

Berger said it was "certainly of significance for the Jewish community" that the Greens' leader, Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, will probably remain in office under a continued coalition between the Social Democrats and the Greens.

"He has shown a remarkable commitment to Israel and the Jewish people," she said.

At the same time, she added, "the incremental shift in Germany's policy toward Israel has less to do with specific parties than with a younger generation coming to power."

Friedman, who is a member of the Christian Democrats, pointed out that the Greens "were 100 per cent kosher in the debate" about anti-Semitism during the campaign.

In fact, Fischer was one of the first political leaders to condemn Mollemann's campaign tactics as anti-Semitic.

Friedman decided not to respond to the most recent of Mollemann's attacks, which included a flier in the final campaign week criticizing Friedman and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

"It was a very tough time in the second period of the campaign not to say anything, but I wanted to show that" Mollemann's tactic "is not dependent on my reactions," Friedman said. "I was only the symbol for the Jewish community itself."

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Shekel dives; IMF report brings more bad news

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said last week that Israel faces negative growth and rising unemployment this year, a statement that capped a day of economic gloom in which fears that the country's credit rating would be downgraded had sent the shekel plunging against the dollar.

The IMF report predicted that Israel's gross domestic product would contract by 1.5 per cent this year, but would rebound and grow by 1.8 per cent in 2003. But it did not foresee this growth helping unemployment, which it said would hit 10.7 per cent this year and 10.9 per cent next year. It also forecast an inflation rate of 6.2 per cent this year and 3.0 per cent in 2003.

The report, which surveyed most of the world's nations, predicted negative growth this year for only two other developed economies – Japan and Iceland.

The IMF's pessimistic predictions are matched by those being made by most Israeli analysts. The Finance Ministry expects GDP to fall by 1.0 per cent this year and to grow by 1.0 per cent next year.

The IMF report noted that the worldwide recovery that began at the end of 2001 began to stall in the second quarter of 2002, and predicted that this slowdown would continue through 2003.

It therefore predicted that average growth worldwide would be only 2.8 per cent this year, down from its earlier forecast of 4.0 per cent. In developed economies, growth will average a mere 1.7 per cent this year, it said, while unemployment will average 6.4 per cent and inflation will average 1.4 per cent.

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Health & Lifestyles

New foundation raises funds for cancer cure

By STACEY STEIN
Special to The CJN

Jennifer Coristine felt helpless after her sister Lisa was diagnosed with a brain tumour last summer. But she was determined to find a way to help Lisa by doing something that would have a lasting impact. Lisa, a vibrant 27-year-old, has always led an impeccably healthy lifestyle and the diagnosis sent her family reeling.

During a heart-to-heart talk Jennifer had with Jackie Taitz, Lisa's best friend, she learned of a Jewish spiritual healer's philosophy for helping a person in need. It encourages people to pray, make sacrifices and act charitably.

"We agreed to do all three," said Jennifer, "For doing something charitable, we decided to form a foundation."

Jennifer, Jackie and Amir Sperling, Lisa's boyfriend went on to establish Brave Heart Foundation for a Cure, which will be launched with a five-kilometre walk-a-thon on Sunday, Oct. 6, with Lisa leading the walk. Jennifer said the event's aim is to raise $10,000.

The funds raised by the foundation will go to the targeted radiation therapy program at Princess Margaret Hospital, where Lisa receives treatment. Targeted radiation is a more precise way of attacking cancer cells and helps minimize damage to healthy cells, greatly reducing the chance of side effects.

Jennifer said the goal of the foundation, which is being administered by Princess Margaret Hospital, is to raise funds for better and more accurate methods of targeted radiation, which enhances a cancer patient's chances of successful treatment.

"I don't want anyone else to go through what my family has gone through in the past year and I don't want my family to have to go through it," said Jennifer.

Although in its infancy, the response to the foundation has been tremendous and Jennifer said she's received several e-mails from people inquiring about the walk-a-thon.

"I think this case has really hit home for people," she said, adding that people tend to think they won't get cancer if they don't smoke or if they exercise regularly. "This has shown people that what happened to Lisa can happen to anyone at any time."

After having been misdiagnosed for more than a year, Lisa, a Thornhill resident, learned that she had an eight-centimetre tumour in her sinuses, which was pressing against her brain. Both the location of the tumour and its occurrence in someone as young as Lisa are rare, according to her oncologist.

After undergoing surgery in August 2001 to remove the tumour, an MRI in June revealed that tumours had grown in the outer membrane of Lisa's brain. She completed a series of radiation treatments in September.

Lisa is now in a state of uncertainty, since there are many potential side effects that may appear over the next several months. She may experience problems with her eyesight, her hair may never grow back and she may have hormonal problems.

Lisa said her condition has made her think in "black and white" terms.

"What has kept me going is thinking 'Do I want to live or do I want to die?' I had to bring it down to its basest level," she said.

She also emphasized the importance of having faith and engaging in self-reflection.

"Judaism tells us that when you're faced with a crisis, you're meant to look inside yourself," Lisa said. "You look at what changes you can make. I've looked inward and recognized my own strengths."

Lisa said the support she has received from friends and family has been crucial, and she praises the excellent care at Princess Margaret Hospital.

"It makes me feel good that I can give back to the hospital with the foundation," Lisa said. "I feel like the walk-a-thon is the first of many steps for me to use my experience for the greater good."

The walk begins at 10 a.m. on Oct. 6 at Leslie Street and Steeles Avenue. Participants will receive one point for every dollar raised, which can be used to buy prizes at iloverewards.ca. The participant who raises the most money will win a DVD player.

For more information, please contact Brave_Heart_Foundation@hotmail.com. To donate to the Brave Heart Foundation, make cheques payable to the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. My three-year-old eats much better when I feed her and she really likes me to. Is this okay sometimes?

A. *No.* Unless there is a physical reason why your daughter cannot feed herself, she should be eating independently at three years old. Give her appropriate utensils, cut her food up well and let her feed herself.

Kids will become very lazy about eating and feeding if they know that mom or dad will willingly feed them. Encourage her independence; she can do it. You may have a few days where she eats less, but if you stick to your guns and tell her that she is a big girl and can do it herself, she eventually will.

Q. What is the healthiest all purpose cooking oil to use?

A. Canola. It has the least saturated fat and is high in heart-healthy fat too. Olive oil is next best; it has slightly more saturated fat but also more monounsatured fat (good fat). Olive oil definitely has more flavour so it is a good choice for recipes requiring that flavour.

Q. Are white bagels are better to eat when you are dieting than whole wheat because they are lower in calories?

A. No. White bagels are a bad choice for a dieter. First, the average bagel (white or whole wheat) contains the same calories as four slices of bread. The whole wheat bagel will at least fill you up more and keep you feeling fuller longer. Your best choice is one or two slices of rye, whole wheat or pumpernickel bread.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions send them to The CJN.

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CJ Kids

Book tells story of Jewish boy in a lumber camp

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

If there is one place that you don't expect to find a little Jewish boy, it's a lumber camp. But that's where Marven, a little boy from Duluth, Minn., wound up, in Kathryn Lasky's wonderful book *Marven of the Great North Woods*, Harcourt Voyager, 2002, originally published 1997.

The story is set in 1918, at the time of a terrible epidemic, all over the world, an epidemic of influenza, what we call flu.

Now, these days, the flu usually is not a very serious thing. We have a kind of drugs called antibiotics, which can cure most infections. But they were developed nearly 20 years after the events of this book. Until then, if you got the flu, or any other infectious disease, you could get very sick indeed. In fact, you could even die.

During the 1918 flu, thousands of people did die, and families were very frightened.

When Marven's aunt died from this disease, his family decided that they had to save Marven. As his mother said, "I want him to live to be a man."

Marven, as you can imagine, was pretty nervous. In the first place, most of the people who worked in the logging camp were French Canadian, and spoke French. Marven could only speak English. Besides, he was only 10.

But most of all, he knew that he would miss his parents, his sisters and the rest of the family. Also, he would worry about them getting sick.

His mother made him a warm coat, and a hat lined with beaver fur and with earflaps. His father gave him skis, which he had made for him when he turned six. His mother also gave him hot latkes and knishes for him to eat and to keep him warm on the trip.

After a long, long train trip, Marven found himself alone on a platform, facing "a road [that] looked like it went on forever." He had to ski five miles until he found Mr. Murray, from the logging camp.

Marven was given a little room of his own, and a job to do – the payroll. He also had another duty – to wake up the lumberjacks who slept through the wake-up bells.

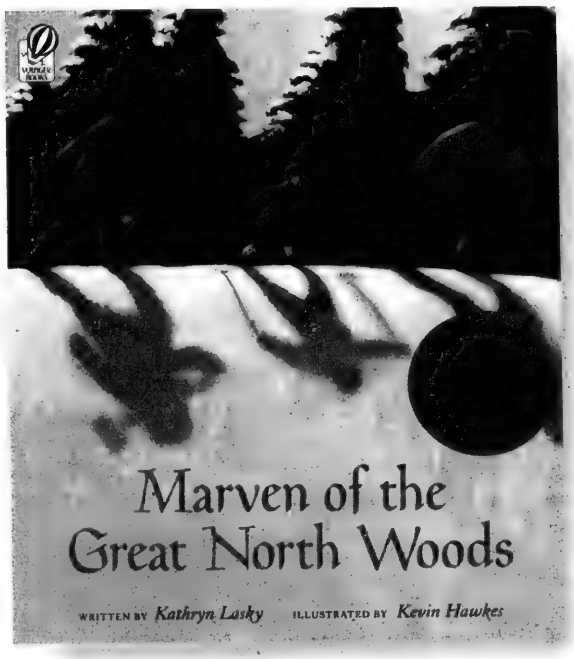
At first, everything seemed very strange – the cold, the job, the people, the language. But gradually, he learned some French and got to be friends with the lumberjacks. He even learned the lumberjacks' French songs and dances.

There was one problem. Well, actually two. First, there was the problem that the food wasn't kosher. Second, he missed his family very much and hoped that they had not gotten sick.

You might wonder why the family sent Marven away, but not his sisters. In those days, girls simply didn't leave the family home – it was not considered proper or safe for them.

The illustrations by Kevin Hawkes are excellent – rich colours of reds, blues and yellows, set against vast expanses of white.

Marven of the Great North Woods won the Jewish Book Council's National Jewish Book Award, which it richly deserved.



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CJ Kids

KIDDISH

Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

buried treasure

Itzik the Blacksmith walked over the ancient Charles Bridge of Prague. Carefully, he climbed down the worn stone steps to the riverbank. ***There***, near the apple tree. That's where he knew the treasure was. Excitedly, he began digging in the muddy earth. ***There***! His shovel hit something hard. He dug more, revealing the wooden box. The wood was rotted and the metal clasp broke as he lifted the lid.

There shone emeralds, rubies, sapphires, gold!

With wonder and joy, Itzik, woke up. He sighed.

"Again, Itzik?" his wife Sarale groggily asked.

"This is the third time I've had this dream," Itzik declared. "It must be true. I will go to Prague and bring back that treasure! I'll..."

"Can't you wait until morning?" Sarale sleepily mumbled.

"All right," Itzik grudgingly agreed.

Early next morning, Itzik set off for Prague. His wife had prepared food for his journey, which he had in a sack slung over his back, along with a blanket. In his hand, he carried his sturdy shovel....

It was a long journey, but Itzik walked quickly, enthusiastically. The treasure was waiting for him. He walked through fields, passing occasional farmhouses. His path led him through a dense forest. Most of the leaves had already fallen off the trees, crunching under his feet, but a few still tenaciously clung to their branches. It was getting colder. The sun was beginning to set. He wrapped himself tightly in his blanket, and went to sleep on top of the dry, fallen leaves.

Itzik continued walking the next day, and the next. Finally, he arrived in Prague. He pushed through the throngs of peddlers hawking their wares. Then ahead of him, he saw the Bridge. Unable to control himself any longer, he began running. He reached the worn stone steps leading to the riverbank and carefully climbed down. ***There***, near the apple tree. That's where he knew the treasure was. Excitedly, he began digging in the muddy earth. And digging. And digging. He found nothing. Maybe this wasn't the place. Maybe he should dig here. Or here. The day wore on and he filled the ground with holes, but found nothing.

"**All right, what are you doing**?" Itzik jumped, and turned around. The uniformed guard loomed over him. "Are you trying to dig up the bridge?" the guard demanded.

"No... no... it's just that I had a...dream...that there was a treasure buried here."

"A dream?" demanded the guard. "You believe in dreams? Why, I had I a dream the other night that there's a fortune hidden under the oven of Itzik the Blacksmith in Bratislava, and do you think I'm going all the way to Bratislava to look for it? Don't you know dreams are meaningless? But if you insist on digging for treasure, I won't stop you."

"No, no, I'm done digging, it's just that...you wouldn't understand. But thank you."

Itzik hurried up the stone steps, and crossed the bridge, leaving the puzzled guard staring after him. He journeyed though forests, through fields, until...

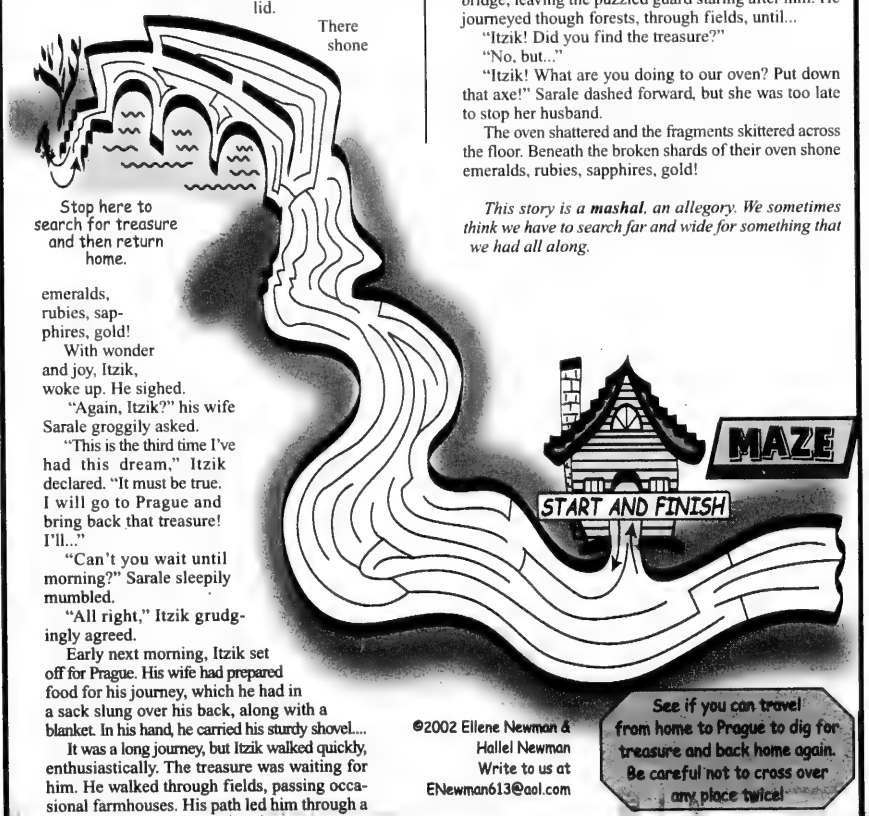
"Itzik! Did you find the treasure?"

"No, but..."

"Itzik! What are you doing to our oven? Put down that axe!" Sarale dashed forward, but she was too late to stop her husband.

The oven shattered and the fragments skittered across the floor. Beneath the broken shards of their oven shone emeralds, rubies, sapphires, gold!

*This story is a **mashal**, an allegory. We sometimes think we have to search far and wide for something that we had all along.*



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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

HOLY BLOSSOM CONCERT CELEBRATES MUSIC OF SRUL IRVING GLICK

Lydia Adams and the **Amadeus Choir** pay homage to the late composer **Srul Irving Glick** in A Celebration of Life, an upcoming concert of Glick compositions with special guests **Lachan** (Toronto Jewish Chamber Choir), the **Holy Blossom Temple Singers** conducted by **Cantor Ben Maissner**, and the **Beth Tikvah Choir** conducted by **Marilyn Cohen**.

Glick's music "combines elements of Hebraic lyricism and classical composition techniques in an original and contemporary style that is dramatic, melodious and truly inspiring," according to a press release.

Holy Blossom Temple, 1950 Bathurst St. General admission $30; students and seniors $25. Sunday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. 416-446-0188, www.amadeuschoir.com.

* * *

Remembering Slain Journalist: PEN Canada is co-producing a concert in Toronto memorializing journalist **Daniel Pearl**, the *Wall Street Journal* reporter who was kidnapped and murdered by terrorists in Pakistan earlier this year.

"Music was a particular passion of Daniel Pearl's and this concert is presented as part of an international Daniel Pearl Music Day," said **Dr. Peter Simon**, president of the Royal Conservatory of Music, where the concert is being held. "Like thousands of others around the world, I was moved by the eloquent response of his wife, family and friends. Rather than seek retribution, they have chosen to honour his love of humanity."

The program features **Brahms**, **Mozart**, **Samuel Barber** and *Kaddish* by **Helen Greenberg**. Performers include mezzo-soprano **Ramona Carmelly**, violinist **Erika Raum**, pianist **Dianne Werner** and the **Veritas Piano Quartet**. Proceeds to go to the Daniel Pearl Foundation.

Royal Conservatory of Music, Ettore Mazzoleni Hall, 273 Bloor St. W. Adults $25. Wednesday, Oct. 9, 8 p.m. 416-408-2824, ext. 321.

* * *

Israeli Band on Tour: After months of touring the United States, the Israeli "psych-pop" band **Rockfour** returns to Canada for a series of concerts. The band plays at the Halifax Pop Explosion on Oct. 5, Ottawa's Zaphod Beeblebrox on Oct. 7, Hamilton's Underground Club on Oct. 11, Toronto's Horseshoe Tavern on Oct. 15 – a 10 p.m. free show, and tentative dates in Quebec City and Montreal.

* * *

Jewish Folk Choir: Fresh from its two successful concerts at the Ashkenaz festival, the **Toronto Jewish Folk Choir** launches its new season under the baton of guest conductor **Alexander Veprinsky**, a skilled choral and orchestral musician who emigrated from Ukraine in 1993.

The choir's repertoire focuses on Yiddish song but also includes Hebrew-Israeli, classical works on Jewish themes, Judeo-Spanish, new Canadian compositions and international folk songs. All voices of those who read or follow music are welcome.

Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. (six blocks north of Bathurst and Lawrence, just east of Bathurst). Wednesday, Oct. 9, 7:25 p.m. Call Howard at 416-593-0750 or Jean at 416-489-7681.

* * *

Mandolins Galore: The Classical Mandolin Society of America presents a series of concerts in association with its annual convention, hosted by the **Toronto Mandolin Orchestra of the Shevchenko Musical Ensemble**.

Mandolins of the World, a concert on Oct. 11, features **Beyond the Pale** klezmer band performing Jewish traditional music, the **Winnipeg Mandolin Quintet** performing Ukrainian folk to contemporary, the **Skitnice Tambouritsa Ensemble** performing Croatian traditional music and **Kostas Apostolakis** performing Greek traditional bouzouki music.

Concerts by other performers are scheduled for Oct. 9, 10 and 12, and all concerts start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $15 for one concert, $25 for two, $35 for three, $45 for four. Holiday Inn Select, 970 Dixon Rd. 416-533-2725.

* * *

Rafi Aaron Exhibit: A Seed in the Pocket of Their Blood, an exhibit seen extensively across North America and Israel, returns to Toronto for a showing at the Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum until the spring.

Assembled by curator-poet **Rafi Aaron**, the exhibit combines Aaron's poetry with photographs by internationally known photographers as it explores such themes as Jewish life in Europe, the Holocaust, Jewish immigration to Canada and love and war in the land of Israel. The photographers include *Time* magazine's **David Rubinger**, **Serge Clement** of Montreal and **Ruth Kaplan** of Toronto.

Beth Tzedec, 1700 Bathurst St. Opening reception with Aaron is Thursday, Oct. 3, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• Let Us Laugh, Let Us Sing – Stories of the Wise Men of Chelm, presented in Yiddish and English by **Nathan Garnick**, with **Yeva** and **Nina Shapilsky**. Workmen's Circle, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. 416-78702081.

• Blind Image, an exhibit by artist **Ruth Liberman**, opens Oct. 10, 6 to 8 p.m. with Liberman giving a talk at 6 p.m. Koffler Gallery, BJCC, 4588 Bathurst St. RSVP, 416-636-1880, ext. 270.

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Author probes moral dilemmas of death camp inmates

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Desperate times call for desperate measures. Nowhere else is this cliché more apt than in the Nazi concentration and death camps, where otherwise normal people did unimaginable things in order to live one more day.

Toronto author Vera Schiff, a Holocaust survivor, has written *Hitler's Inferno*, an anthology with eight accounts of concentration camp inmates, all friends or relatives of Schiff's, who were forced to do things we might find reprehensible in order to survive.

The eight people profiled in this book are very different. Before the war, some were doctors or lawyers, others housewives or socialites, while some were merely students.

Schiff takes us on a 30 to 40 page journey with each of them, experiencing their passions, loves and sometimes their deaths.

They all had to cope with unimaginable horror in their own unique way. From the moment they stepped off the cattle cars at Auschwitz and tried to make sense of the chaotic hell around them, they were forced to keenly hone their sense of survival.

We can sympathize with some of the people in this book, like George the doctor, who was assigned to perform autopsies at Theresienstadt. Transferred to Dachau, he survived until liberation, but died when, not knowing better, a sympathetic American soldier fed him his rations and a tin of ham. The shock to George's system was too much for his body to take.

But some of the other people profiled by Schiff may outrage readers. Rita, for example, a young woman from a wealthy Viennese family, became the mistress of a notorious concentration camp commander. She was exempted from backbreaking labour and was never lacking basic necessities.

Fred, a young Czech, decided to make a deal with the devil by becoming an informer to the barrack's kapo – an inmate chosen by the Nazis to supervise and brutalize other inmates. For this, Fred got a slightly larger piece of bread each day.

But by far the most controversial figure in *Hitler's Inferno* is Marianne (Nan). A young "cool, calculating and self-centred girl, totally wrapped up in herself."

At Auschwitz, Schiff writes, "she was smart and cunning. All her senses on high alert, she grasped that it would call on all her smarts to dodge the angel of death in this most efficient homicidal factory."

Early on in her incarceration, "she made up her mind to pursue her exploration persistently, until she reached her goal."

Her goal: to become kapo.

Usually, people chosen to be kapos were violent criminals before the war, and they were rarely Jewish. But Nan got her wish by becoming intimate with Franz, one of the kapos. At her request, he pulled some strings and she became a kapo herself. If Nan's story ended this way, the reader might actually sympathize with her.

But unfortunately Nan made a great kapo. "Before long, she became infamous for savagery... she accepted the fact that she was a sadist... few recovered from her vicious beatings."

Nan survived the Holocaust and went on to live in Israel, where she died of cancer. Towards the end of her illness, she came to believe it was her penalty for her wartime behaviour.

Schiff's inclusion of Nan in the anthology is bound to be controversial. Camp inmates despised kapos, and Nan survived by brutalizing other Jews.

Schiff's argument is that every inmate was forced to do things that go against human nature in order to survive.

"Those were brutal times," Schiff said in an interview. "Lots of people don't understand how life unfolded in the camps and what it took to survive. Nan's story is the truth. Not to report the truth would be a travesty of justice."

She doesn't explicitly defend Nan's actions – but of the book's eight characters, Schiff gives the most detail about Nan's background, describing the sordid, dysfunctional family life she had as a child almost as a lawyer might use a client's past as a defence.

Schiff's use of her subjects' personal histories is the book's strength. She uses a non-academic approach and breathes life into characters she obviously knows very well.

As well, her description of everyday life in the camps illustrates the reality of this existence far better than an academic history. She does for the Holocaust what Dostoyevsky did for Siberian prison camps in *House of the Dead*.

Hitler's Inferno is published by Raj Publishing and available at most book stores. Schiff's first book, *Theresienstadt: The Town The Nazis Gave To The Jews* won the Eli Wiesel Writing Award in 1998.

A blend of China and Portugal

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

MACAO — This former Portuguese colony, the first European enclave in Asia, is an intriguing blend of cultures.

Portugal seized Macao in the mid-16th century and transformed it into a great east-west trading post. Then, in 1999, Portugal ceded Macao to China.

Like neighbouring Hong Kong, Macao is a Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. Lying 65 kilometres west of Hong Kong on the western bank of the Pearl River delta, Macao strikes a first-time visitor as a happy hybrid, a seamless mixture of China and Portugal in terms of its architecture, bilingual street signs and Macanese cuisine.

And since tourism underpins its economy, Macao plays up its multinational heritage.

In 1513, Jorge Alvares was the first Portuguese explorer to set foot on Chinese soil. His arrival is commemorated by a statue in Macao's main square.

Portuguese settlers established a permanent outpost 40 years later, and Macao became a key intermediary in the commercial links between China and Japan on the one hand, and Asia and Europe on the other.

Macao's mercantile importance declined after Britain colonized Hong Kong in 1842. By the beginning of the 20th century, Macao was a sleepy backwater.

Four centuries of Portuguese influence left a deep imprint in Macao, whose current population is 450,000. Of these, 150,000 hold Portuguese passports. Some are Eurasian.

Macao's Mediterranean ambience is unique in China and is evident everywhere, from its cobblestone streets and baroque churches to its massive fortresses and street names emblazoned on Portuguese blue enamel tiles.

The historic core of Macao, which is paved with black and white small stones suggesting ocean waves, is Senado Square, or Largo do Senado.

Continued on page 46

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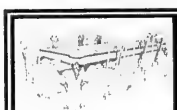
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(Hint: the answer can be found in the photograph printed in their advertisement elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by 1 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 1/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Mon., Nov. 4/02 at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: 'Hello Muddah' Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 'Hello Muddah' Contest, 416-391-0949.

Employees and family members of Bob Benia Productions, The New Yorker Theatre or *The CJN* are not eligible to enter.

Arts & Travel

Macao is a fusion of east and west

Continued from page 45

The square is crowned by two unmistakable and beautiful Mediterranean buildings: St. Dominic's church with its yellow columns, hunter green shutters and white filigree work, and Santa Casa de Misericordia (the Holy House of Mercy), a blindingly white structure where orphans found refuge in the 18th century.

Macao's most important historical building, the Leal Senado, houses the municipal administration.

It is to the west of Largo do Senado, which is on Avenida Almeida Ribeiro. It's a busy thoroughfare of yellow and pale green Chinese-style buildings and brightly-lit jewelry shops.

The Church of St. Lawrence (Sao Paulo) is Macao's trademark. What still stands is a facade, the remains of an early 17th century church constructed by the Jesuits. From here, Jesuit priests spread Christianity throughout Asia until their expulsion in 1762.

The Monte fort, the seat of government until 1749 and now a ruin, was built by the Jesuits from 1617 to 1626 to defend Macao from invaders.

Largo do Senado, the historic core of Macao.

The cannons on its roof, some of which face the mainland Chinese city of Zhuhai across the muddy river, were used only once, in 1622, to repel a bungled Dutch incursion.

Macao's excellent historical museum opened in 1998. It showcases Portugal's relationship with Macao, and is cleverly incorporated into the structure of the fort.

Accessible by escalator, the museum is on three floors, and is a mix of thoughtful exhibits and holograms. Visitors enter the museum through the impressive facade of a yellow and white classical Portuguese dwelling.

Among Macao's other forts are Mong-Ha, which was in active service until about 40 years ago and is now the site of a hotel and tourism training school, and Guia, which is dominated by the oldest lighthouse on China's coast, offering the best panoramic views of Macao.

Being a free port, Macao is a shoppers' paradise. It is known for its antique furniture (authentic or faux), Chinese prints on rice or silk paper, decorative and jewelled boxes, curios, glassware, porcelain and jewelry (particularly gold, jade and pearls).

Rua de Sao Paulo, adjacent to St. Lawrence church, is an ideal place to buy antiques and prints.

Two of the shops that can be recommended are Mobelias Mei Chai and Min Chai. But beware: fair prices are the end result of back-and-forth bargaining.

Unlike Hong Kong, Macao caters to the whims and compulsions of gamblers. Its 10 casinos, from the four-storey Hotel Lisboa on down, brim with a glittering array of slot machines (locals refer to them as "hungry tigers") and offer card games from blackjack and fan-tan to baccarat and boule.

Several of the casinos are on the island of Taipa, connected to Mauca by two bridges. Like Taipa, the island of Coloane forms Macao's rural, mostly unspoiled hinterland.

Both islands are forested and contain nature trails, picnic areas, beaches and ancestral Chinese villages.

The outdoor markets of Macao bristle with fruit and vegetable vendors and fish mongers. They are certainly worth visiting, and the mingled aromas are unforgettable.

No visit to Macao would be complete without a stop at a traditional Chinese tea house.

The Casada Cha-Long Wa is an appealing place, all the more so because Chinese men bring their caged birds here to "socialize."

The birds, some in cages draped with white sheets, sing up a cacophonous storm as their owners sip tea from small cups, seemingly oblivious to the din.

The food in Macao runs the gamut from Portuguese vegetable soups (Caldo verde) to Chinese fried noodles (Tchau min). The delectable fare is a heady fusion of east and west – like Macao itself.

***

For more information, contact the Macao Government Tourist Office, 9 Largo do Senado, Macao. The e-mail address: mgto@macaotourism.gov.mo

Lonely Planet publishes a useful guidebook on Hong Kong and Macao. It's distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 55.

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Message to *CJN* Snowbirds

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Top klezmer act to play Hummingbird Centre

By ERIC STEIN
Special to The CJN

The recent Ashkenaz Festival at Harbourfront gave Toronto a hearty dose of klezmer and Yiddish music, sure to satisfy all appetites for Yiddishkeit.

No need to feel withdrawal symptoms, however, as Toronto will soon play host to another world-class klezmer event.

The Klezmer Conservatory Band (KCB) will make its first Toronto appearance in three years Oct. 17 at the Hummingbird Centre. The KCB has been one of the leading groups in the field since the inception of the klezmer revival more than two decades ago. They are currently the longest-running klezmer act, now entering their 23rd year and showing no signs of fatigue.

The KCB was formed by Hankus Netsky in 1979 at the New England Conservatory of Music (NECM) in Boston. Netsky, a music professor at NECM and a descendant of a long line of klezmorim from the Philadelphia area, was one of the earliest trailblazers in the klezmer revival. His founding of the KCB was a seminal event in klezmer history.

The Klezmer Conservatory Band

The KCB has been committed from the beginning to a broad repertoire, encompassing American klezmer styles, Yiddish folk music, Yiddish theatre music and more. Its big-band approach, modelled on the classic American klezmer ensembles of the 1920s, has been its hallmark.

As the klezmer revival has progressed and fragmented into all sorts of spin-off genres, the KCB's commitment to its repertoire has remained.

"We play classic music. It's about the music rather than the individuals. There's a certain kind of anonymity in the group. It's a repertory group and we serve the music itself; that's what a good repertory group does," Netsky said in a recent phone interview.

He is quick to point out, however, that the high level of musicianship within the band allows the individuals to shine within their broader context.

The KCB has served as the breeding ground for many of the leading players in the klezmer scene. Tenure in the KCB was a first step toward the development of successful solo careers and offshoot projects for artists Frank London (Klezmatics), Ilene Stahl (Klezperanto), David Harris (Naftule's Dream), and Jeff Warschauer, to name only a few.

"It's very gratifying to be the music director of a group that has spawned so many talents," says Netsky. "My main role with this music has always been as a teacher. So when I see other people find their own direction with the music I take it as a compliment."

So how does a group like KCB with a sound based in "classic" repertoire stay fresh? Netsky chuckles at the question, appearing to have heard it before.

"We've never gotten sick of the music we play, and we're always developing new repertoire. We have an amazing range of instrumental colours to draw upon, and the material itself ranges vastly. We try to mix new and old, and appeal to many different kinds of audiences. We also involve ourselves in challenging new projects."

An example he cited is the "orchestra project" that KCB is embarking upon. Netsky has orchestrated nine tunes from the band's repertoire to be performed with symphony orchestras, the first with the Atlanta Symphony next spring.

Netsky is excited by the project because "it gives me a chance to expand the palette and tone colour of the band."

"There really is a rich history of Jewish symphonic music," he says, citing classical composers like Ernest Bloch, and referring to the big bands of klezmer icons Abe Ellstein and Alexander Olshanetsky as "little symphonies."

Netsky himself continues to research American Jewish music and is working toward a PhD in ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University.

With plans to record a new KCB CD next summer, he explains how his research will inform the next record.

"I see my own work as the continuation of an ongoing family tradition, and uncovering this aspect of my family's history over the years has deeply influenced my musical evolution. This is probably most evident in terms of the Philadelphia-style klezmer music that my family was a big part of and which has now become a bigger part of my own music."

For tickets for the Oct. 17 concert, call 416-872-2262.

A *new* Thrill of a Lifetime

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

The CBC brought back Pierre Trudeau, CTV revisited *Degrassi* and the W Network (known as the Women's Network) is now reviving another piece of our television mosaic: the classic wish-fulfillment show *Thrill of a Lifetime*.

As production consultant for the show, veteran director Sidney M. Cohen says TV tastes may have changed but the basic desires remain the same. Whether someone wants to reunite with an estranged sister or climb the Andes, the challenges spark impressive TV drama.

When the wish-fulfillment show airs in the fall, Cohen says each of the 13 episodes will have "stories people will care about."

The 1981 version of *Thrill of a Lifetime*, which aired on CTV for seven years, also had Cohen at the helm as he ran the ship with his company Super People Productions. The shows centre around a couple "thrillees" with an extraordinary wish to fulfill. By the end of the episode, each person is filmed partaking in his/her thrill, and their lives are meshed with slick documentary production.

But don't compare this to *Survivor*. "This is more about the thrill, and exploring the reality of that dream," says Cohen, 54.

Possible segments could include a novice comic performing at a comedy club, or a woman finally meeting singer Barry Manilow after missing a chance to see him at a concert years ago. While most of the thrillees will be women, Cohen stresses the importance of the male role.

"Men are on the periphery because they're writing in thrills for their wives or sisters or daughters. Men are giving the thrills to their loved ones."

Cohen is thrilling his own female treasure, 23-year-old daughter Tracy. By pitching the show idea with his daughter to the production company, he says passing the mantle has been an exciting experience. He may have 10,000 program episodes under his belt, from *Canada AM* to the 1992 Summer Olympics, but Cohen is selfless enough to integrate his daughter into his business.

"She loves television and brings that energy into work," he says, adding his son Jay is working on a cruise-ship show on Prime called *Porthole TV*.

Cohen likes to keep it in the family, in order to feed the fires of life. "[My family] keeps me on my toes, it's the best way."

Starting as producer/director for CJOH-TV in Ottawa in 1968, Cohen leapt into the TV business with the passion to create enjoyable programming. Thirty-four years later, his credits look like a nostalgic TV guide: the game show *Mad Dash*, *Canadian Living TV*, *On the Arts* and *Reach for the Top*.

What made Cohen successful through the decades were not several strokes of luck or several hundred contacts. As Cohen believed in the '70s, television must serve the viewer first.

"The structure of media has changed," he says, "and the production method has changed. But our need to tell a good story hasn't changed, and that is what people want. Always."

To submit a thrill, visit www.thrillofalifetime.ca

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Business Profile

Lithuanian emigré runs high-tech testing lab

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In Jewish lore, Lithuania's yeshivot were known for their analytical, intellectual approach to religious issues – a marked contrast to the more emotional tack taken in other parts of Europe. Rabbinical schools in Vilna (Vilnius) were so admired for their scholarly excellence, the city became known as Yerushalayim de Lita (the Jerusalem of Lithuania).

Although he hasn't lived in Vilnius for 30 years, Jacob Kleiman is proud to recount his city's intellectual credentials and the Jewish community's cultural independence.

Under Communist control, the city's Jews maintained a tradition of study and accomplishment, but they focused their efforts on the areas that were open to them. As part of that rigorous, intellectual tradition, Kleiman studied at the city's polytechnical institute and earned a master's degree in technology with a specialty in electrical and radio devices.

Today he heads his own testing lab in Markham, Ont., just north of Toronto, where a small group of highly trained technicians – including a smattering of Soviet emigrés – evaluates materials for a variety of clients, most notably NASA.

Founded by Kleiman in 1989, Integrity Testing Laboratory (ITL) employs a dozen PhD scientists and engineers who investigate protective materials and coatings for space and aerospace applications, as well as trouble-shoot for clients in the chemical, metallurgical, wood, plastics and rubber industries.

In layman's terms – the level of jargon in the industry is formidable – ITL examines materials that have failed or have not met specifications. The subject of its investigations might simply be an aluminum ladder that did not live up to its expected lifespan, a metal tap that ruptured or an integrated circuit chip that corroded.

As Kleiman explains, "We are involved in anything to do with the material sciences."

One half to 60 per cent of the company's time is devoted to materials testing. But increasingly, ITL is focusing its attention on research and development projects in the aerospace and space fields, as well as the automotive and electronics industries.

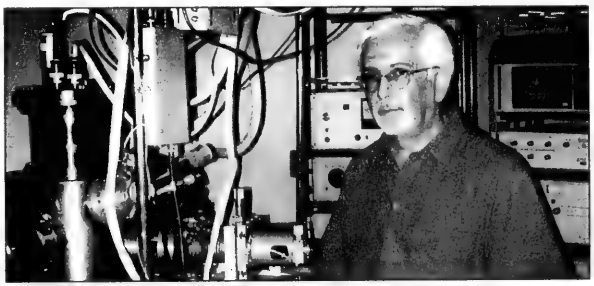
Some of ITL's experiments have flown on space shuttle missions. Working with the Glen Lewis Research Centre in Cleveland, ITL devised a test to determine how a protective material would react to the environment of space after one year of exposure.

That experiment, known as MISSE, is now flying in orbit, Kleiman said. The material being tested is slated for use in the Space Station Remote Manipulation System, the next generation "Canadarm" that will be used to manipulate objects in orbit.

As it turns out, the vacuum of space is not particularly hospitable to earth-made materials. Chemical and physical erosion does occur on spacecraft. ITL develops surface modification techniques to alter the surface of objects so they do not erode.

ITL has a second space project on the go, one it proposed to the European Space Agency. That project focuses on the software that will predict erosion of materials in space.

Based on its findings, ITL recommends a course of action to make the materials more durable. One modification technology alters an object's surface layers give it enhanced stability and resistance to the environmental challenges of space, Kleiman said.



Jacob Kleiman with some of his lab equipment.

Although some of ITL's clients might be out of this world, the company must rely on more down-to-earth practices if it wants to get their business. ITL responds to RFPs (requests for proposals) issued by contracting companies, it relies on its network of contacts in the industry, it drums up business at trade shows and it dabbles in advertising.

By international corporate standards, ITL is still a micro cap. Kleiman expects the recently concluded fiscal year to generate gross sales of about $800,000 for the privately held company. Two years, ago, annual revenue was only $600,000 and last year it was somewhere between $700,000 and $750,000.

The annual growth has taken some pressure off Kleiman, who sweated bullets in the early years to make the company viable. But debt remains high – close to this year's revenue numbers.

Trained in the sciences, Kleiman admits he was a business novice when he launched ITL.

His earlier background gave little indication that he was an entrepreneur in the making. Starting your own company was, of course, out of the question in Communist Lithuania, but perhaps he tapped into some of the country's entrepreneurial culture, which remained alive, if below the surface.

Soviet domination of Lithuania dated only to the 1940s, so Jews there "were quite independent thinking" and used to listen to the BBC and Kol Yisrael on shortwave radio, Kleiman said.

Moreover, many Jews, including Kleiman, retained a link to the Jewish people.

"Our family was quite Jewishly raised," he said. "We weren't religious, but on the holidays, we went to shul."

Kleiman also participated in a Jewish musical ensemble in Vilnius, which later developed into a folk theatre.

After leaving the Soviet Union with his parents in 1972, Kleiman lived in Israel for eight years, during which time he earned a master's degree in micro-electronic devices from the Technion in Haifa.

Quite a few Russians were his classmates in those years, he recalled.

In 1979, Kleiman enrolled in the University of Toronto to pursue a PhD at its Institute of Aerospace Studies. Once he completed the course, he was quickly recruited by 3M, the giant U.S. industrial concern.

Kleiman worked for the company as a senior researcher on semiconductor materials and blue light lasers (used for communication between satellites and submarines). After eight years, 3M closed its Toronto operation, and although he received a job offer from the company, it would have meant transferring to Minneapolis.

He turned down the offer, since he " did not want to start again with a third immigration."

He decided instead to open his own business. Taking out a $60,000 mortgage on his home, he purchased a large chunk of lab equipment from 3M that he planned to use in a commercial, testing application.

His lack of business training hurt him in those early years.

In the first six months, he earned only $1,500. "I wasn't a businessman, I was more of a scientist," he said, adding that around that time, he became an adjunct professor in aerospace studies at U of T, working on aerospace materials.

But the business eventually took off. Today, ITL is headquartered in a 7,500-square-foot facility, much of which is taken up by the kind of futuristic machinery that might have graced the set of a 1950s space movie.

Kleiman believes that after the early, lean years, the company has reached a critical mass and is now in something of a stabilization period. He recently hired a sales and marketing specialist to help the company develop a long-term expansion and marketing strategy.

His financial advisors tell him he should focus on the lucrative testing part of the business – its bread and butter – and scrap the time-consuming R & D stuff, "but I don't like that idea," he said.

"I agree with them that I should stabilize and increase the testing part," he said, but he refuses to give up on the more exciting space-related work.

Besides, he said, it's an important component of his company that makes it possible to retain high quality people.

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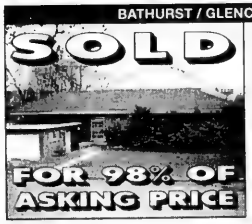

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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Wedding to take place early April 2003

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Andrea and **Amnon Sarkozi** are thrilled to announce the engagement of their daughter **Jennifer** to **Jeffrey**, son of **Cindy** and **Barry Schwartz.** Excited siblings are Taryn, Samantha, Kevin and Amanda. Proud grandparents are David Sarkozi, Floyd and Barbara Stern, Esther and Abe Schwartz, and Marcia and Cecil Anger. Lovingly remembered at this time are Ilana Sarkozi and Jason Sarkozi.

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BURG, Saly – on Sept. 16, 2002, late of 182 Kennard Ave.
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ALLOUL, Raymonde – on Sept. 15, 2002, late of 150 Neptune Dr.
REITER, Raymond – on Sept. 16, 2002.
SHAPIRO, Leonard R. – on Sept. 16, 2002, late of 100 Canyon Ave.
ZIGELSTEIN, Phillip – on Sept. 16, 2002, late of 30 Harding Blvd. W.
BOSSIN, Sidney – on Sept. 17, 2002, late of 10250 Kennedy Rd.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

MILLER, Raisa – on Sept. 18, 2002, late of 95 Inverlochy Blvd.
KERTZER, Beatrice – on Sept. 19, 2002.
SHOGILEV, Trevor – on Sept. 19, 2002.
PLATT, Alexander – on Sept. 20, 2002, late of 65 Gloucestor Grove.
ZARECKI, Charles – on Sept. 22, 2002, late of 52 Charlton Blvd.
WILENCZYK, Bertha – on Sept. 23, 2002, late of 27 Austin Terrace.
ROSENTHAL, Fela – on Sept. 23, 2002, late of 45 Brockington Cres.
FOX, Joseph – on Sept. 23, 2002.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MAKSIMILLIAN GOLDACH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, October 6th, at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Chenstochover Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SIDNEY *(Sid)* KANE ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, October 6, at 11:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Yavne Zion Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MILDRED LEVY ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, October 13, at 1:00 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Chevra Mishnais Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JULIA TAYLOR ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, October 6, at 1:00 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
The War Veterans Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LYNDA LOU ABRAMS ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 6th, 1:00 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Avenue
Farband Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SARI GROSSMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 6th, 12:00 noon
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Beth Sholom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SIMON LASKI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 13th, 1:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Chenstochover Society Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MELVYN NAIMER ז"ל
will take place
Monday, Oct. 13th, 11:00 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LILLIAN DURBIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 6th, 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Maldover Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ESTHER KALMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, October 6th, 1:00 p.m.
Dawes Road Cemetery
Beth Tzedec Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HELEN LENECK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 6th, 10:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Pride of Israel Section
Wilson, west of Dufferin
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ABE GEWIRTZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 6th, 2:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Lodzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
YONA KAUFMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 6th, 11:30 a.m.
Holy Blossom Memorial Park
Section #22
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WIDOWS ONLY
Would like to start a widows group social, 50-60 yrs only, no divorcees. **AD#1040**

A REAL FIND
I'm a smart, kind hearted, loyal, very very funny female who's cute, youthful, physically fit, & professionally successful with no strings. I'm looking to meet a wonderful Jewish man 50-60 yrs of age to share, enjoy & enrich our life experiences. **AD#1156**

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Michelle is an engaging, fun-loving, energetic, fanatically-fit widow with a zest for life & a passion for work & family. Friends say she is attractive & fun to be with. She is looking for a mensch. (by definition a life loving man of integrity) **AD#1012**

NEW LIFE WITH YOU
I'm a widow who would like to rebuild a new life with a widower or a single male 54-60 yrs. I'm active, outgoing and down to earth. I enjoy life, non smoker. I like art, adventure & travel. Seeking a mature relationship. **AD#1383**

LET'S MEET
Hi, I'm a sincere lady with a warm smile. I'm kind, caring & compassionate. I'm also honest & have a good sense of humour. I love animals & seek a gentleman for companionship between 60-65 yrs. I also enjoy long walks, dancing, theatre & music. **AD#1447**

FINER THINGS
Hi, I'm an attractive professional woman in my early 50's. I'm 5' 6", red hair and have 2 grown wonderful children. I'm sincere, respectful, caring, romantic and fun loving. I enjoy cooking, fine dining, dancing, theatre, opera, travel, walks in the park, and I love to sing. **AD#1402**

LET'S MEET FOR COFFEE
Hi, I'm 39 yr old single female. I'm seeking a male 39-49 yrs, who's attractive, hard working like myself, and easy going. Looking for friendship, hopefully leading to a relationship. I like dancing, going out to eat & movies. **AD#1269**

STARTING OVER
I'm a widow in my 50's, who would like to start over. I'm a caring & sharing individual, a good listener, non smoker, positive person w/ a smile. I enjoy life & people and humour. Would like to meet a single man in his 50's w/ similar interests **AD#1236**

SPEND TIME TOGETHER
I'm a widow looking for a widower between 50-60 yrs. I enjoy music and reading. I'm very open, caring, romantic, enjoy country drives and holding hands. Looking for a warm person with a great smile, and sense of humour with similar interests. **AD#1380**

STREETCAR NAMED...
Hello my name is Stella, looking for a serious relationship w/ a honest man who is intelligent & has a sense of humour who likes the outdoors, music, travel & many other things. I enjoy outdoor activities, I'm sincere, quitepoken person. Seeks quality time with someone **AD#1460**

PLAY GAMES WITH YOU
Hi, I'm a tall, attractive, Jewish woman, 39 yrs, independent, honest, down to earth, love to read, do crossword puzzles, play scrabble, dance, long walks, I'm looking for a tall Jewish, warm, intelligent & kind man who knows what he wants out of life. **AD#1182**

SIMPLE THINGS
I'm a slim, shapely, very attractive, 50'ish, single Jewish female who's 5' 4" tall, dark hair & eyes, a great smile, warm & affectionate. As far as interests are concerned, the simple pleasures of life are the very best. For me it's laughter, good conversation, sipping wine at a cafe. **AD#1029**

SOULMATE SEARCHING
33 yr old female, with long brown hair & eyes, very good looking, out going, charming, loves to have fun. Looking for a down to earth attractive male between 30-40 yrs, non smoker, who shares same interests as I. I'm looking for my soul mate, if your interested please respond. **AD#1406**

DESTINATION: LOVE
Hi, if your interested in meeting a special single Jewish female, baggage free, has air miles & loves to travel you've answered the right ad. I'm a very attractive, slim, shapely, fun loving, 50'ish, single Jewish female with a warm smile, integrity & many interests **AD#1061**

EUROPEAN WIDOW
European, retired widow, is looking for a loving relationship w/ widower or divorced man, loves music, art , swimming, walking & tennis. **AD#1182**

I AM FOR YOU
Unique, Jewish female, attractive, 5' 5", intelligent, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established, male 45 yrs young, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable and over 6 feet tall. **AD#1240**

CALL ME
Cindy is a petit, brown eyed brunette, 5' 2", very friendly, intelligent, loving, compassionate looking for a professional gentleman, between 50-60 yrs, who shares similar qualities with whom I can enjoy companionship & happy times. Some interests include movies, theatre & music. **AD#1186**

LIFE PARTNER
Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, petite, cute, attractive, pretty and slim. She enjoys music, dancing, nature, hiking, quiet beach walks, non smoker, non drinker, looking for a life partner, preferably an easy going, single jewish male between 35-55 yrs with similar interests. **AD#1200**

HIGH CLASS
Larissa is attractive, Jewish, 55 yrs, 5' 3" tall and seek an interesting accomplished, classy gentleman between 55-65 yrs for companionship & more. **AD#1443**

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Attractive, 40 yrs, single Jewish female, seeks male 40-52 yrs who's attractive, hard working like myself. I like to go out to eat, dance, movies & a bit of sports, If you have similar interests, leave me your name & number. I'm looking for a serious relationship. **AD#1037**

FUN GUY
Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things. Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading. Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands **AD#1368**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1178**

LET'S TALK
I want to enjoy all the things in life like any normal person. I'm not interested in marriage, but would like a steady relationship. If you're slim, good looking, with a nice personality & would like to meet a nice, funny, good looking, 70 yr old, 5' 6", slim guy, let's talk. **AD#1085**

♂ men seeking women

PROFESSIONAL MALE
Hi I'm a single 40 yr old male, professional, physically fit easy going, who enjoys meeting people and have a joy for life. I'm looking for a female 30-40 yrs, who meets my common interests. **AD#1286**

DOCTOR OF LOVE
My name is Dan, I'm 51 yrs and work as a medical doctor. I have 2 daughters that live with me and I'm a devoted father. I'm slim, fit, energetic, intense, and I'm always looking to learn new things. I take course most of the time. Interests range from art, philosophy, foreign languages & ballroom dancing. **AD#1293**

INCURABLE ROMANTIC
Jewish male, non smoker, in his 70's going on 50. A university graduate, 5' 5", 145 lbs, I have many varied interests including theatre, music, dancing, the arts, tennis, golf, dining, travelling. I'm also an incurable romantic & social drinker with a great zest for life. **AD#1238**

ROMANTIC MAN
Hi, I'm a Jewish male, late 50's, who's looking for a sharing & caring woman, non smoking, 45-58yrs. I'm a romantic who likes long walks & enjoys nature, quiet evenings cuddling together at fireside. **AD#1478**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
I'm a man in my 50's w/ blue eyes, dark brown hair, who would like to meet a woman, also in her 50's. She should enjoy travel, museums, the arts & musical theatre. Looking for someone who can share lots of laughs w/ a good sense of humour. Home cooked meals would be a definite bonus. **AD#1234**

HEALTHY WEALTHY
Hi my name is Arnon, I'm a white executive living in Thornhill. I look in the mirror & I see a healthy young 1939 model w/ no deficiencies, I'm told that I'm not bad to look at either. I've got salt & pepper hair, beautiful blue eyes, slim., 5' 10" and I have good teeth too. My passions are the sun & sea. **AD#1005**

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Single Jewish male of Indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest. Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family. **AD#1480**

UNEMPLOYED BUM
Are you looking for a ugly, short, fat, bald, umemployed bum? Well keep looking because I'm none of the above. I'm honest, successful, good looking with no dependents. I love gourmet foods, wine tasting, movies & I'm a very good cook. Seeking a woman between 38-48 yrs. **AD#1227**

LET'S MEET
Hi my name is Marvin, I'm a warm & thoughtful person, single, 60 yrs old and I live in GTA. I'm a romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who loves to travel, watch movies, take long walks, rides in the country. I also enjoy great conversation, nice quiet times at homes, and I love to read. **AD#1074**

PICTURE THIS
I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more. **AD#1442**

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Israeli soccer champion Haifa registers historic win

By HA'ARETZ SPORTS STAFF

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Three goals from Ayegbeni Yakoubu – each more spectacular than the one before – gave Israeli soccer champion Maccabi Haifa a shock win last week as manager Yitzhak Shum's charges won their first game in group F of the Champions League.

Haifa completely outplayed Greece's Olympiakos Piraeus – 6–2 winners over Bayer Leverkusen the week before – and the victory was rarely in doubt after Yakoubu scored his first.

The Nigerian forward's hat-trick silenced the majority of the fans in Nicosia's GSP stadium, where Haifa is playing its home matches because of a ban on international matches in Israel.

The 15,000 Greek Cypriots and Olympiakos fans who travelled from Athens were shocked, and the 5,000 Haifa fans delighted, as Yakoubu, who was suspended for Haifa's earlier 5-2 loss to Manchester United, opened the scoring in the 27th minute.

The Nigerian international stepped up to send goalkeeper Dimitrios Eleftheropoulos the wrong way after a dubious penalty was awarded when Italian referee Massimo De Santis ruled that Walid Badir was fouled in the penalty area. The call may have been harsh on Olympiakos, but it was no more than the team deserved and Yakoubu made no mistake on the penalty.

He added a second after one hour of playing time after powering his way into the area on the right, breaking free of a defender and slotting the ball under the advancing Olympiakos goalkeeper.

Olympiakos threw everything into attack to salvage something from the game, but in the 85th minute Yakoubu picked up a loose ball and he made no mistake to send the Israeli fans into rapture.

After the game, hat-trick hero Yakoubu said: "It was a tough game, more so because we weren't playing at home. I am delighted that I didn't leave Haifa at the end of last season, and that I am playing in the Champions League."

Shum said simply that his players "performed like lions. I am very proud."

At a news conference prior to the game, Shum acknowledged, "This is a hugely important game, against a team that cannot be underestimated. Unfortunately for us, this is to all intents and purposes a home game for Olympiakos, in a competition where home ground advantage can be vital.

"It is true that we did not manage to win or draw against Manchester United, but I am not going to change our game plan, which has got us this far. Even in the game against Sturm Graz, when we only needed a draw to progress, we played attacking, open soccer, and that's how we'll play tonight."

This is Olympiakos' fifth season in the Champions League, and so far, they have only ever lost a home game to Manchester United, a record any team in Europe would be proud of.

On the other hand, the Greeks are yet to win an away game; a record any team in Europe would be desperate to get rid of.

Confidence was high in the Olympiakos camp prior to the game, but coach Takis Lemonis said he was taking nothing for granted.

"We really enjoyed the Leverkusen game, but must not get carried away," he said. "If anything, our concentration has to be better. You cannot underestimate Maccabi simply because their players are not such big names."

Meanwhile, in other soccer action recently, Israel's two other representatives in European competition, Hapoel Tel Aviv and Maccabi Tel Aviv, both registered first-round, first-leg victories in the UEFA Cup.

Hapoel crushed Kaernten of Austria 4-0 in Klagenfurt, while Maccabi Tel Aviv walked off with an excellent 1-0 "home" victory over Boavista of Portugal in their clash in Sofia.

Fans attacked by Greek hooligans in Cyprus airport

By ASSAF BERGERFREUND and ELI SHVIDLER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Israelis' celebrations of Maccabi Haifa's Champions Cup win over Olympiakos Piraeus turned to fear as 600 Maccabi fans were attacked by 1,500 Olympiakos supporters at the Larnaca airport last week while waiting to return to Israel.

The Greek fans, who were also waiting for a return flight home, broke through a thin line of police separating the two camps, beating the green-clad Haifa fans while some shouted "Adolf Hitler" and "Yasser Arafat."

Olympiakos Piraeus later apologized to Maccabi Haifa and its fans for the ugly incidents and condemned the violent behaviour of its fans. But it also made it clear that it blamed the Cypriot police for allowing the incident to happen at all.

The Greek team said that at a meeting before the game, police chiefs warned them such an incident was possible. "The police should have been prepared for this," a team spokesperson said. "Despite the disgraceful behaviour by a small gang of fans, we are certain that incident will not have any influence on the good relations between the two clubs."

The Haifa supporters were celebrating the team's historic win and singing soccer chants while waiting for their flights home. Some of the chants were for Olympiakos' bitter Athens rival, Panathinaikos.

Within moments, the Greek fans started throwing coins at the Israelis, who quickly stopped singing and moved to the far end of the departure lounge.

The hall then filled with several hundred more Olympiakos fans. The Greeks broke through the flimsy security cordon that divided the two sets of fans and began beating anyone in green they came across. Many of the Haifa followers, including a large number of children and teenagers, took cover behind the check-in counters.

Those who were too slow to take shelter were knocked to the ground and stripped of their green shirts and scarves. Several were kicked and punched.

Local police finally managed to regain control and prevented the Olympiakos fans from seriously injuring any Israelis. They were unable to prevent the Greeks from continuing to throw bottles, coins, ashtrays, chairs and anything that could be thrown at the Israelis.

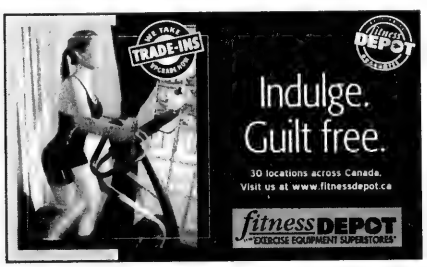
"They had murder in their eyes," said one fan on arrival at Ben-Gurion airport. "They were chanting 'Adolf Hitler' and 'Yasser Arafat.'"

The Cypriot police eventually decided to move the Israelis to an adjacent hall.

The official Larnaca police response to the incidents offered a somewhat different view of events. "There was some pushing and shoving and maybe the odd punch but nothing more than that. Riot police moved in swiftly to separate the troublemakers," a police spokesperson said.

Larnaca police chief Nicos Stelikos, in charge of security at the airport, said there were no arrests, no injuries and no damage to public property.

He dismissed suggestions by Maccabi fans that there was a lack of police protection for the Israelis.



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יעל זליגר

סיפור על אהבה וחושך מאת: עמוס עוז, כתר הוצאה לאור, 2002.

ידידתי טוענת שכבר קראה כל-כך הרבה מאמרי ביקורת על ספרו האחרון של עמוס עוז, שנדמה שהיא מכירה את הספר מבלי לקראו. אכן, רבות נכתב על אוטוביוגרפיה זו אך בצדק. אוצר של ממש העניק לנו עמוס עוז. ידידה אחרת הצהירה בפני שעקרונית, היא לא סובלת את עוז אבל סיפור על אהבה וחושך זה משהו, משהו. ואני, אני שבהחלט "סובלת" את עוז סבורה שהסופר העניק לנו נכס ספרותי לאומי.

על כריכת חרומאן האוטוביוגרפי של עוז מודפס ציור של פיקאסו; גבר ואשה צנומים, עלובי חיים, עומדים יחפים על חוף-ים. לצד הגבר נער צעיר, אף הוא יחף ודל אך כף ידו האחת נוגעת קלות בירך הגבר כמי שמבקש ליצור מגע, שייכות. אם תרצו, זו תמונת משפחתו הגרעינית של עוז. טרגדיה משולשת שהשד יודע כיצד נבט ממנה סופר כל-כך מחונן. מעבר לזה, עוז מצליח תוך כדי פרישת תולדות המשפחה לחשוף בעצם את הסיפור הישראלי-יהודי שלנו. בד בבד עם הסיפור האישי, חייהם העצובים של הוריו, קורות ילדותו, נעוריו בירושלים ולאחר מכן בקיבוץ חולדה, עוז מגולל בפנינו את סיפורה האפי של האומה בשנות השלושים, הארבעים והחמישים. מסע נדודים זה שמונה כארבעה-חמישה דורות מוגש לקוראים בגילוי-לב, בחדות עין, בעדנה והומור סלחני. התוצאה: יצירה מאפלת ונדירה ביופייה.

"נולדתי וגדלתי בדירת-קרקע קטנה מאוד, נמוכת תקרה, כשלושים מטרים רבועים; הורי ישנו על ספת-מגירה שהיתה ממלאת את חדרם כמעט מקיר לקיר כאשר נפתחה מדי ערב." כך פותח עוז את ספרו. וכך הוא ממשיך. בטון ענייני, ארוך, מקושט ומעודן מספר עוז על פני 593 עמודים עוצרי נשימה את תולדות נעוריו עד היום הטראגי שבו אמו שמה קץ לחייה בינואר 1952, חודשים ספורים לפני שבנה היחיד, עמוס, היה בר-מצווה. דפי הספר האחרונים המתארים את שעותיה האחרונות של אמו הם מהמרגשים ביותר שקראתי בספרות העברית.

עוד בטרם מותה הטראגי של האם בגיל שלושים ושמונה ידע הילד בדידות איומה במשפחה שלא דיברו בה על מה שרוחש בלב באמת. אביו דיבר יותר מדי ולא אחב את השתיקה אך לא על דברים שברגש. רק פעם אחת מתאר עוז כיצד אביו "לא נע בשתיקה" ורק ליטף קלות את ראש הילד. אחר כך סיפר האב בלחש מה עשו לו ולאחיו נערי רחוב אנטישמים באודסה ובווילנה ועדיין "בקול של חושך" אמר לו אביו: "יודאי גם לך עוד יציקו לא פעם בריונים ברחוב או בבית הספר. ואולי הם יציקו לך דווקא מפני שאתה עוד עלול להיות קצת דומה לי. אבל מעכשיו,מרגע שתהיה לנו מדינה, מעכשיו לעולם לא יציקו לך בריונים רק מפני שאתה יהודי... זה לעולם לא... מהלילה הדבר הזה נגמר כאן..." זה היה הלילה, או לפנות בוקר, אור ליום שלושים בנובמבר 1947.

לילד עמוס אין אף חבר. הילד יודע רק את עולם המבוגרים וכל תשוקתו היא לרצות אותם, לחוש את כאבם של הוריו, לציית להם ובעיקר להיות מאוד מוצלח. עמוס היה נאחב ולכן אין הוא מתאר את עצמו כילד אומלל אלא כילד שהלבישו עליו נטל כבד שכלל את סודותיהם המפחידים של המבוגרים. מלבד אמו ואביו המתוסכל שלא זכה לממש עצמו, מספר עוז על סבו אלכסנדר קלוזנר שחיי האהבה שלו החלו לפרוח בגיל שבעים, סבתו שלומית לוין שהלוונט עורר בה תיעוב, שתי אחיותיה של אמו, בעיקר סוניה, וכמובן אחי-סבו, הפרופסור הנודע יוסף קלוזנר. לא נפקד גם מקומן של דמויות ידועות כטשרניחובסקי, עגנון, בן-גוריון ובניו וזלדה שניאורסון, מורתו של עמוס בכיתה א' וב' ועוד שלל דמויות מאצולת האינטלגנציה של ירושלים בתקופת המנדט.

קצרה ידי מלפרט ברשימה זו את כל נפלאות ספר זה שנוגע בכל אחד מאתנו. מי שיחפש אסוציאציות מספריו של עוז, ימצאם בשפע. כאן עובצה דמותה הנסערת של חנה גונן ב"מיכאל שלי" וכאן פימה ב"מצב השלישי". מי שרוצה להבין את המקום שממנו באנו - זו היצירה! אך יותר מכל אני ממליצה בכל לשון של המלצה לקרוא על הילד עמוס קלוזנר וכיצד הפך מרוב בדידות לתולעת ספרים, מרותק לסיפור חבדיוני או השיר ורוקם בדמיונו מאות עלילות חדשות עד היותו הסופר עמוס עוז.

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3 cups canned chickpeas
8 cloves garlic, minced or pressed
1/2 green pepper, chopped
1 onion, finely chopped

Dressing: 4 tblsp. olive oil
1 tblsp. balsamic vinegar
1/3 cup lime juice
2 tsp. salt

2 tblsp. parsley, finely chopped

Combine chickpeas, garlic, green pepper & onion. Mix dressing ingredients together. Pour over salad mixture. Sprinkle with parsley.

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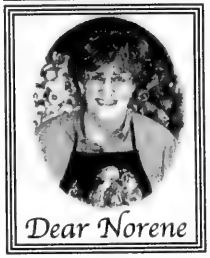
About Food



By NORENE GILLETZ

Barbara Lauterbach's book, *Potato Salad, Fifty Favorite Recipes* (Chronicle, $18.95 US) contains 50 luscious recipes plus terrific tips on making the perfect potato salad. Most recipes can be adapted easily for the kosher kitchen.

Potato salads work best with low- or medium-starch potatoes whose waxy texture allows them to hold together when diced and mixed. Here's how to test a potato's starch content: In a large bowl, make a brine solution of 1 cup salt and 11 cups water. Drop the potato in question into the solution. If it floats, it has a low starch content.

It is preferable not to peel potatoes before cooking for salad. They retain their shape better, will not become soggy, and more nutrients are retained.

Don't like raw onions in your potato salad? For a delicate onion flavor, boil 2 medium, peeled yellow onions, halved, with the potatoes. Discard onions when potatoes are done.

Here is an excellent recipe that can be prepared up to 1 day in advance and holds well on a buffet table. If you buy a single piece of smoked turkey weighing 1/2 pound, it will be easier to cube. Leftover roast turkey can be substituted. Enjoy!

SWEET POTATO & SMOKED TURKEY SALAD

1 1/2 lb. small sweet potatoes (6 to 8 oz. each)
2 cups cubed smoked turkey (1/4-inch cubes)
1 cup diced celery
1/4 cup coarsely chopped pecans, toasted
1/4 cup finely chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley

Dressing:
2/3 cup canola or other vegetable oil
2 tbsp. red wine vinegar
3 tbsp. fresh orange juice
3 tbsp. finely grated orange zest
2 tsp. minced fresh ginger
1/2 tsp. curry powder
1/2 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 400. Scrub sweet potatoes with a stiff brush but do not peel. Prick in several places with a fork. Bake just until tender when pierced with a fork, about 30 minutes. Timing depends on size of potatoes. Alternatively, microwave scrubbed, pricked potatoes on high for 6 to 8 minutes. Remove from microwave, cover with foil and let stand 5 minutes. Do not overcook or they won't cut nicely. Cool completely, then peel and cut into 1/2-inch cubes. Place cubes in a large bowl.

Combine dressing ingredients in a blender, food processor or jar. Process or shake for 30 seconds. You should have about 1 cup.

Add turkey, celery, and from 1/4 to 1 cup of dressing to cubed sweet potatoes and toss gently. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or up to 1 day. Just before serving, add pecans and parsley; toss well. Serve chilled. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Norene Gillett is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeaniYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com.*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

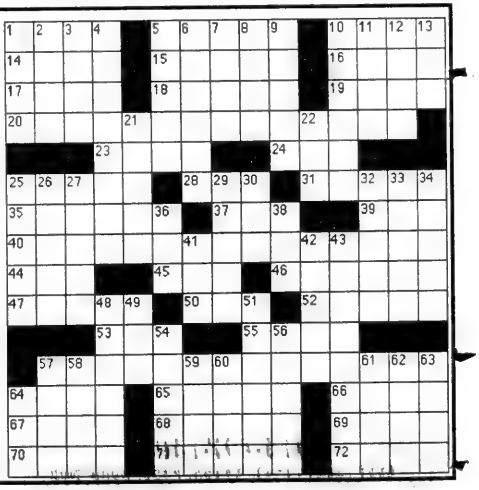
The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 46.)

Fall Colors
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Dorian's color (a value, really)
5. Gambols
10. Norwegian king
14. Colored for harvest
15. Colorful Web duck?
16. ___ qua non
17. Not the genuine art.
18. A minor or major plant
19. Hector's home
20. They give big seasonal color
23. Shelters away from the storm
24. ___ Gedi, David's watering hole
25. Rescued, in Hebrew
28. Ocheil, in English
31. What Hamlet was
35. What one does on Yom Kippur
37. I.M.
39. Hebrew girl's name
40. Jerusalem's three colors (N. Shemer)
44. Very high note
45. Dew, in Degania
46. What nature abhors
47. Car named after a son
50. ___ Miserables
52. Look at card hands again
53. Rabbi, in Rechovot
55. Beeprs.
57. It's these that make a garden great
64. Abraham's nephew and namesakes
65. ____ over the net!
66. This is what the Cat was in
67. Italian princely family
68. Josè or El
69. Kiss, in Cadiz
70. Part of R.S.V.P.
71. Freud follower
72. Cole follower

Down
1. Kind of lock
2. Hoar frost
3. At the tip or top, or tip-top
4. Asian mythical beast milieu?
5. Stage musical potpourri
6. Useless
7. Where you choose between columns
8. They raise money for political sway
9. We like to wipe it clean
10. Belgian port
11. Italian cash
12. Spanish years
13. Having the air of one doomed
21. Gumshoe
22. Inlet
25. One called by 55 Across device
26. _ ____ you so!
27. They get whatever they want
29. Tapuach, to Tampa, or Tarrytown
30. Where you drive without a vehicle
32. Cattle breed
33. Colorless
34. ___ __, said the cookie to the palate
36. Drunkard
38. Songwriter Berlin, familiarly
41. Chaver, in Chattanooga or Chicago
42. Key
43. Floes
48. Deletes
49. ___ mujeres
51. Weave two lines together
54. Boatmen's river
56. Douglas or Asner
57. Kacha kacha, in Kansas or Kentucky
58. Caesar's next to last words
59. One of the gares in Paris
60. Cain's unfortunate brother
61. Tent, in Tiberias or Tsfat
62. Peoplehood, in Spanish
63. Place securely



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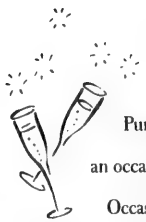

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The Sheraton Centre: Not Only For Grand Weddings

For nearly 15 years, the **Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel** has been the location of choice for hundreds of happy couples who want a luxurious alternative to a synagogue wedding.

"Many brides and grooms decide they want a traditional kosher wedding, but in a location other than a synagogue," says Jill Crawford, Senior Catering Sales Manager, who specializes in the Kosher market for the Sheraton Centre Hotel.

"**The Sheraton Centre** is an elegant, unique choice. Combine our dedicated kosher kitchen with our award-winning level of personal service, add your choice of recently-renovated function rooms, and top it all off with an ideal location right in the heart of downtown Toronto, and you've got a recipe for a success! After all, we've been hosting kosher events...from weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, cocktail parties...since 1985, every day of the week (excluding the Sabbath)."

The Sheraton Centre Toronto has a completely separate kosher kitchen, complete with its own china and flatware, strictly supervised by the Kashruth Council of Ontario. "The Kashruth Council's mashgiach has the keys to our kosher kitchen and is present during all preparations and for each and every affair," says Crawford, "so it's not necessary to make the regular kitchen kosher each time.

The experienced and talented chefs offer creative and flexible menus to suit any taste. Both the kitchen and the serving staff are accustomed to dealing with kosher affairs and can easily and professionally handle any concern their clients may have.

It should not be thought that **the Sheraton Centre** is only for a grand wedding. Facilities and services are available to serve affairs of 200 to 2000 people. "We have facilities," says Crawford, "to fully service a kosher wedding, including being able to offer separate rooms for the signing of the contract, the ceremony and the reception." Indeed, and for those couples who request an outdoor chupah, the **Sheraton Centre Hotel** has the perfect place: a luscious 2.5-acres of outdoor gardens, complete with waterfalls, right in the middle of the hotel. It certainly makes for a spectacular setting for portraits and family photographs! "No matter whether your plans call for something extremely formal, or more relaxed, our team of catering experts will ensure your wedding day is picture-perfect," states Crawford.

Out-of-town guests will enjoy the Sheraton Centre's convenient location, connected to plenty of City Hall parking, and just steps from some of the best shopping, theatre and sightseeing that Toronto has to offer.

Personalized service, talented, experienced staff, your choice of facilities. An award-winning hotel with a dedicated kosher kitchen, located right in the heart of downtown. No wonder **the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel** has been the alternative choice to synagogue weddings for nearly fifteen years! For more information, contact

Catering Sales at (416) 361-1000.

Ask Us About Booking Your Next Simcha

In the heart of Toronto, the Sheraton Centre is always ready for a kosher affair. Our dedicated kosher kitchen has been creating magnificent menus since 1985. Accomplished chefs and experienced serving staff take pride in handling every kosher affair with flawless expertise. Elegant facilities can easily accommodate 200 people...or 2000. For more information, contact our Catering Sales Specialists at

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1981 Jack Ritché's daughter Vivian joined the family business. The store became the destination for any bride to be. New collections of eveningwear and suits by top designers were added to the stores collections.

50 Ritché
CELEBRATES

1985 It became apparent that a new central location would be required to properly showcase the expanding collections and the high volume of loyal customers. The current Avenue Road location was designed for the ultimate special occasion store.

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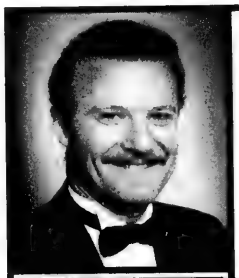
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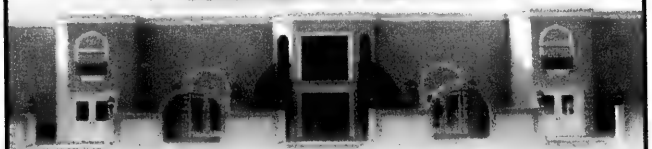
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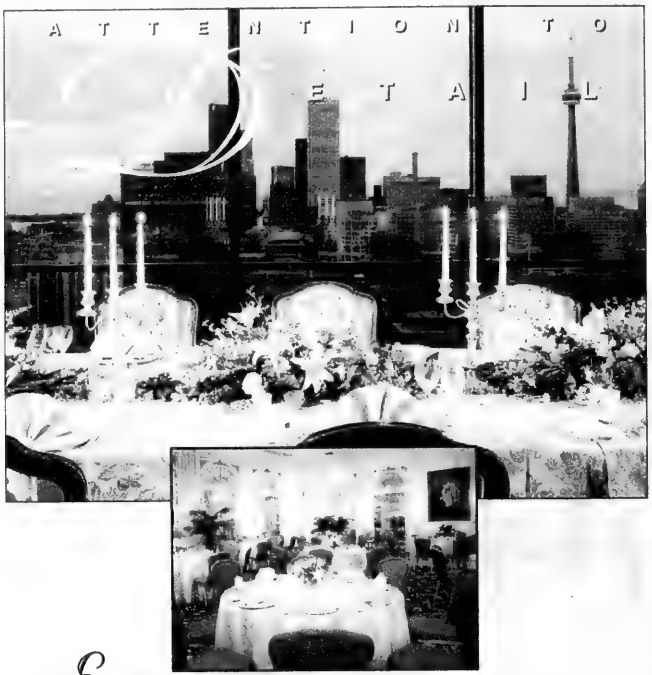

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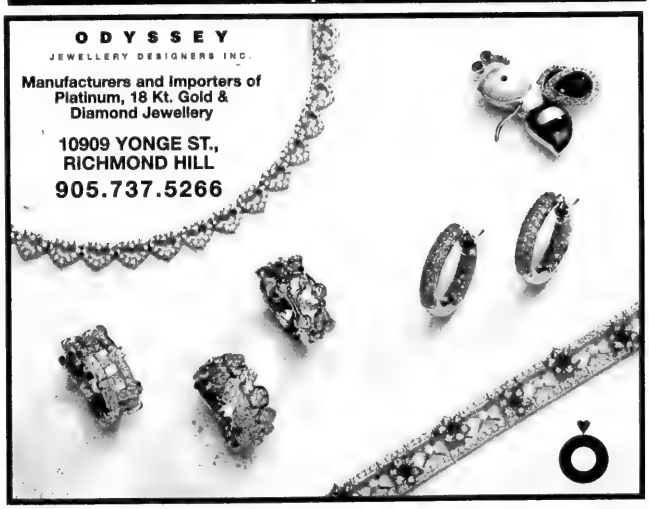

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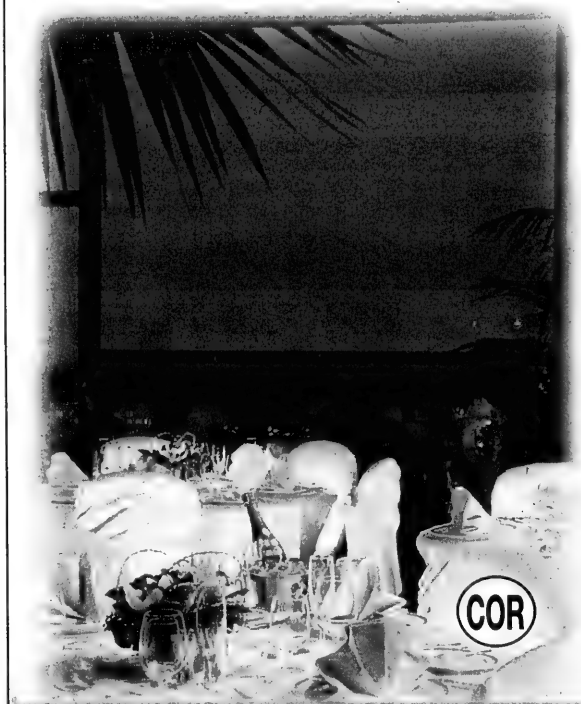

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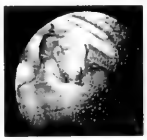

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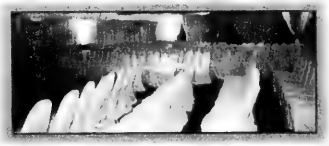

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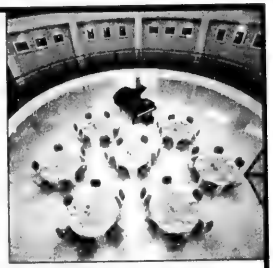

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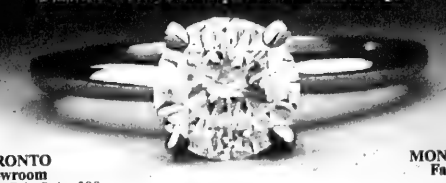

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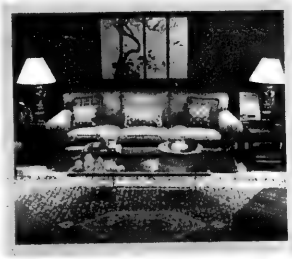

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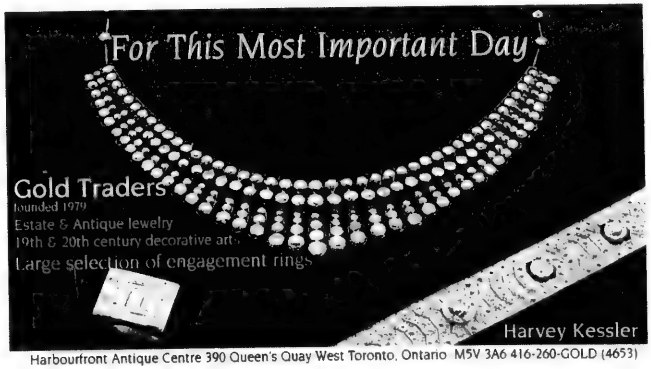

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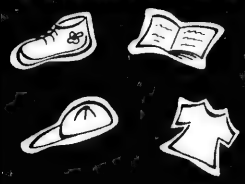

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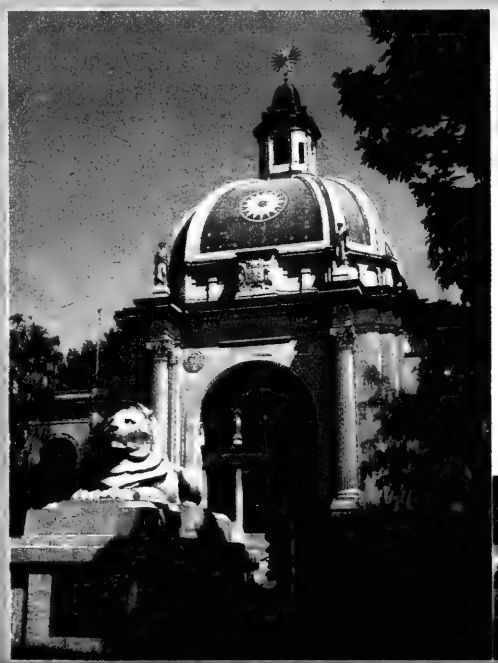

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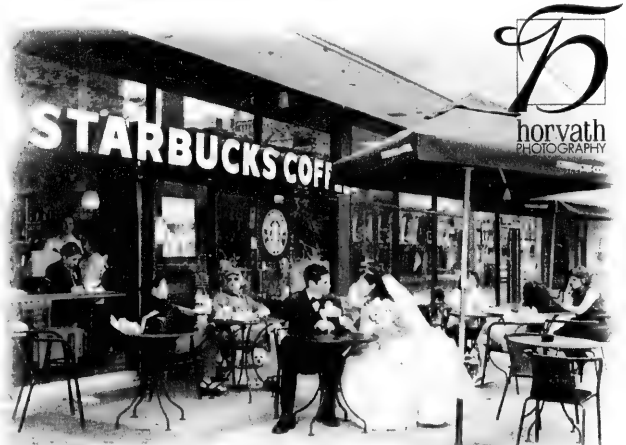

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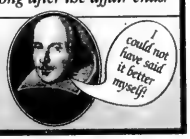

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CCRA seizes pro-Israel literature

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) last week seized and then released a newsletter consisting of pro-Israeli articles after investigating them as possible hate propaganda.

The seizure "shocked" the president of a California-based institute who had sent them to a University of Toronto student club to be distributed during his speaking engagement last weekend.

Material later released
See Editorial page 8

Many of the articles have appeared in the mainstream U.S. press, including the *Chicago Sun Times*, the *Houston Chronicle* and the *Orange County Register*, said Yaron Brook, president of the Ayn Rand Institute (ARI) in Irvine, Calif. Numerous American campus newspapers have run them too, he said.

"There is nothing in them that encourages violence, other than Israel defending itself," said Brook, an Israeli army veteran whose defence of Israel is based on its western values.

Ray Girn, president of the U of T Objectivist Club, which invited Brook to speak, said that on Wednesday of last week, he received a "terse letter" from the CCRA saying the pamphlets had been detained "'for a determination of tariff classification

Continued on page 34

CONTENTIOUS TRIAL RESUMES: Relatives of Israeli terror victims demonstrated outside the Tel Aviv district court last week as the trial of PLO Fatah chief Marwan Barghouti (inset) resumed. Proceedings were delayed at the outset by a commotion in the courtroom between Barghouti supporters and relatives of the victims. The trial was adjourned until Nov. 21. *[Israel Sun and Israpet photos]*

El Al, Air Canada sign pact

Rivals agree on 'codesharing'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — El Al Israel Airlines and Air Canada, archrivals on the long-haul Toronto to Tel Aviv route, recently signed a "codesharing" agreement that will see each airline book its passengers on the other's flights.

The agreement takes affect Nov. 1 and will permit El Al to offer its passengers flights to Israel seven days a week. In addition, El Al will also codeshare on Air Canada's flights to Montreal, Vancouver, Boston, Chicago and San Francisco.

The agreement comes at a time when airlines around the world are facing difficult economic times and are looking for ways to streamline operations, said Stanley Morais, sales and marketing manager for El Al's Canadian office.

Continued on page 14

God bless the Queen: Rabbi Bulka

OTTAWA — Rabbi Reuven Bulka, spiritual leader of Congregation Machzikei Hadas in Ottawa, will be among several clergy presented to Queen Elizabeth at a multi-faith Thanksgiving service Oct. 13.

According to the itinerary of Her Majesty's 12-day Canadian tour in celebration of her Golden Jubilee, the outdoor service on Parliament Hill is slated for Sunday before representatives of six religions.

Rabbi Bulka is scheduled to recite the Jewish blessing when one sees majesty, and then a short reflection of how majesty derives from God.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien will then present him and the other religious leaders to the Queen.

"It's only poetic justice," Rabbi Bulka told *The CJN*, "because I was born in London, England. So it's a natural."

This Week

National

PUAH institute explores halachic techniques of reproductive technology. *Page 3*

Strain between Europe and Israel seen as worsening. *Page 5*

Adopt-A-Family helps Israeli terror victims. *Page 6*

On Campus

Scholarship winner melds a variety of interests. *Page 25*

Arts & Travel

Deb Filler aims for the stomach with *Filler Up!* *Page 40*

Health & Lifestyles

Yad b'Yad helps Israeli girls at risk. *Pages 44*

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Shabbat: Noach
Candlelighting: 6:24
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Belgian PM apologizes for country's Holocaust record — please see page 33

The News in Brief

CANADA

Correction

TORONTO — An incorrect phone number appeared in an item last week (Oct. 3) about a course to learn to read Hebrew. For more information on the program at the Pride of Israel Synagogue, call 226-0111, ext. 10.

ISRAEL

145 Suicide Bombers

JERUSALEM — Since the start of the latest intifadah two years ago, 145 suicide bombers have been dispatched to carry out attacks in Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, officials said. The figure, based on data compiled by the Shin Bet domestic security service, includes would-be bombers caught before carrying out attacks, *Ha'aretz* reported.

Worshippers Barred

JERUSALEM — Israeli Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said he has barred Jewish worshippers from visiting Joseph's Tomb in Nablus. Speaking before the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee last week, Ben-Eliezer said he issued the ban for safety reasons, adding that anyone trying to enter the area would be arrested.

Conference Hosted

JERUSALEM — Israel last week hosted an academic conference of scientists for what is believed to be the first time since the outbreak of violence two years ago. The three-day conference, Frontiers in Cardiovascular Science, held in Eilat, brought together more than 30 scientists from Israel, Europe and North America to discuss their research on heart disease.

WORLD

Chrétien Honoured

NEW YORK — Prime Minister Jean Chrétien last week received the World Statesman Award from the Appeal of Conscience Foundation (ACF), a New York-based human rights coalition of business and religious leaders that promotes mutual understanding, peace and tolerance in areas of ethnic conflict. In a statement, ACF founder Rabbi Arthur Schneier praised Chrétien "for his commitment to freedom, democracy and tolerance" and his role in creating a new partnership for African aid, developed at the G-8 summit earlier this year in Alberta.

Flood Aid to Survivors

PRAGUE — The Claims Conference is giving $20,000 (US) in emergency assistance to Czech Holocaust survivors affected by massive floods in August. The group allocated the money to the Terezin Initiative, which gives financial assistance to victims of Nazi persecution. The initiative, in co-ordination with the Prague Jewish community and the Czech Federation of Jewish Communities, is finding flood victims temporary housing, buying them equipment, clothing and food and repairing damaged apartments. There are about 1,000 Holocaust survivors in the Czech Republic.

Forum Planned

ANN ARBOR, Michigan — A conference this week at the University of Michigan will consider what to do about "apartheid Israel," the *Jerusalem Post* has reported. Slated to start Oct. 12, the Second National Student Conference on the Palestine Solidarity Movement urges an end to U.S. aid to Israel and that universities and corporations divest holdings in the Jewish State. Promotional materials also refuse to condemn suicide bombings and say racism is "inherent to Zionism." University president Mary Coleman said the conference agenda doesn't reflect the school's views and that she opposes divestment.

Bush Signs Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. President George W. Bush expressed strong reservations about a bill he signed last week that urges recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. When he signed the bill, Bush said he would treat the clauses on Jerusalem as a recommendation rather than an order. Among other things, the bill urges the Bush administration to shift the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Treating the Jerusalem provisions as an order would "impermissibly interfere with the president's constitutional authority to conduct the nation's foreign affairs," Bush said.

Philanthropist Dies

PHILADELPHIA — Philanthropist Walter Annenberg died last week at 94. The billionaire publisher and ambassador was close to a succession of U.S. presidents and gave to many Jewish causes.

New Jersey Poet Generates Controversy

NEW YORK— The poet laureate of New Jersey is ignoring calls to quit, for reading a poem insinuating that Israel knew in advance about the Sept. 11 attacks.

New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey called for Amiri Baraka's resignation after Baraka read the following at a festival last month: "Who knew the World Trade Center was gonna get bombed/Who told 4,000 Israeli workers at the Twin Towers/To stay home that day/Why did Sharon stay away?"

Baraka later defended the poem. "Everything said about Israel in the poem is easily researched," he said. "If you criticize Israel, they hide behind the religion and call you anti-Semitic."

The canard about Israeli foreknowledge of, and responsibility for, Sept. 11 has been widely published on the Internet and in the Arab world.

Baraka, a controversial black poet once known as LeRoi Jones, has run afoul of Jewish groups in the past.

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PUAH institute explores reproductive technology

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In the 24 years since in-vitro fertilization (IVF) was introduced in a British lab, the area of assisted reproductive technologies has undergone rapid development and widespread popularity.

One Web site estimates that 20,000 babies are brought into the world each year thanks to various sophisticated reproductive techniques.

The new technologies have been used by many childless couples, and for observant Jews who take seriously the Torah's first mitzvah – "to be fruitful and multiply" – IVF and other assistive technologies can be a godsend.

But what does Halachah have to say about assisted reproductive technologies? Are IVF, sperm donations or surrogacy halachically permitted?

Attempting to steer the shifting currents where medical technology and religious law intersect, is Israel's PUAH Institute.

PUAH, a Hebrew acronym for Fertility and Medicine in Accordance with Halachah, was created 12 years ago by Rabbi Menachem Burstein as a forum for specially trained halachic experts to meet, consider cases, research earlier precedents, consult with others, and pronounce on the various techniques that were being employed in Israel.

Today, PUAH is housed in a four-storey facility in the heart of Jerusalem. It employs nine rabbis who field more than 100 calls a day from Jews and non-Jews alike, curious about the latest medical techniques and the Jewish view of them.

Rabbi Gideon Weitzman and Rabbi Benjamin David, two of PUAH's rabbinical counsellors, will visit Canada later this month on a trip designed to increase the institute's profile.

Rabbi David will visit Montreal from Oct. 18 to 21 (call 514-737-3029 for more information) while Rabbi Weitzman will be in Toronto from Oct. 22 to 24. During their visits, the rabbis will meet with local doctors, rabbis and couples. From Toronto, Rabbi Weitzman, 35, will continue to Seattle where he will attend a conference of the American Society of Reproductive Medicine.

The PUAH Institute, which relies primarily on private donations, has proven popular because "people want guidelines to new treatments," Rabbi Weitzman said in a telephone interview.

With its advanced medical system, Israel is world leader in the provision of assisted reproductive technologies and many scholarly articles on the subject are penned by Israeli practitioners, he said.

Assisted reproductive technologies can raise a variety of halachic issues including legitimacy and religion of the baby, each of which could affect the child later in life when he or she seeks to marry, Rabbi Weitzman said.

In surrogacy, for example, where a woman agrees to carry another couple's child, the baby would acquire its birth mother's religion, not that of the genetic parents, Rabbi Weitzman said.

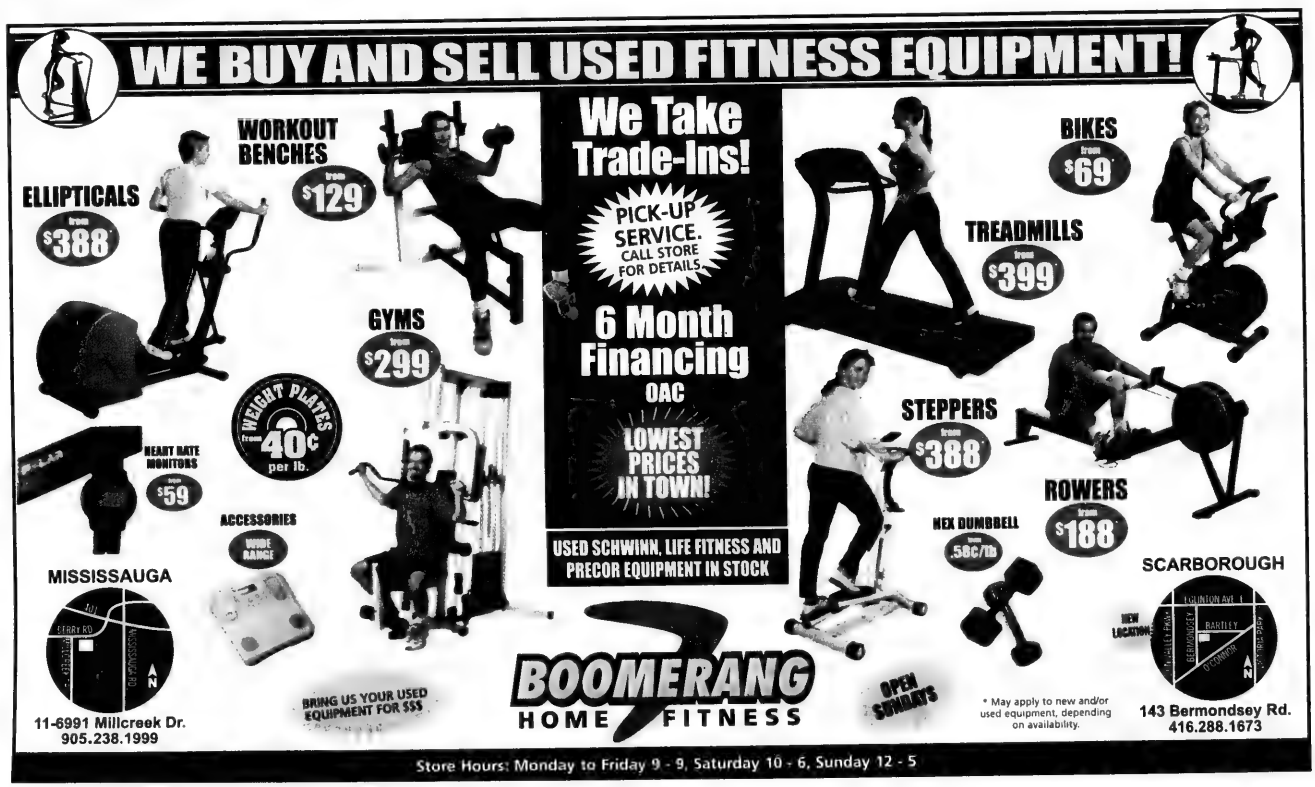
The institute has also addressed problems earlier in the process: providing a sperm sample in the conventional manner would violate the religious injunction against masturbation. The institute advises donors the proper way in which to accomplish this crucial aspect of the reproductive cycle while not violating any religious rules, Rabbi Weitzman noted tactfully.

About 12 years ago, the world was alerted to the problems inherent in assisted reproduction when a woman who had undergone IVF gave birth to two children, one white, one black.

Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, then chief rabbi of Israel, asked Rabbi Burstein, a renowned expert in Halachah and science (he had looked into the science behind the biblical red heifer and Israelite blue dye), to consult with other rabbinic authorities.

Rabbi Burstein "went to the top poskim (halachic experts) for a definitive answer on the law on these developing technologies," Rabbi Weitzman, an English oleh, stated. With the endorsement of numerous rabbinic au-

Continued on page 30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Anti-Semitism in academia

Founders Assembly Hall in York University was filled to capacity last Sunday afternoon. Every few moments, chairs were added to the empty spaces near the back of the hall to accommodate the flow of people intent on attending the special symposium on Anti-Semitism in Academia, this year's annual lecture in memory of Harry Crowe, the late Canadian scholar-historian whose efforts to help bring about understanding and peace in the Middle East were legendary.

From the editor's desk

The symposium was introduced by Prof. Irving Abella. "Anti-Semitism is a growth industry of the 21st century," Abella said. "And Israel is the declared target, the collective Jew among nations."

To speak about the manifestation of that growth industry in the hallowed halls and cloistered campuses of academia, the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University invited Prof. Laurie Zoloth of San Francisco State University and Prof. Menachem Kellner of Haifa University.

Zoloth described frightening and alarming personal experiences at her campus, where she personally witnessed expressions of hatred and vilification directed at Jews on occasions when they had peacefully gathered for religious as well as political purposes.

Speaking rapidly though elegantly, mostly from a prepared text that featured frequent rhapsodic turns of literary phrases and delicate descriptive passages, and as someone who unambiguously identifies with the left, Zoloth rhetorically asked: "Why has the American left turned so much against Israel even to the point of not defending free speech on campus when it comes to Jewish causes?"

Zoloth did not specifically answer the question, but in a moving and biting dissertation, identified five classic, archetypical, medieval anti-Semitic calumnies that have been recently recycled, repackaged and resold by the Arab Muslim world into the conflict with Israel and which have become standard anti-Israel and anti-Jewish rhetoric for a large part of western intelligentsia.

- *Deicide*: The image of the slain Christ has metamorphosed into the image of the slain Palestinian. The IDF are the Roman soldiers. Of course the offshoot of this pitiable image is the calumny of the blood libel that has recirculated in the Arab world as Israelis using the blood of slain Palestinian children to make matzah for Pesach and hamantaschen for Purim.
- *Jews as the source of all ills*: Because of the denial of the Christ, or in recycled parlance, because of the continued Jewish "oppression" of the Palestinians, Israel is the central evil in the world from which flow all other evils such as 9/11.
- *Jews as not belonging:* The Jews do not belong, nor do they have any historic right to be, in Muslim Arab territory. A new, even more alarming variation of this theme is being increasingly heard in Europe, where some serious scholars are saying that Jews do not belong in Europe.
- *The all-powerful Jews:* The Jews control the world's money and wield inordinate influence on the international media, all western governments and the corporate world.
- *Misappropriation of Holocaust imagery:* This has led to the intense demonization and Nazification of all things Israeli and Jewish. Or conversely and contradictorily, one hears *Denial of the Holocaust*. This has led to wild accusations throughout the Arab Muslim world of, essentially, racketeering by the Jews of the world, of preying upon Christian decency and conscience in order to establish a Jewish state.

Through constant, deliberate and shameless reiteration, these five archetypes have melded into an ever more ugly transmogrification within western leftist circles: Israel is seen as a racist, colonial, terrorist, pariah state. And like the only pariah state that has ever existed, i.e., South Africa, there is only one way to deal with it: dismantle it.

Kellner also introduced himself as a traditional progressive from the left side of the political spectrum. A scholar of Jewish medieval philosophy, he illustrated the extent to which anti-Semitism permeates British academia by recounting five distinct examples, including the now famous expulsion by Mona Baker of two Israeli academics from the board of her translation journal.

"The question remains," Kellner said, "why do so many academics and intellectuals buy into the Palestinian narrative and eagerly vilify Israel? Why are Israeli errors placed in the foreground while Palestinian ones are placed in the background?"

Answering his own question, Kellner posited a range of responses:

- There is a trend of anti-Americanism, which encompasses Israel by association.
- There is natural sympathy for the underdog and since most people see the Palestinians as the underdogs in their struggle with Israel, it is natural to side with the Palestinians.
- Especially in Europe, oil plays a role in steering sympathy as well as government policy towards the Arabs, as does the presence of large numbers of Muslim communities.
- There is a certain intellectual "laziness" in failing to take the time to understand the history of the area.
- Nothing has changed. Anti-Semitism always existed and will always exist.
- Having assuaged their own guilt over the Holocaust, Europeans now take particular delight in pointing an accusing finger at the Jewish state for its alleged crimes.

But Kellner rejected all the above arguments as being simply too inadequate, too incomplete, to account for the unsettling phenomenon of re-emergent anti-Semitism. He did suggest, however, that the answer might lie in an amalgam of all the above answers: Israel is seen – wrongly – by the intellectual left as part of the domineering western hegemony of oppressed and exploited peoples.

In next week's column, I will record how Zoloth and Kellner suggested we should respond to the phenomenon.

—MBD

SeeJN

ANTI-RACISM PROGRAM GETS FUNDING: York University's Holocaust and anti-racism education program got a welcome boost thanks to the generosity of Mark and Gail Appel (shown centre), who recently donated more than $330,000 toward the initiative. The program, newly named The Mark and Gail Appel Program in Holocaust and Anti-Racism Education at York University: Learning from the Past – Teaching for the Future, is intended to help future teachers develop curricular responses to racism and anti-Semitism. York University Foundation president and CEO Paul Marcus and York president and vice-chancellor Lorna Marsden were on hand to acknowledge the gift.

Strain between Europe, Israel seen worsening

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel's strained relationship with European nations is likely to worsen if the Palestinian uprising continues to boil over, a former Israeli government official said last week.

Meron Medzini also raised the possibility that the Europeans may impose economic sanctions on Israel if there is not a reduction in the current level of violence and if Israel is perceived as an obstacle to a reasonable political settlement.

Furthermore, he observed in an interview, Israel's already poor image in Europe will probably deteriorate if the intifadah rages on.

Israel's present problems in Europe stem from several factors, explained Medzini, who has served three prime ministers – Levi Eshkol, Golda Meir and Yitzhak Rabin – and has been the director of the Israel Government Press Office:

- the presence of a large and growing Muslim population, which is testing its political clout;
- the enormous fear of an Arab-Israeli war, which might affect the price of oil;
- the uneasiness of many left-wing intellectuals with the notion of Jewish nationalism – Zionism;
- the close linkage of Israel with the United States and of Jews with the phenomenon of globalization.

For these reasons, there has been a resurgence of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism throughout Europe, said Medzini, now a senior lecturer at the Hebrew University's Rothberg International School.

Elaborating on the gravity of the situation in Europe, he said that the radical left and the radical right, for the first time, have joined forces with Muslims to lambaste Israel.

In a reference to Europe's mood, he said: "For centuries, Jews were hated because they didn't have a state. Now they're hated because they have a state. You can't win."

Theoretically, the intifadah can go on indefinitely, said Medzini, who was in Canada on a UJA Federation of Greater Toronto information tour and took part in a McGill University academic seminar on the Mideast.

Assessing the impact of the intifadah, Medzini said it has had widespread repercussions.

Apart from devouring the lives of more than 600 Israelis and about 1,800 Palestinians, it has undermined the economies of Israel and the Palestinian Authority, obliterated Israel's ties with such moderate Arab countries as Morocco and Qatar, destroyed Israel's peace camp, rendered Yasser Arafat irrelevant, and radicalized some Israeli Arabs.

By the same token, the revolt has brought Israel greater national cohesion and tightened its relations with the United States.

Appraising the effect of the rebellion on Israeli Arabs, he said, "They're in a terrible bind. They're Palestinians and Israeli citizens."

Medzi said that more and more young and educated Israeli Arabs are demanding a secular state in place of Israel.

"All Israeli governments have been remiss in their treatment of Israel's Arab community," he said, referring, in part, to the unequal allocation of funds to Jewish and Arab municipalities. "It has basically been a policy of neglect."

The current Palestinian leadership supports a two-state solution but only as a temporary measure, he claimed.

Meron Medzini

In his view, the Palestinians will continue to squeeze Israel for further concessions, even after the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Their goal, he said, is to reduce Israel to the status of a small, harmless entity.

Nevertheless, Medzini believes, Israel and the Palestinians can eventually reach a political agreement under which the Palestinians would be granted statehood.

But he doubts whether two other core issues, Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees, can be resolved any time soon.

"Israel can carry on without an overall agreement," he said.

For a settlement to be within the realm of the possible, Israel should be prepared to give up most of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, Medzini said. "I would have no difficulty with that."

Should there be a chance for real peace, the majority of Israelis would accept a withdrawal plan based on ideas proposed by Ehud Barak and Bill Clinton two years ago.

He expects the Bush administration to work vigorously for a two-state solution should the United States invade Iraq and unseat Saddam Hussein.

"The United States will have universal support for a two-state solution."

Medzini described himself as "a very disillusioned Labor party man" who is satisfied with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's foreign policy and security position.

He said he stopped supporting the Oslo peace process in 1994 upon concluding that the Palestinians had no intention of halting their anti-Israel incitement campaign.

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Kathy Meitz and her family
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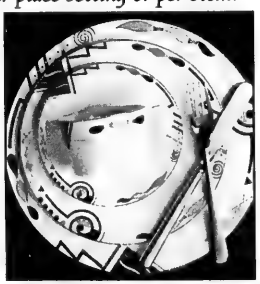

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Adopt-A-Family helps Israeli terror victims

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When Sharon Evans' daughter was badly injured in a terrorist attack in Israel about 1½ years ago, Evans searched for a reason for the tragedy.

"My father was a Holocaust survivor, and he taught me that God always has a plan. He said that Israel was born out of the Holocaust, and that answer has always kept me going," said Evans, founder of Adopt-A-Family, an organization that matches Israeli families who have been victimized by terror with synagogues, individuals and organizations in the Diaspora to facilitate a strong connection between communities.

Evans will be in Toronto to share her experiences with terror victims and to talk about the need for Diaspora Jews to help on Oct. 15 at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham and on Oct. 16 at Holy Blossom Temple.

Evans, who was born and raised in Durban, South Africa, said in a telephone interview from Israel that after her daughter Monique Goldwasser, then 19, was taken to the hospital, she was "unconscious and barely breathing, and had both her legs broken, the main artery in her left leg severed, and her intestines perforated.

"The doctors gave her less than one per cent chance of surviving the night, but I told myself that if my daughter was saved, I would take that as a sign to wake the world up to what is happening in Israel. I would take on a mission to become the voice and faith of all victims of terror. I believe that was God's reason for the tragedy."

Monique is now walking, she said, and although she limps quite badly, has a leg that is partially paralyzed and cannot be on her feet for long periods of time, she is "optimistic, and despite having had 15 operations, never complains. She always looks at the up side of things," said Evans, a single mother with three other children.

Adopt-A-Family, which started up about one year ago, has prospered, said Evans. "To date, about 140 synagogues have made financial pledges to participate for one or more years, 90 have been matched with families, and many others are reviewing the program."

At Holy Blossom, after an initial donation of $25,000, the congregation has adopted the family of 51-year-old Baruch Zinger, a father of four, who was killed last December by two terrorists dressed as Israeli soldiers, and is currently taking on a second family.

Pam Albert, chair of the Adopt-A-Family program at the temple, said that the synagogue's relationship with the Zinger family was cultivated when their youngest child Neta, came to Ontario along with 13 other teenagers, to attend summer camp.

"Some of our Holy Blossom students attending camp helped to make their stay as positive as possible, and another Holy Blossom family visited the camp and was able to send a report to Neta's mother in Israel, reassuring her that her child had adjusted well and was having a great time.

Sharon Evans with her daughter Monique Goldwasser.

"Holy Blossom families visiting Israel have also contacted the Zingers, providing emotional support," said Albert.

"The mother, Nurit, said that she was speechless, and that it warmed her heart to know that Jews so far away were willing to help and to provide moral support. She also said that we have no idea how much this means to the people of Israel."

Evans said that her grassroots organization is geared at getting funds and assistance directly to the families.

"The families know us and know they can approach us 24 hours a day if there is a problem. They know we are not burdened by the miles of red tape associated with the government agencies, and feel that we are there for them and remember them when others seem to have forgotten," she said.

She said that children have become involved in the organization through their school or synagogue. "The requirements for schools are more flexible and we realize that a school will sometimes have a one-time fund-raiser, raise a small sum, and donate it to a family.

"People all over are being unbelievable. The telephone and e-mail has not stopped. I am amazed how the world has stretched out its arms."

The Adopt-A-Family is so simple, said Evans. "We are not asking people to take on all of Israel, we are asking them to make the commitment to help one family rebuild its shattered life. These families need to know that the world cares, and that they are not in this alone."

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Do we have reason to be concerned?

What's going on at Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA)? For years, it propounded a harsh, punitive, discriminatory policy regarding humanitarian activities conducted by Jewish charities beyond Israel's pre-June 1967 borders. That policy was finally discredited in the ruling last month by the Federal Court of Appeal as having had no basis in law.

(Despite the ruling,CCRA's campaign to de-register Canadian Friends of Magen David Adom as a charitable organization under the Income Tax Act continues apace, now on other grounds.)

Last week, CCRA confiscated a newsletter entitled *In Moral Defence of Israel* that was intended for use at a weekend lecture at the University of Toronto. The agency said the confiscation was for the purpose of determining whether the material constituted hate propaganda as defined under the Criminal Code. The brochure, published by the Ayn Rand Institute of California, has since been released by CCRA back to the organizers of the lecture, The Toronto Objectivist Club.

The brochure in question is a mini-anthology of short articles on behalf of Israel in its struggle against the forces that openly seek to inflict harm or much worse upon the Jewish state. Among the titles in the brochure are: *Israel has a moral right to its life: Why reason and justice are on Israel's side*; *Israel's Suicide: The land-for-peace compromise will lead Israel only to self-destruction*; *Conference in Cloud Cuckoo Land: Mideast peace conference premised on fantasies and evasions of fact*; *Radical Islam's assault on human life: Anti-reason, anti-freedom ideas in Islam encourage terrorist fanaticism*.

In short, the articles in the brochure are of a type that appear in countless journals and newspapers, on the radio and on television, across the country, probably every day of the week.

Dr. Yaron Brook, executive director of the Ayn Rand Institute, described the material as "a collection of reasoned essays arguing for support of Israel against our common enemy, militant Islamic terrorism." He honestly and poignantly makes his purpose plain: "Nowhere in the brochure do we incite hatred or urge any illegal private violent action. We call only for a proper response by government to give Israel the support it deserves."

It stuns the mind that an official at CCRA would even remotely consider the need, let alone the propriety of examining this pamphlet.

Given the undisguised hostility towards Israel and brazenly anti-Semitic attitudes that appear so commonly these days in public discourse, it is now appropriate to ask: Is it incompetence, madness, mischief, or something more malign, more sinister taking root at CCRA? We are on high alert watching. Perhaps others should be watching too.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Ferhad Saleh, Dani (Hamid) Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

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In defence of Claims Conference

The article, "A survivor's claim against the Claims Conference" (*CJN*, Sept. 5), was one-sided and did not present a fair evaluation of the good work that the Claims Conference has done over the years. As with all organizations, there are limitations and problems. However, an article that is so critical, without presenting a balanced view or mentioning any positive aspects, only serves to create more anxiety among the survivor community – the fallout of which I see every day.

I am a volunteer on the Information Line for Holocaust Survivors and Their Families at the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors in Montreal. I am a survivor myself, as are all the volunteers on the information line. Our duties involve giving information and referral to survivors regarding restitution and compensation. We also answer survivors' questions about restitution received from the Claims Conference.

The Claims Conference funds a Survivors Assistance Office at the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors, with a full-time staff person who assists survivors in completing applications for restitution and doing follow-up on previous claims. The information line is a part of this office. In addition, the Claims Conference provides funding for various programs within the support services department of the Cummings Centre.

Recently, the Claims Conference also carried out significant ad campaigns within our local media, notifying survivors of various compensation programs. An example of this is the latest ad, which appeared in the same issue of *CJN* as Eli Pfefferkorn's article.

Pfefferkorn gives the impression that the Claims Conference is not accountable at all for any of the funds received from Germany. I object to this statement. The Cummings Centre receives annual reports from the Claims Conference on a yearly basis. In November 2001, a representative from the Claims Conference came to our agency to speak to survivors about existing compensation programs, and she brought with her hundreds of annual reports that were distributed. In these reports, there is a breakdown of monies allocated to various communities around the world.

As a volunteer on the front lines, handling (along with other volunteers) hundreds of telephone calls from survivors and as a survivor myself, I speak with staff from the Claims Conference on a regular basis. I have found them helpful, courteous, hardworking and eager to provide information on both the process and individual claims. The conference updates the Survivor Assistance Office on a regular basis as to the number of cases processed, and makes no secret of these figures.

In addition, the Claims Conference regularly sends our agency bulletins with updates on all existing compensation programs. These also include programs that they do not necessarily administer themselves, such as the Swiss funds and the German social security pension. They do this in order to disseminate as much relevant and current information as possible to the survivor community.

Leslie Vertes
Montreal

* * *

Terror personalized

Since the start of the second intifadah, I have written dozens of letters to your paper. Now the issue of suicide bombers has been personalized for my family and me.

Jonathan Jesner, a 19-year-old student from Glasgow was on a bus when a Palestinian militant detonated his explosives and killed Jesner and five Israelis. Jesner was my wife's cousin. As you reported, his family allowed a kidney transplant to the person most in need, and it ended up saving the life of a young Palestinian girl.

The number of Israelis killed by suicide bombers is proportionately equivalent to the number of victims of Sept. 11. The world applauded the American response, but Israel is still subject to a double standard when it tries to eradicate the terrorists. When Israel recently attacked Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's compound in Ramallah after the latest murderous attack, the European community and the United Nations condemned Israel. Why is this not the same as the Americans bombing the Talibans and the Al Qaeda in Afghanistan? Surely, it must be clear to all right-thinking persons that Arafat has permitted, if not directed, the cycle of violent attacks on civilians. The ultimate answer for peace between Israel and the Palestinians is the removal of Arafat and his corrupt gang of terrorists.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

* * *

Left-right differences

A big kudo to *The CJN* for reporting on the left as well as the right in the Israeli-Palestinian crisis, and for making known the views of Peace Now. And a fat raspberry to David Bronfman for suggesting that Peace Now should be ignored. (Letters to the editor, *CJN*, Sept 5).

There has always been a left as well as a right among Jews in Israel, and neither side has a monopoly on doing what's best or doing what's worst. Left-right differences also exist among Jews in Canada. The two sides cannot afford to ignore each other. They should at least agree to disagree in a civilized manner.

Abraham Arnold
Winnipeg

* * *

Kristallnacht no analogy

I believe distinguished scholar Emil Fackenheim got it wrong when he compared the recent riot at Concordia to Kristallnacht, the anti-Jewish pogrom of 1938 in Germany (Letters, *CJN*, Sept. 19). In the latter case, many German Jews lost their lives, businesses were ransacked, synagogues were burned to the ground. None of this occurred at Concordia.

Rather, at a time when the Middle East is a source of inflamed passion and a great deal of bloodshed, the organizers decided to bring a former Israeli prime minister into a hotbed of anti-Israeli activity. What on earth did they expect? The welcome wagon?

There is no logical connection between a badly policed protest and the events of Kristallnacht. I'm tired of people using the Holocaust as a comparison to every event experienced by the Jews. Many true genocides have happened in recent years, and there has been no outcry over these mass murders. Perhaps it is due to the casual way we bandy about references to the Shoah.

Jeremy Wallace
Montreal

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Anti-Semitism strong in eastern Europe

By DANIEL ROTH

In hindsight, it seems the anti-Semitism that I encountered in Hungary this past summer was much worse than I realized at the time. Considering how scared and confused I was when it was going on, this is not surprising. But it was not the SS symbols spraypainted in the streets of Budapest or the sometimes scolding looks from the other guests at the hostel where we stayed, as much as it was the experiences we endured on the flight over and at the airport in Hungary.

I am 21 years old and I have been a youth leader in the Hashomer Hatzair Youth Movement for six years. When I was 16, I went with my age group from Canada and the United States on a leadership program to Israel. This past summer, I led 16-year-old counsellors in training on their leadership program.

The program this past summer had to be changed because of the situation in Israel. In planning the trip, the organizers decided to shorten the time in Israel from five weeks to 2½ weeks and add components in the United States and in Hungary.

Every other summer, Hashomer Hatzair's European members run an eight-day leadership seminar. This summer, we decided to join them since it fit perfectly with our program. Our group would then continue on to Israel for a shorter-than-usual visit. After one week in the United States, we embarked on our journey to Hungary. There were three group leaders, including myself, and 29 program participants. To keep prices to a minimum, we decided to fly Malev, Hungary's national airline. This turned out be an unfortunate choice.

The moment that we boarded the airplane, I began to feel hostility from the Malev staff toward our group. The airline had refused to let us book our seats together, so before we took off, I needed to take attendance to ensure that all the members of our group were accounted for. As I tried to walk up the aisle and count the kids, I was verbally assaulted by two of the flight attendants. I had spoken to both of them moments earlier, explaining the situation and also explaining that as the group leader, any requests that they may have, in terms of keeping the group "civilized" on the flight, should go through me. They were both quite rude to me in English, and were probably even more so in Hungarian. Even before take-off, it was apparent that the staff on this flight was not going to warm to a group of North American Jews.

During the flight, the kids were slightly louder than the other passengers, but the other passengers were not 16 years old and away from home and their parents, not to mention overseas, for the first time. Of course they were excited.

During the flight, one of my charges, Yotam Marom, turned on his personal CD player. When a flight attendant asked him to turn it off, he complied. She then demanded his passport. Not knowing any better, he handed it over.

After he told me what had happened, one of my co-counsellors, Darya Shaikh, and I spent the next three hours negotiating to get it back. After wasting hours of energy and words, they finally, grudgingly, returned the passport.

Throughout the flight, we had been warned that the police were waiting for us at the airport. Of course, we did not believe that we had done anything to warrant arrest. We were wrong.

(The flight staff, we later found out, were well aware that we were continuing on to Israel eight days later and didn't seem to like the idea of a group of Jewish teenagers on the Hungarian national airline. I suppose it was the rude remarks about North Americans along with the comments on the difference between Hungarian airlines and "Jewish" airlines that led me to realize that they knew our flight plan and that we were a Jewish group.)

I exited the airplane in Budapest and noticed an entourage of airport security and Hungarian police waiting just steps from the gate. Darya and Yotam were already being held, physically, by two rather large police officers with shaved heads. One of the flight attendants yelled something in Hungarian and pointed at me as I walked past her. Immediately, two other police officers grabbed me by each arm and dragged me forcefully over to the side of the gate with the others. The rest of our group, with one leader left, were told by the police officers holding us not to stop or look back, but to keep going through customs and the baggage claim.

The three of us, scared and unable to communicate, were taken to the airport police station, where we waited with a number of guards standing over us.

One of the guards said something to us that still echoes in my head. He said: "Next time you want to travel to your country, try flying on your El Al, maybe they will like you better."

Luckily, the leader of Hashomer Hatzair in Hungary saw us as we were dragged through the airport and came to try to help us. She was like an angel and was very helpful because she spoke Hungarian. However, the officers would only explain to her that there was nothing she could do to help us and then they stopped talking to her. So we waited and waited. After five hours of staring at the blank walls of the small room in which we were being held, one of the officers announced that the report was written and that we were being charged with a number of offences.

The charges were as broad as "not complying with airline rules" to "stealing life vests from under the seats." Many of the charges had been thought up by the flight attendants and some of them were clearly invented by the police as they were writing the report.

Not once were we even asked for our side of the story.

We were then placed in a police car and taken to a police station in Budapest. Once there, we waited again, until a woman called us into her office, where our sentences were handed to us. Being under 16, Yotam was let go. But Darya and I were each given fines of about $40 (US) and suspended sentences for two years, and we were all warned that if we caused any more trouble, we would be thrown in prison.

After a full day, jet-lagged and dirty, and after being held in one small room after another and bombarded with dirty looks and anti-Semitic remarks, we were finally let go. We paid the fine and rejoined our group. Some were in shock, some were crying. They showered us with hugs and kisses.

From left to right: Darya Shaikh, Daniel Roth and Yotam Marom immediately after being released by Hungarian authorities, with their sentences in hand. [Meir Bar photo]

A personal story of encountering intolerance

I have been to Israel nine or 10 times, but this time it felt different. I felt safe from the intolerance we endured that first day in Hungary. What really got to me was not the anti-Semitism (I am aware that it still exists in this world), it was that this time it came to us not from people on the street that maybe don't know better. This time the hate came from representatives of the country, its government and its institutions.

I have a feeling that, like me, most people are not aware that they are being discriminated against until they actually experience it.

Anti-Semitism comes in many forms and from many places. As a member of Hashomer Hatzair and as a teacher in the Jewish community, it's my responsibility to make as many people as possible aware of intolerance and hate, so that one day we may be able to stamp it out.

I have contacted officials at the Hungarian Consulate in Toronto with my story and I have asked for an official apology from the government.

I have yet to get a response.

Daniel Roth is a student in Toronto.

Thoughts on aging

Our long-standing, renowned columnist Rabbi Gunther Plaut will be celebrating his 90th birthday on Nov. 1, please God. CJN *staff reporter Carolyn Blackman recently spoke with Rabbi Plaut in the quiet serenity of his living room. In the course of her research for the interview with Rabbi Plaut, she came across numerous other interviews and talks he has given, and stories written about him. As a precursor for the Blackman interview that will appear in* The CJN *in the next few weeks, we have excerpted for this space this week, a sampling from some of those articles.*

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

* * *

At a recent conference on Aging Smart held at the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine, Rabbi Plaut talked about growing older.

"Older people have it all over the younger set. I find they're more truly alive because they have less stress, they no longer have to compete, and have few family responsibilities.

"They can also take on new challenges that require no schooling."

His wife has been hospitalized for about two years, he said, and he has learned to care for himself. "You don't need a PhD to learn to cook and clean a house."

Rabbi Plaut's book *The Price and Privilege of Growing Old* was reviewed in *The CJN* by columnist Bernard Baskin after the book was released about four years ago.

In the book, Rabbi Plaut talked about his resentment of those who want to relegate the elderly to the "ash heap of society.

"I am eager to rescue the term 'old' from its present disparaging connotation and raise it to the level where the elderly are given a heightened sense of self-respect.

"Age is a relative matter. If you continue to work and absorb the beauty in the world about you, you find that age does not necessarily mean getting old. At least not in the ordinary sense. I feel many things more intensely than ever before, and for me life grows more fascinating."

In addressing the topic of religion, Rabbi Plaut said that it is definitely an aid against loneliness and despair.

"Having spent the major part of my life in a religion-based environment, I have consistently found that people with a strong belief in a meaningful universe – which, after all, is the foundation of religion – have a sense that each person's life is important and that a loving God provides each one of us with the kind of life support that helps us to be at peace with the world."

Religious observance, he says, adds structure to one's life, especially when the regimen of regular work or structured activity is no longer possible.

At the conference, Rabbi Plaut advised participants to "keep agreements and love yourself, and you'll live to be 100."

The Israeli world on stage

If theatre is an indication of the creative impulse in a society, then that impulse exists in abundance in Israel. Over the Sukkot holiday two weeks ago, 200,000 Israelis attended the annual fringe theatre festival in Acco. There, many of Israel's budding playwrights presented their take on topical social issues and human relationships.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

And over the summer, several plays I saw provided ample evidence, yet again, that Israeli theatre is not only prolific but exceptionally creative. Since the language barrier prevents most visitors to the country from attending local productions, theatre remains more of an indigenous cultural experience than dance, music or the visual arts. This is unfortunate, as it denies even many who are close to Israel the opportunity to peer into the soul of the country through its most talented, dramatic writers and artists.

I recently attended three Israeli productions that attest to the breadth and diversity of Israel's theatrical experience. Gesher, the renowned company created by Russian immigrant director Yevgeny Aryeh and his group of immigrant actors, performed Isaac Bashevis Singer's *The Slave*. During the last decade, Gesher has established a new standard in stage acting and production for the entire Israeli theatre community. By combining the best of the Russian classical tradition with a new language and venue, it has created a unique, exhilarating product. At more than three hours long, *The Slave* has been critically hailed for its moving portrayal of the plight of Jews in Czarist Russia and its imaginative, evocative stage design.

At the other end of the spectrum, I saw *Finding Elijah*, winner of the first prize at last year's Acco festival. In 90 uninterrupted minutes, this compelling assault on the audience's hearts and minds told the story of one family's search for their missing soldier son during the Yom Kippur War and made a wrenching, critical statement about life, loss, nationalism and war. To many in the visibly stunned audience, the play hit close to home in its questioning of the futility of battle in a war that, in retrospect, some feel could perhaps have been avoided.

Longings was unique in a different way. Produced by the Jewish-Arab Theatre in Jaffa, it presented the personal narratives of several refugees among Jewish and Arab Israelis. For the Jewish characters, the Holocaust was the searing, formative experience; for the Arabs, it was the need to abandon their homes during the 1948 fighting. In the play, it was precisely the common experience of human suffering and displacement that opened a window of understanding for people separated by a deep divide of history and identity.

The theatre itself was established just two years ago by an Israeli-Jewish and and Israeli-Arab director. On summer weekends, the historic building in old Jaffa hosts jam sessions that combine classical jazz with indigenous Arab music. The result is an exciting blend of traditions and cultures that crosses boundaries.

And then there was a foreign play that reflected the outsider's ironic perspective. In a revival of his successful, 1997 one-man play, *Via Dolorosa*, British playwright David Hare remained surprisingly relevant. He had set out to understand the essence of a conflict that defied his European sensibilities, yet fascinated him enough to take the time to carefully listen to the stories of both Israelis and Palestinians. Watching an outsider's wry commentary is not always easy for anyone deeply attached to one side in the conflict. I squirmed in my seat more than once, but I had to acknowledge that Hare "got it." *Via Dolorosa* has played in Israel, in Hebrew, to full houses.

The scope of Israeli cultural energy puts the lie to the saying that when the guns begin shooting, the muses fall silent. In fact, over the last two years, a new generation of playwrights and filmmakers has used its creative gifts to confront tough questions on Israel's agenda.

In theatres and cinemas, there is a richness of independent, original productions, while attendance numbers confirm not just Israelis' unusually high cultural consumption, but their desire to maintain the routine nature of life as much as possible.

To fully take the pulse of the country, go see an Israeli play or film. If the daily press tells the story of what is happening, stage and film tell the story of what people across the spectrum are feeling and thinking.

Freedom of speech, not freedom for violence

The recent disgraceful assault on both citizens and the principle of free speech at Concordia University has illustrated how confused even supposed experts are on the issue.

The Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) is perhaps the major agency designed to protect academic freedom and freedom of speech on Canadian campuses. They have routinely issued press releases on matters relevant to the Middle East, condemning, for example, the bombing on the Mt. Scopus campus of the Hebrew University. They put out a press release following the Concordia riot, which at first glance, seemed to say all the right things, and even appeared to be "balanced" on the Middle East itself. But closer inspection revealed a bias tilted against Israel, and also supporting a surprisingly restrictive concept of free speech.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

The statement focused on three troubling incidents. The first was the Concordia affair: the CAUT condemned both the angry protest which led to the cancellation of the speech and the subsequent decision of the administration to impose a moratorium. This has the effect as treating both sides as in some way equivalent. In fact, while the moratorium idea can be debated, one must sympathize with Concordia administrators who feared that the situation might spiral out of control and result in a loss of public confidence in the university.

The CAUT statement also deplored two other episodes where supporters of Israel were tarred as free speech opponents. The first referred to the attempt by pro-Israeli groups to have the University of Toronto administration discipline faculty members who had circulated a petition on university e-mail harshly critical of Israel. The second referred to protests by pro-Israeli and other groups at the University of Colorado and Colorado College, where PLO spokesperson Hanan Ashrawi had been invited to speak.

All these incidents were lumped together as comparably undermining free speech. But in fact there are important differences.

Only at Concordia was violence used, including physical assaults, verbal assaults and threats. Only at Concordia did this loud intimidation lead to the actual cancellation of the event. Certainly, Ashrawi's lectures in Colorado went on without incident.

The fact is that for the past several years, there have been harshly anti-Israeli and borderline anti-Jewish speakers who have spoken regularly at Concordia without any violence. Many of these lectures were held Friday night, ensuring that religious Jewish students might not be able to attend. The intimidating harassment that has been rife at Concordia over the past few years has been directed at Jews and supporters of Israel.

More distressing is the underlying premise at work here. CAUT seems to feel that once a university invitation is extended, or once some university-based activity commences, then any criticism which emanates from those with different views is somehow illegitimate and a suppression of free speech.

This is of course ridiculous. Citizens and members of a university community have every right to protest against a current or impending action taken by a university or by a unit in the university. Pro-Palestinian students have every right to object to invitations to speakers, and to hold peaceful protests at the speaking event. And pro-Israeli students have the right to do likewise.

Indeed, trying to convince university authorities to reconsider a decision is not opposition to free speech, it is the exercise of free speech. It is part of vigorous debate. (By the way, while not required, universities should always strive to ensure that controversial speakers invited to a campus can be questioned – in a civil fashion -- by faculty or students who might have opposing views.)

The problem at hand is the use of force, or the threat of the use of force, to lead to the actual prevention of people from speaking. And that is clearly unacceptable. That is what took place at Concordia, and why Concordia's event evoked in some of those present memories of brown-shirted hooligans.

The Kirshner File

A bumper crop of films from the festival

The recent Toronto International Film Festival yielded a bumper crop of movies of Jewish interest, some of which will open in commercial release soon.

Having read the handwriting on the wall, Jews in wartime Europe desperately sought to escape the murderous onslaught of Nazism. In 1940, 2,000 Jewish refugees from Germany, Austria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia boarded the Atlantic – a rusty ship bearing the Panamanian flag of convenience – in Romania, a country under fascist rule. Their destination was Palestine.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Atlantic Drift, a fascinating, sometimes touching, 88-minute documentary by Michel Daeron, recounts their harrowing voyage, paying special attention to a mother and her son.

The voyage from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean was perilous. The Atlantic, while seaworthy, was so overcrowded that it tilted dangerously. Passengers waited for hours to use the unsanitary facilities. There was a shortage of food and water, and disease was rampant. Children who succumbed to illness were thrown into the water by their distraught parents.

On a stopover in Greece, sympathetic authorities provided the refugees with bread and water. Somewhere in the Mediterranean, the Atlantic ran out of coal, forcing the crew to literally dismantle the ship so that its wooden components could be consumed as fuel. Two British torpedo boats refused a call for help, and when the Atlantic docked in Cyprus, the passengers were not allowed to disembark.

Eventually, the Atlantic reached Haifa. But within days, on the heels of a decision by Britain to deport the refugees, the ship set sail for a prison on the Indian Ocean island of Mauritius. A typhoid epidemic killed scores of the new arrivals. The rest were permitted to return to Palestine in the summer of 1945.

Atlantic Drift focuses on Hanna Haendel and her son, Shlomo, whose father, Fritz, committed suicide on the day she discovered she was pregnant with him. Shlomo, haunted by Fritz's untimely death, persuades his mother to join him on a trip to Mauritius. There they visit Fritz's grave site and speak to a former British prison guard who dredges up memories of that bitter, bygone era.

Skillfully blending history with personal reminiscences, this is a film that sheds new light on the plight of Jewish refugees during the Holocaust and Britain's policy on that issue.

Caroline Link's feature film, *Nowhere in Africa*, based on an autobiographical novel by Stefanie Zweig, also deals with the theme of displacement. The focus is on an assimilated German-Jewish family trying to adapt themselves to their new home in rural Kenya.

During the first few moments, the scenes shift between Nazi Germany and the British colony of Kenya, creating a sharp and culturally dissonant juxtaposition. Walter Redlich, a lawyer, has left Germany and pines to be reunited with his wife, Jettel, and their daughter, Regina, the narrator. Jettel (Juliane Kohler) arrives in Kenya on April 20, 1938, Adolf Hitler's birthday, having left her parents behind. Her father, a hotelier, is hopeful that the persecution of Jews will end within a year or two.

Jettel, the personification of a spoiled bourgeois woman, is aghast by the spartan conditions on the remote farm Walter (Merab Ninidze) manages. "We can't live here," she exclaims in exasperation. News of Kristallnacht in Germany chastens her, but Jettel remains xenophobic, and her marriage deteriorates. Regina (Lea Kurka and Karoline Eckertz), however, adapts brilliantly to Kenya. The family weathers a series of crises, from Walter's internment as an enemy alien to Jettel's brief affair with a fellow refugee. As these events occur, Jettel and Walter learn that their parents have been swept up by the Holocaust.

Unfolding to the rhythmic beat of African drums and the harsh beauty of Kenya's countryside, the film reaches its climax when Walter and Jettel must decide whether or not to go back to Germany. *Nowhere is Africa* is a solid, workmanlike film, brimming with local colour and seething with tension. Strangely enough, though, it is emotionally shallow.

Traudl Junge

Max, written and directed by Menno Meyjes, is interesting but ultimately static. Max Rothman (John Cusack), a Jewish painter from Munich, returns from the battlefields of World War I, minus his right arm. He opens an avant garde art gallery, selling works by Paul Klee and George Grosz. There he meets a jobless and homeless aspiring artist. His name is Adolf Hitler (Noah Taylor). Feeling pity for his fellow war veteran, Rothman takes Hitler, wild and scruffy, under his wing. He has hopes that Hitler has it within him to create an "authentic voice" on canvas.

Max, which is essentially about their budding relationship, goes to great lengths to reconstruct what is supposedly Hitler's evolving views of Jews. "I don't believe in anti-Semitism," Hitler says shortly after meeting Rothman. The so-called Jewish question, he explains, should be left to the state, much like public heath and sewage. But as Hitler comes under the corrosive influence of a racist army captain, who speaks glowingly of blood purity and menacingly about Jews, he joins the fledgling national socialist party.

In the wake of the 1919 Treaty of Versailles, as one graphic scene suggests, Hitler evolves into a full-blown anti-Semitic agitator cum propagandist. Rothman attempts to convince Hitler to leave politics, giving him an advance to pursue his artistic dreams. But Hitler, not surprisingly, is a lost cause. He now believes that politics is the "new art." Similarly, Rothman fails to dissuade Hitler from embracing the captain's destructive racial theories.

Although Rothman has a soft spot for Hitler, he has no illusions about him. "You're an awfully hard man to like," he observes in one testy exchange. Rothman's mistress (Leelee Sobieski), completely agrees. "He's the most horrible creature I've ever seen," she declares. As portrayed by Taylor in an over-the-top performance, Hitler is indeed a repulsive character, a person to avoid at all costs.

The imaginary story Meyjes has concocted simmers with possibilities. What might have happened had Hitler met with success as an artist? But *Max* fritters away its potential, Cusack's bold presence notwithstanding, and lapses into dullness.

The living, breathing, fuming Hitler – the genuine article – is the subject of *Blind Spot: Hitler's Secretary*, a riveting documentary by Andre Heller and Othmar Schmiderer.

This is a simple but unforgettable film. A camera is placed in front of Traudl Humps Junge, Hitler's secretary from 1942 on, and she speaks, her words flowing ceaselessly in a gushing torrent.

Plucked from a clerical pool, she was an impressionable 22-year-old typist – the product of a dysfunctional and apolitical family – when she was thrust into the Fuhrer's inner circle. The subservient Junge, who married Hitler's man servant in 1943, looked up to her boss, considering him a father figure. He was a "kindly old gentleman" who treated her with respect and solicitude. But after a while, she revised her opinion of Hitler.

Puffing on a cigarette, she coolly describes him as "an absolute criminal," a person who resorted to "barbaric measures" and to whom human life meant nothing. Junge, 81 when she was interviewed, implies she was never a Nazi.

Junge discloses that Hitler rarely raised Jewish issues in her company. But after he was slightly injured in a 1944 assassination plot, Hitler railed against Jews and Bolsheviks. And on the eve of his suicide, when he dictated his last will and testament to Junge, he blamed the Jews for Germany's imminent defeat.

Junge claims Hitler lost touch with reality in the penultimate year of the war. Nevertheless, she admits candidly, she was reluctant to let go of her "positive image" of him. In the last few months before his death, they shared a shadowy existence in a dank Berlin bunker, losing track of night and day as they shuddered to the deafening roar of bombs and artillery fire. Realizing the end was near, Hitler slurred his words and his face assumed a blank stare.

In spite of her proximity to him, Junge claims she had no idea of what was going on in the outside world. As she tells it, she learned of the Holocaust only in 1946. She comes close to breaking down once, when she chillingly describes the dismal fate that awaited Joseph Goebbels' wife and her daughters.

The Nazi, set in an Israeli penitentiary in 1987, turns on the nature of forgiveness. Helen, a half-Jewish woman whose grandparents survived the concentration camps, has come to visit Franz, who is modelled after war criminal Adolph Eichmann. She wants to forgive him because she can no longer bear the hatred welling up in her. But Franz is condescending and unleashes an anti-Semitic tirade. At best, the moral of this quirky film is ambiguous.

Fuhrer Ex is adapted from the true story of Ingo Hasselbach, an east German neo-Nazi who turned against the movement and wrote the first insider account of it. The film, directed by Winfried Bonengel, is not nearly as good as Hasselbach's searing 1996 memoir. It is plagued by a surfeit of seemingly gratuitous violence and a shortage of reflection, and a viewer never really learns why Hasselbach, the son of a senior Communist official, embraced and propagated anti-Semitism.

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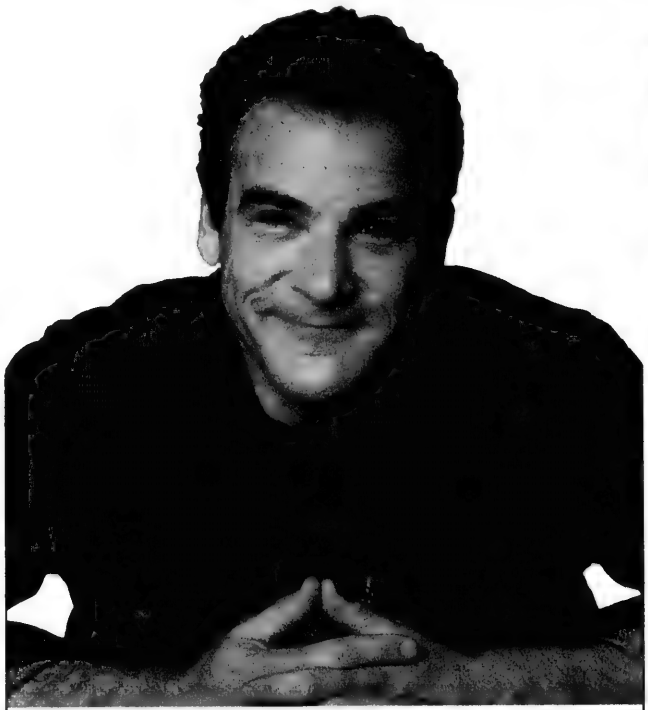

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Shinonome, a Japanese Christian choir, will perform at Temple Sinai.

Japanese choir returns to Temple Sinai

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Shinonome, a Japanese Christian choir, is returning to perform at Temple Sinai on Oct. 20, its third performance at the synagogue in the past 10 years.

The choir is the musical arm of a Japanese Protestant church, the Japanese Christian Friends of Israel (JCFI), or in Hebrew, Beit Shalom.

The church was founded by Takeji Otsuki, following revelations he said he received 50 years ago in Manchuria that convinced him that only harmonious co-operation between Jews and non-Jews could bring about the Messiah. Otsuki, who founded the Mzra Society of Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, has since received an honorary doctorate from the institution.

Church members pray for peace in Israel and believe that only when a permanent peace is established will the peace of the world be realized. Among church activities, JCJI holds special meetings once a month to which Jewish lecturers are often invited. It also runs short-term residences in several places throughout the country that are used by Jewish visitors.

Choir members, many of whom are church ministers, professionals, businesspeople and seminary students, come from many of the denomination's 100 churches throughout Japan.

Ben Steinberg, composer-in-residence at Temple Sinai, says that members finance their own trip and do not charge for their performance, but in order to raise money for victims of terror in Israel, they have decided jointly with the temple to charge $18 general admission, or $16 for seniors and students.

Steinberg, who has been invited to Japan three times and has conducted choirs across the country, said the first half of the Oct. 20 program will consist of Japanese folk and dance music, while the second half will be Israeli folk songs and Jewish liturgical texts, including several Steinberg works sung with Temple Sinai cantor Gershon Silins.

Many choir members speak Hebrew, said Steinberg, and the choir president plans on giving a speech in Hebrew.

"I was once conducting a choir in Boston, and when I tried to converse in English to a Shinomone member, he told me in Hebrew that he does not speak English but does understand Hebrew."

Tickets are available at the temple office or by calling 416-487-4161.

Noted historian to address lecture

Noted historian, author and speaker Rabbi Berel Wein will speak on the topic, Personal Righteousness and Civic Responsibility, at the first annual Rebbitzen Judy Taub Memorial Lecture.

Rabbi Wein, formerly a pulpit rabbi in Monsey, N.Y., has written several books and many articles. He now lives and works in Israel, where he teaches at Ohr Somayach and Beit Knesset Hanasi, writes a column for the *Jerusalem Post* and produces animated films about great Jewish personalities.

Rebbitzen Taub died last fall at the age of 55.

The event, sponsored by the sisterhood, will be held at Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation in Thornhill, Oct. 15, at 8 p.m. There is no charge.

The speech will be preceded by a private dinner for the Taub family and shul members.

During the evening, the congregation will dedicate the sisterhood hall as the Rebbitzen Judy Taub Hall.

Together with her husband, Rabbi Baruch Taub, she helped found the synagogue in 1981, and was instrumental in starting the sisterhood and developing it into a major force in the life of the congregation.

Over the years, she was very involved in what was going on both in the synagogue and in the lives of the congregants. She was especially known for her teaching of bat mitzvah girls and brides. For more information, call the synagogue at 905-886-3810.

Jewish day school appointments for 2002–2003

COMMUNITY HEBREW ACADEMY OF TORONTO

After four years at the school, **Paul Shaviv** has been appointed the director of education, a newly created post. He has master's degrees from both Cambridge and Oxford universities, and has a long career in Jewish high schools.

Paul Shaviv

Jerry Tollinsky joined the school last year as the director of development, charged with creating the necessary resources for the school. He was formerly with Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University.

After a career in the public school system and 12 years serving as CHAT principal of general studies, **Sheldon Friedman**, who has a master of education degree, has been appointed the overall campus principal at the Tanenbaum campus.

Gary Levine, who also has a master's in education, is now the principal of the Richmond Hill campus.

DOWNTOWN JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

Pearl Greenspan, who has a master of arts degree, has been appointed vice-principal. She has worked as senior division co-ordinator at Bialik Hebrew Day School, followed by a position as Judaic studies co-ordinator for the elementary division at United Synagogue Day School. In addition to a principal's certification from the Jewish Theological Seminary, Greenspan has certificates as a guidance specialist, as a reflective practice trainer and in special education.

The new business manager, **Franklin Smith**, who has an MBA, has experience in the private, public and non-profit sectors. His specialty has been in the areas of organizational development, change management and business reengineering, particularly as they apply to school boards and municipalities.

Zita Gardner

EITZ CHAIM DAY SCHOOLS

Rabbi Isser Pliner is the new dean of the school and principal of the boys' division. He has a master's degree in education and a principal's certification for both elementary and high schools and worked as the dean of the Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh.

Jan Lapedus

LEO BAECK DAY SCHOOL

Director **Zita Gardner** will be filling a new role as a result of the school's altered structure, which has created two campuses, each with its own administration.

Principal of the Atkinson campus, **Jan Lapedus** has a master's degree in educational administration from the University of Toronto and provincial principal's qualifications.

Eric Petersiel

Eric Petersiel is the new principal of the Holy Blossom campus. Petersiel has a master's degree in biblical Hebrew language and literature from the University of Toronto, as well as provincial principal's qualifications.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE DAY SCHOOL

The new director of development, **Rosie Sosnowicz** has fund-raising experience from her years at the Canadian Technion Society, the American Technion Society in New York and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Sosnowicz has a bachelor of social work from McGill University and a master of social work from the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University, New York.

Rosie Sosnowicz

Former acting principal, **Kathy Friedman** is now the principal of the Bathurst Street campus.

ZAREINU EDUCATIONAL CENTRE

New executive director **Reuven Spiegel** has a master's degree from Brandeis University's double program. Spiegel has worked at UJA Federation as well as Associated Hebrew Day Schools on major capital projects and fund-raising events.

Reuven Spiegel

legacy of life — Morris B. Kaufman 1911 – 1997

Looking around Rose Kaufman's Toronto home, it's obvious family plays an integral role in her life. Smiling faces radiate from dozens of photographs perched proudly on coffee tables and sideboards and on walls and shelves. It's a scene that brings great warmth and tranquility not only to Mrs. Kaufman but also to anyone she welcomes into her home.

Yet as she gazes at the photographs, Mrs. Kaufman sees much more than three children, nine grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Within every photo is a reminder of Morris, her husband of almost 60 years.

"When Morris died, the community lost a good one," says Mrs. Kaufman as she lovingly leafs through dozens of photo albums and newspaper articles piled high on her bedroom bookshelf. "I have so many plaques and not enough walls to put them on."

Morris Kaufman earned countless plaques and much praise during his lifetime for his steadfast devotion to his people and his community. His forté was fundraising and he did it with style, single-handedly raising millions of dollars for communities in Toronto and Israel. He served as UJA's Campaign Chair in 1966 and was involved in numerous organizations including UJA Federation's Endowment Fund (now called the Jewish Foundation), State of Israel Bonds, Baycrest Centre, Mount Sinai Hospital, Jewish National Fund and Associated Hebrew Schools. He supported a host of Israeli universities and was a central figure in the creation of Beth Tzedec Congregation, eventually becoming its president.

By all accounts, there wasn't a cause that didn't have a Kaufman connection.

"I can still remember Morris' words," recalls Wilfred Posluns, who credits Mr. Kaufman with getting him involved in community service years ago. "When it came to UJA, he'd say, 'That's motherhood.' When it came to Jewish education, he'd say, 'Without education there won't be Jews.' He was persistent and he believed in his cause. And people responded willingly."

The reason he did it was simple: Morris was a proud Jew. Says Rose: "He always said, 'Remember who you are and where you come from.'"

Morris Kaufman as a teenager in Sarnia, Ont.

"MBK," as he was affectionately called, was born in 1911 in Galicia and moved to Sarnia, Ont., in his early teens to live with his aunt. Soon after, young Morris found work in a Sarnia scrap metal yard and peddled his wares by horse and buggy, learning to speak English on the fly and going to school at night. By 15, he was active in Zionist youth groups and later joined B'nai Brith. By 20, he had saved enough money to bring his mother and six siblings to Canada. They all settled in Toronto, where Morris met and married Rose. He went on to build the hugely successful Toronto Refiners and Smelters.

"The same driving force that resulted in my Dad becoming a self-made financial and industrial success drove him as far as the Jewish community was concerned," says daughter Lynn Sigel. "He was a family man, and the Jewish community was simply an extension of his family."

When people think of Morris, they can't help but smile. They say he always arrived at meetings with his pockets full of papers, and at a critical moment would reach deep into those pockets and produce a paper to support his argument. Anyone who had a conversation with Morris was bound to learn a new Yiddish proverb or a Hebrew phrase plucked from the Bible or the Talmud. He loved the outdoors, be it his cottage on Lake Simcoe, fishing in Canada, Israel or the U.S., golfing or swimming.

But what they most admire is that Mr. Kaufman drew people close. His passion for Israel and the Jewish people sparked many others to follow in his footsteps, including his family. His children Lynn, Deenna and Ira are all involved in Jewish community work and his eldest grandson, Anthony Sigel, has also taken on a leadership role.

"Morris had such enthusiasm and a drive for success," says Mr. Posluns. "He had this way of convincing you of the needs in the community and the efforts that had to be put in to get there. He made you want to participate, to work with him, to raise money, to give money. It was what he was all about."

If you have a suggestion for future Legacy of Life profiles, please call Perri at 416.631.5728.

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto
UJA Federation

El Al, Air Canada sign 'codesharing' agreement

Continued from page 1

"This codeshare agreement underscores El Al's commitment to achieving and enhancing the level of service on this route even during these difficult times in the airline industry and for Israel as a whole," added Rami Fischer, El Al's manager for Canada.

El Al's fall and winter schedule offers flights to Israel on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Under the newly inked arrangement, passengers wishing to travel on other days will be booked on Air Canada while El Al's 6,000 frequent flyer members will continue to earn points flying on the codeshared Air Canada routes, Morais said. El Al will increase its flight frequency to four per week for the busy summer season, he added.

Air Canada also announced it was signing a codesharing agreement with Lufthansa for flights from Frankfurt to Tel Aviv. The Canadian airline touted the agreement as improving its customers' choices for daily flights to Israel while enhancing convenience for those who want to make a stopover in Europe.

"These codeshare agreements benefit Air Canada's customers by providing easy access to a greater choice of flights," said Bill Bredt, vice-president, Network and Revenue Management. "We constantly strive to provide our customers with superior schedules, so in addition to maintaining our four times weekly operation, we are very pleased to offer our customers this improved schedule with El Al and Lufthansa."

Under a codesharing agreement, each airline books a block of seats on the other's flights and offers them to its passengers using the booking airline's tickets. However, passengers switching between airlines will still have to change planes and even terminals in Toronto, Morais acknowledged.

El Al has previously initialed similar agreements with Iberia Airlines and Delta. "It's almost like a strategic alliance that allows airlines to offer passengers seamless travel and more options, more days," he said.

Although travel to Israel is down as a result of the security situation, the airline posted respectable numbers on the Tel Aviv route this summer. Offering four flights per week on the airline's new 282-seat Boeing 777s, El Al flew at 90 per cent capacity, Morais said.

Still, travel to Israel is down overall in recent years, and more than 60 hotels have been forced to close due to lack of business. Jewish passengers, travelling as part of missions, groups or organizations, continue to choose El Al as a way of helping the country's national airline and Israeli workers, Morais said. However, "the numbers are nothing like they were in the past" for Christian groups, which once made up a substantial proportion of El Al's passenger traffic.

On another issue, Morais said the Toronto office had no information about recent reports the Israeli government is considering privatizing the airline and how that might affect flights from Canada. News reports from Israel, quoting the cabinet secretary, indicated El Al will be sold to private investors. That reversed an earlier decision to keep 51 per cent of the company in the hands of the government.

According to the new plan, approved by a ministerial committee, 49 per cent of the company would be sold in the first part of 2003 and the remainder would be sold in phases.

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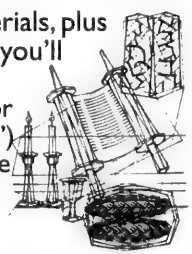

Illustration: Ismar David

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The "Home for the Holidays" series is made possible by the generosity of the Les and Minda Feldman Charitable Foundation.

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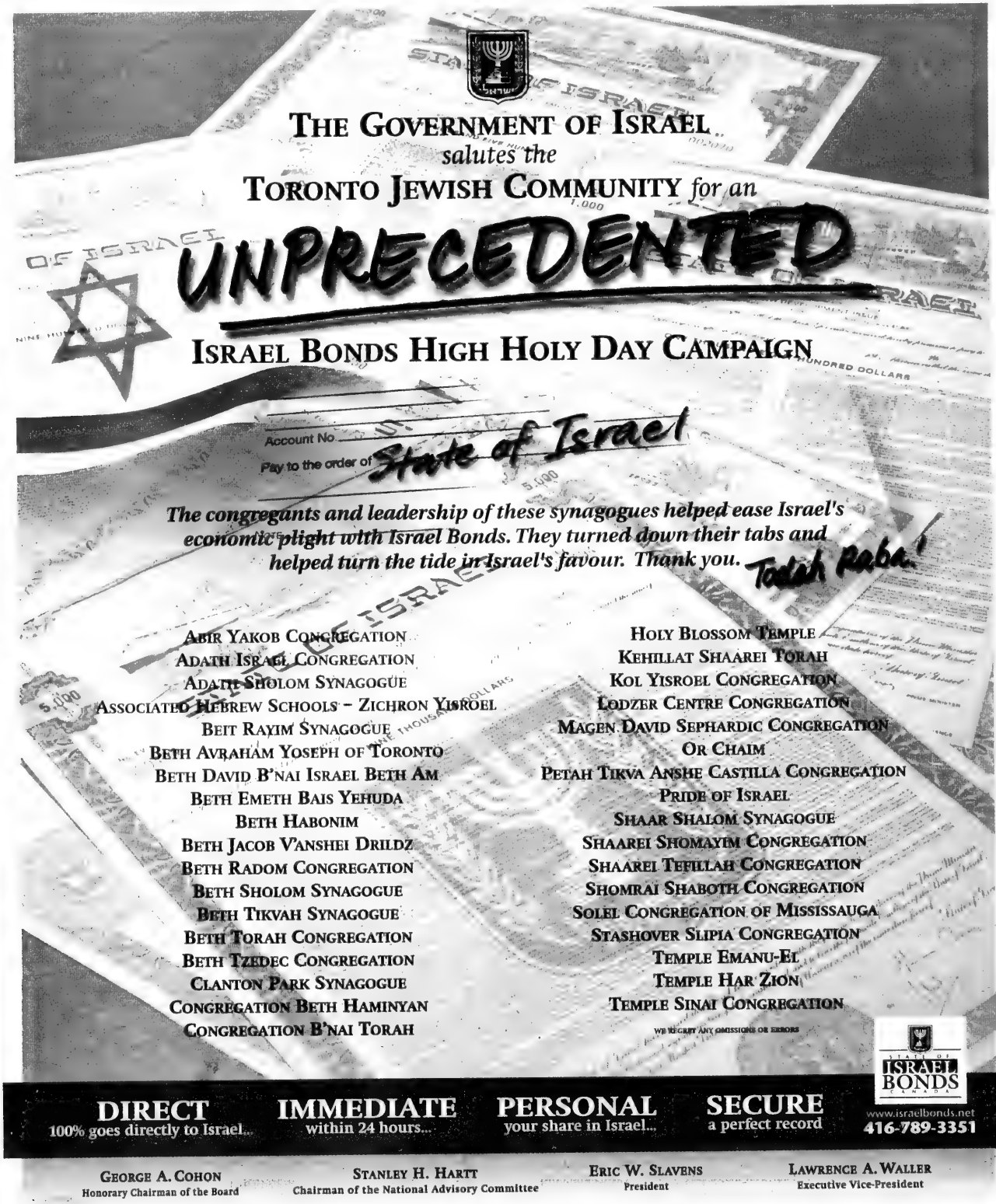
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Again this year, Reena clients had the opportunity of attending High Holiday Services in their neighbourhood synagogues at no charge.

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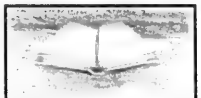
The Village Shul

Equal in the eyes of our Creator

By RABBI JORDAN D. COHEN



Rabbinic Reflections

After disembarking from the Ark, the first thing Noah does is build an altar and offer a burnt offering to God. The Holy One acknowledges Noah's offering and in return promises never again to destroy the earth, despite the human inclination to do evil.

Rashi notes that the repetition of the promise, "Never again... nor will I ever again..." indicates that this promise is delivered as a solemn oath. This notion is reinforced by the prophet Isaiah in this week's Haftarah: "For this to Me is like the waters of Noah. As I swore that the waters of Noah would nevermore flood the earth, so I swear that I will not be angry with you or rebuke you." (Isaiah 54:9). God then confirms this oath for all time with the symbol of the rainbow.

Since that time, God has kept this solemn promise. Humankind, on the other hand, has continued to give in to the evil inclination. Immediately after the covenant, we see Noah getting drunk, Ham's sexually aberrant behaviour, and the arrogance of the builders of the Tower of Babel.

So what is the difference between the generations before the flood, when "the Eternal saw how great was human wickedness on earth, and how every inclination of their heart's cunning was nothing but evil all the time" (Genesis 6:5) and the generations after the flood, when "the inclinations of the human heart are evil from his youth" (Genesis 8:21)? Did the flood have any effect at all? Did human nature change at all? It would appear not.

There have been no fundamental changes in humanity since creation. The DNA of Adam and Eve was passed down through Noah and his wife and on to all the generations that followed.

What did change, however, is how God deals with humanity. After the deluge, the world is given another chance. But this time God is not taking any chances. After the flood, the new world order is defined by covenant and law. God knows that human beings have an inclination to do evil, and so this time, safeguards are put in place.

This first covenant is made with the b'nai Noach – the children of Noah, the progenitor of all humans to follow. It will be another 10 generations before God makes the special covenant with Abraham that marks God's specific relationship with the Jewish people and is characterized by the observance of the mitzvot.

But even before the covenant with Abraham, the rabbis of the Talmud teach us, there are seven precepts that are incumbent upon all peoples. All humans must avoid idol worship, incest, murder, blaspheming God's name, theft, injustice and eating flesh cut from a live animal (Sanhedrin 56a-b).

The late Rabbi Pinchas Peli, author and biblical commentator, points out that "if God is, as He is in the Bible, the creator of all human beings, He could not have cared only for Israel and instructed them exclusively in the way of living." From this point on, with the introduction of Abraham at the end of parshat Noach, the story becomes the story of the Jewish people. But before we were Jews, we were humans, and before the 613 mitzvot were set for the children of Israel, seven laws were established for the children of Noah. Like all the descendants of Adam, we struggle with our very human inclination to do evil. But with the establishment of God's covenant with Noah and the giving of law, we all stand equal in the eyes of our Creator.

Rabbi Cohen is the associate director of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning in Toronto.

Evidence says PLO was not neutral in Gulf War

MYTH:

The PLO was neutral in the Gulf War.

FACT:

The PLO, Libya and Iraq were the only members who opposed an Arab League resolution calling for an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait. The intifadah leadership sent a cable of congratulations to Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, describing the invasion of Kuwait as the first step toward the "liberation of Palestine."

PLO leader Yasser Arafat played a critical role in sabotaging an Arab summit meeting that was to have been convened in Saudi Arabia to deal with the invasion. Arafat, the *New York Times* reported, "diverted attention from the planned summit and helped capsize it" by showing up in Egypt with a "peace plan" devised by Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi.

According to an eyewitness account by *Al-Ahram* editor Ibrahim Nafei, Arafat worked hard to "water down" any anti-Iraq resolution at the August 1990 Arab League meeting in Cairo. Arafat "moved from delegation to delegation, hand in hand with Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, who was openly threatening some Gulf and other Arab delegates that Iraq would turn them upside down," Nafei wrote (*Al-Ahram*, Aug. 12, 1990).

In Amman, Jordan, a PLO official warned that Palestinian fighters had arrived in Yemen.

"We expect them to take suicidal operations against the American troops in Saudi Arabia if the Americans move against Iraq," he declared. "There are more than 50,000 Palestinian fighters" in both Kuwait and Iraq, he said, who "will defend the interests of Iraq" (United Press International, Aug. 10, 1990).

Abul Abbas, a member of the PLO executive committee, threatened that "any American target will become vulnerable" should the United States attack Iraq (Reuters, Sept. 4, 1990).

In Jenin, Aug. 12, 1,000 Palestinians marched, shouting: "Saddam, you hero, attack Israel with chemical weapons" (Associated Press, Aug. 12, 1990).

According to a variety of sources, the PLO played an active role in facilitating Iraq's conquest of Kuwait. The logistical planning for the Iraqi invasion was at least partially based on intelligence supplied by PLO officials and supporters based in Kuwait. One Arab diplomat was quoted in the British newspaper *The Independent* as saying that on arrival in Kuwait, Iraqi officials "went straight to their homes, picked them up and ordered them to go to work."

The Iraqi Embassy had compiled its own list of key Kuwaiti personnel, said the diplomat, "but who helped them? Who were the skilled technicians who worked alongside the Kuwaitis and knew all this information?" he asked. ("The Palestinians," *Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 8, 1990).

When the United States began massing troops in Saudi Arabia, Arafat called this a "new crusade" that "forebodes the gravest dangers and disasters for our Arab and Islamic nation." He also made clear his position on the conflict: "We can only be in the trench hostile to Zionism and its imperialist allies who are today mobilizing their tanks, planes, and all their advanced and sophisticated war machine against our Arab nation" (*Sawt al-Sha'b*, Sept. 4, 1990).

Once the war began, the PLO executive committee reaffirmed its support for Iraq: "The Palestinian people stand firmly by Iraq's side." The following day, Arafat sent a message to Saddam hailing Iraq's struggle against "American dictatorship" and describing Iraq as "the defender of the Arab nation, of Muslims and of free men everywhere" (Agence France-Presse, Feb. 26, 1991).

Arafat's enthusiasm for Hussein was undaunted by the outcome of the war. "I would like to take this opportunity to renew to your excellency the great pride that we take in the ties of fraternity and common destiny binding us," he said in November 1991. "Let us work together until we achieve victory and regain liberated Jerusalem" (Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network, Nov. 16, 1991).

Leaders of Israel's peace movement expressed their disgust for the PLO's actions. One would need a gas mask to overcome the "toxic, repulsive stench" of the PLO's attitude toward Saddam Hussein, Yossi Sarid said (*Ha'aretz*, Aug. 17, 1990). Another activist, Yaron London, wrote in an open letter to the Palestinians in the territories: "This week you proved to me for many years I was a great fool. When you ask once again for my support for your 'legitimate rights,' you will discover that your shouts of encouragement to Saddam have clogged my ears" (*Yediot Achronot*, August 1990).

Source: Myths and Facts – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict *by Mitchell G. Bard, www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org.*

Jewish Life

Simchat bat & the Internet

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week we looked at some of the online resources for a brit milah. The birth of a girl or a boy is a wonderful simchah, but the two are marked by different religious observances. A boy will have a brit, perhaps preceded by the shalom zachar (welcome to the baby boy), a party held on the first Friday evening after the birth. **[http://www.shemayisrael.co.il/childrens/zachor/index.htm]**

But what about the girls?

Traditionally, the baby girl is named on the next day that the Torah is read. The father is called to the Torah, special prayers and blessings are recited on behalf of the mother and the newborn baby. And at that point, the baby's name is formally announced. **[http://www.emoil.com/girl.htm]**

An essay at Circumcision.net suggests that there isn't a corresponding ceremony to the brit milah for girls because "the female gives expression to this spiritual covenant through a lifetime commitment to the Torah laws governing family purity... Moreover, all privileges connected to this covenant accrue to the girl from the moment she is born." **[http://www.circumcision.net/FAQ.htm#Why isn't there a corresponding ceremony for girl?]**

However, in recent years, many parents have felt a need to hold more elaborate ceremonies welcoming their Jewish daughters into the world. These baby-naming celebrations may be called brit bat, brit banot Yisrael, simchat bat or seder zeved habat, the Sephardi naming ritual for girls. For a very good overview of their evolution, take a look at B'nai Brith's Jewish Monthly Online "Thank Heaven for Little Girls: Finally, a Wholehearted Welcome for Half the Jewish People." **[http://shlk.com/158]**

The article suggests that "there are no prohibitions to prevent religiously observant parents from honouring the birth of a girl baby. Thus, this fledgling ceremony has taken its first tentative steps into Jewish households across the religious spectrum... Some read a loving note to their newborn or give her a gift of a kiddush cup or Shabbat candlesticks. David and Leslie Mirchin of Cambridge, Mass., taught those assembled at their simchat bat the Hebrew song *El HaMaayan* – to the fountain of water – in honour of their own new fountain of joy, Maayan Levy Mirchin."

Cantor Philip Sherman suggests that a celebration is appropriate any time before her first birthday. "Parents may wish to have a special gathering at a later date to afford the new mother and baby the opportunity to share in the celebration. On Shabbat, a Kiddush or luncheon may be held in the synagogue following services. In addition to the meal, the new parents may offer a few words describing their feelings about the birth of their daughter, perhaps including an explanation of the baby's Jewish name(s). No event such as this is complete without a d'var Torah, a brief exposition relating to the portion of the week or other relevant Jewish themes." **[http://www.kolot.com/FS1999/girlborn.shtml]**

Greg and Carolyn Priest-Dorman of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., wanted to create their own ceremony for the birth of Leora Rose. **[http://www.cs.vassar.edu/~priestdo/ZevedHaBat.html]** But instead of creating a brand new ceremony, they decided to adapt the Sephardi seder zeved habat (gift of a daughter), which "expressed the sense of joy and wonder we felt at being parents of a girl-child." They timed their celebration to coincide with the Birkat Halevanah, the blessing preceding the appearance of the new moon, which they "felt achieved the perfect balance of traditional Jewish ritual with the almost universal human equation of women and the cycles of the moon."

Tova Gabrielle Wilensky was born at 12:51 p.m. on Thursday, April 30, 1998, Israel's 50th birthday. A month later, her family celebrated Tova's arrival. **[http://www.clarityconnect.com/webpages/wilensky/naming.htm]** The ceremony concluded with the hopes that all Jewish parents could echo: "We dedicate our child to Torah, to a never-ending fascination with study and learning. With a book, she will never be alone. We dedicate our child to chupah, to never-ending growth as a human being capable of giving and receiving love. With a loving friend, she will never be alone. We dedicate our child to ma'asim tovim, to a never-ending concern for family and community, justice and charity. If she cares for others, she will never be alone."

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

An unusual journey

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

As we read the Torah portions at this time of year, our minds ponder the various aspects of a journey. Avram, Sarai and their family begin a journey toward Israel and toward covenant. It is not a story of arrival, but the beginnings of an eternal journey taken in the presence of God. Avram and Sarai grow to become Avraham and Sarah and as promised, many nations grow from this family and their names endure even until today.

Each subsequent ancestral generation begins its personal journey toward land and toward covenant. Each stage shows us growth and development and each follows in the footsteps of those who came before but ventures out on its own, imprinting footsteps for those who will follow.

Yet each journey is fraught with danger. The Jerusalem Talmud states that in all journeys there is the presumption of mortal peril. There is a special prayer recited upon embarking on a journey which asks for divine protection and peaceful arrivals.

But spiritual journeys are equally challenging and we should likewise utter a prayer of supplication.

Every Jew since the time of Abraham and Sarah is born into their journey. Each one of us struggles to leave footsteps their children can follow and prays they can one day venture beyond. But we do not hope for an endless journey. In fact we pray for a safe arrival.

The portrait of our destination must be clear, otherwise we fail to recognize the markers along the way. Often the travelling is filled with missed opportunities because the traveller was too meek to boldly venture forth.

There is a beautiful midrash about a sage who travelled throughout Israel. Upon arriving at Mount Sinai, he heard a divine voice lamenting 'Woe is Me that I uttered an oath to send Israel into exile. Who will nullify it for Me?' When the other sages heard of this, they were dumbstruck. Not at the divine lament, but that the travelling sage did not immediately say, 'Your oath is nullified.' When we set out on our journeys, we can't afford to miss those opportunities God places in our paths.

Yet what is profoundly telling about this midrash is that accompanying the sage on his journey is an Arab – a member of a people who throughout history have been more an enemy than a neighbour.

Yet for an instant in time, they are travelling together, each appreciating the spiritual and physical elements of the journey. No strife, no war. At one point the Arab turns to the sage and asks "Would you like me to show you where the heaven and earth kiss?"

These days it's hard to imagine such a midrash. The journey is all too often filled with heartbreak. But sometimes it helps to glimpse an ancient text that provides a portrait of a destination.

* * *

A few weeks ago, I co-authored an article with Anna Morgan discussing our views of Jews who choose to express their disagreement with Israel's policies through actions (eg., anti-Israel boycotts etc.). One of the *CJN*'s readers wrote a letter to the editor implying we were criticizing anyone who voiced disagreement with Israel's policies. Unfortunately, this was a misunderstanding of our article, which clearly stated that while we welcome differing opinions, we were critical of anti-Israel actions that followed subsequent to those opinions.

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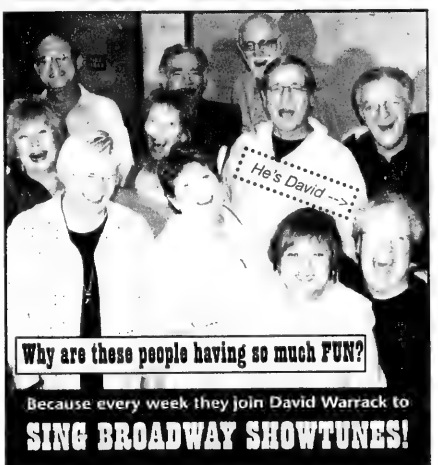

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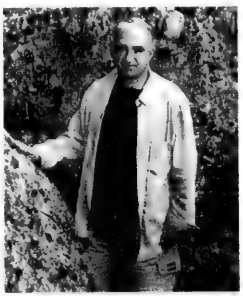
Jewish Toronto

Torontonian making a difference in Israel

In 1991, David Blank made aliyah and looking back at the move over a decade later, Toronto's loss was definitely Israel's gain.

Blank, 59, who made the move to Jerusalem with his wife, Gladys, and children, Robin, Mark, and Jeffrey, is the driving force behind *Chelev Ha'aretz – The Best of the Land* – a centre for Israel's vulnerable.

Chelev Ha'aretz is one of the organizations to which funds raised by UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 have been allocated. Established in the southern Jerusalem neighbourhood of Bak'a, the centre offers an essential service to at-risk children and the elderly by offering them a warm home and hot meals.



David Blank

The purpose of the centre is to make available a wide range of learning and leisure-time activities, offsetting the effects of poverty and broken homes, with the ultimate hope of keeping the children free from drugs and crime.

"The kids come here after school for a hot meal and programs designed to keep them off the streets, and to learn skills crucial to becoming responsible adults," says Blank.

The centre's daily soup kitchen supplies hot food for the elderly and disadvantaged, with Shabbat meals distributed on Fridays and special meals before Passover. The centre also conducts Passover seders every year.

With son Mark's help – he's in the computer business – the Blank family donated a fully equipped computer room to the centre while daughter Robin contributed a seder for 120 disadvantaged individuals.

"We also give them shoes, and make sure they have clean clothes on their back," adds Blank. "The way I look at it is, kids without shoes can't go to school."

A few years ago, with the help of Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert, the centre obtained a permanent residence. The building, located on Gideon Street in Bak'a, has been gradually renovated by the centre and its staff.

"If you had seen this neighbourhood 20 years ago, you wouldn't have recognized it compared to today," says Blank, a former member of UJA Federation's Board. "It was a slum back then."

The children of Chelev Ha'aretz work with clay in an arts and crafts class

The centre offers many workshops, a library and recreational games, as well as love and guidance supplied by the dedicated staff.

"Many of our staff members were once children here whom we took in off the streets," says Blank. "That's our goal – to show other children that there is hope for a brighter future, and that it is possible for them to be productive members of Israeli society."

The achievements of *Chelev Ha'aretz* were recently recognized when it was awarded a prize for education and social work by the Municipality of Jerusalem, the Organization of Community Centres, and other public bodies.

More importantly, its achievements can be measured by the hundreds of youth who have, through its efforts, successfully completed their high school matriculation exams and gone on to finish their compulsory army service, becoming an integral part of Israeli society.

Family funday

Feeling the need to do something "hands-on" to help Israel during its current difficult situation, Toronto's Sherri Baine found inspiration during a recent conversation with her mother-in-law Miriam, originally from South Africa.

"She was reminiscing about the bake sales and garage sales they held there, on behalf of Israel," says Baine. From that conversation, and with the High Holidays quickly approaching, came the idea for the Israel Family Funday held on Erev Yom Kippur, with proceeds designated for UJA Federation.

Joining forces with her sister-in-law Andrea Shugar-Herman, good friend Isaac Szpindel, cousin Marda Sperber, and plenty of youngsters, the Baine backyard on Lyonsgate Avenue was quickly transformed into a festival.

All in all, almost $700 was raised during the day for UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003. In fact, the impact of Israel's importance was not lost on Baine's youngest, 3-year-old Jacob.

"During all the fun, little Jacob came up to me and out of nowhere said; 'we're giving the money to Israel, right mommy? We are because it's very sad there right now.'"

"The kids were definitely a huge factor in this whole idea," says Baine. "We wanted to give the children a real sense of just how important Israel is to all of us as Jews in the Diaspora. We knew that our kids would bring plenty of other little ones out too."

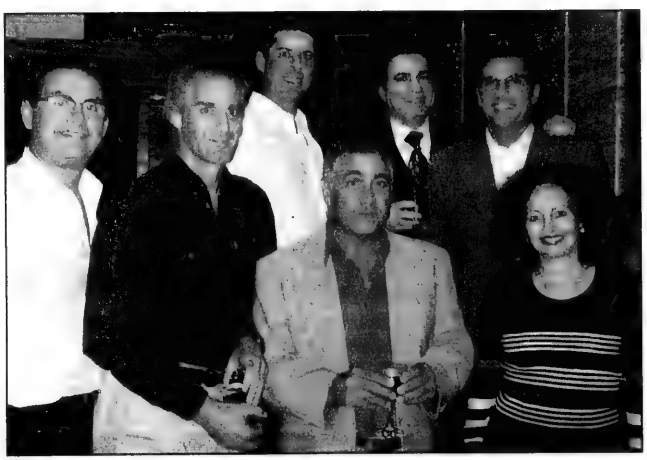
Shimmy Wenner (l), Director of Donor Services, UJA Federation, accepts proceeds from the organizers of a recent Israel Family Funday.

Along with games and a raffle, the children also participated in letter writing and picture painting, with kids in Israel as recipients of their handiwork.

Many companies generously donated their products including Richmans Bakery, Levitts, Royal Specialty, and Kosher City.

"The whole community really came together on Israel's behalf," adds Baine. "We hope to do it again next year, even bigger."

UJA mission paricipants reunite



Participants on UJA Federation's Prime Minister's Mission, held June 16 to 23, 2002 came together on October 2nd to reminisce about their trip.

The reunion, at the home of Allan and Hinda Silber, featured addresses by mission tour guides Mike Rubin and Ezra Eini, whose 22-year -old son, Moshe, an IDF captain, was killed by Palestinian terrorists in February.

The mission, chaired by Ronnie Appleby, Howard Sokolowski, Michael Buckstein and Stephen Goldhar, was one of 29 UJA solidarity missions to Israel in the past two years.

Pictured from left to right are (front row) *Allan Silber, Mike Rubin, Ezra Eini, Hinda Silber*
(back row) *Stephen Goldhar, Ronnie Appleby, Howard Sokolowski*

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Jewish Toronto

Sharing the past Celebrating life

Chairs of this year's survivor's conference, Eve Bergstein (l) and Anita Ekstein.

From October 11-14, Toronto's Regal Constellation Hotel will welcome an estimated 500 delegates to The annual *International Child Survivors and Second-Generation Conference.*

Toronto becomes only the second Canadian venue to host this event, which was held in Montreal in 1994, with 230 participants.

The Toronto conference, made possible with the assistance of UJA Federation, is called *Sharing the Past and Celebrating Life,* and will focus on Second Generations – the descendants of the Holocaust.

Conference highlights include a keynote address by Madam Justice Rosalie Abella, herself the child of survivors, and Dr. Robert Krell, the founder and presidentof the Vancouver Holocaust Centre, who will address a Sunday morning program.

Chairs of this year's event are Eve Bergstein and Anita Ekstein.

"This conference is absolutely vital," says Bergstein. "When we grew up in Canada, after the war, few of us had any friends to whom we could relate our experiences. We were so anxious just to be Canadian and to move on. Here, even after 60 years, people come together with the same issues."

"For many years, many of us never even spoke about this to our families," adds Ekstein. "Now, people from all over can come together and understand others, and be understood themselves, without having to explain everything. It's a comfortable environment, where people feel safe and secure and can come to terms with many issues still unresolved – even after all this time."

Participants will be able to choose from an assortment of workshops that most closely deal with their specific areas of interest.

Workshop choices include:

- *Where have all the Children Gone? – Child Survivors 60 Years Later*
- *Are We Struggling with Trust?*
- *Our Holocaust Legacy: Burden or Blessing?*
- *Marrying into a Holocaust Survivor's Family*

"Every year we welcome first-time attendees who quickly become part of the 'family,'" adds Bergstein. "In fact, the name of our conference newsletter, Mishpacha, sums up the ambience of the conference."

UJA Federation

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MOL marches onward

Cori Donenfeld, an M.O.L. participant in 2001, at Auschwitz

On April 29th, 2003 nearly 200 Canadian Jewish high school students, half of whom are from Toronto, will be joining thousands of Jewish teens from around the world for an experience they're unlikely to forget.

On that date, March of the Living participants will walk the three kilometre distance separating Auschwitz and Birkenau, the largest concentration camp complex built by the Nazis.

The March of the Living is an international initiative, which is sponsored in Toronto by the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE).

"We're moving forward in a positive fashion," says Toronto March Chair, Baila Lubek. "We're anticipating a large number of participants on this emmotional journey."

The 14-day trip, which leaves Canada on April 27 with a flight to Poland, culminates in Israel on May 7, where participants will celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut, the State's 55th Independence Day.

> ***"It changed me as a person"***

Jared Gordon at Auschwitz during the 2001 M.O.L.

Marchers will have the unique opportunity to walk, side by side, with other teens, in silent tribute to the victims of the Holocaust and in memory of millions forced by the Nazis to cross Poland's terrain on the infamous "death marches."

"Just imagine," says Dr. Seymour Epstein, executive director of the BJE, "spending Yom Hashoah at Auschwitz and identifying with the rich history of Jewish life in pre-war Poland, complemented by the flush of Yom Ha'atzmaut in Israel. No Jew can remain indifferent to that unique juxtaposition of history and celebration."

For March of The Living 2001 participants, Torontonians Jared Gordon and Cori Donenfeld, the experience was life changing.

"It was just unbelievable," says Gordon, 18. "I came back with a deeper sense of what it means to be a Jew, and really, for all things Jewish. I know it sounds clichéd, but it (the March) makes you want the world to be a better place. People were anxious to return home, but only so they could put everything they learned into practice," adds Gordon.

"It changed me as a person," says 20 year-old Donenfeld. "It was almost surreal, bringing out so many feelings and emotions about who I was as a Jew, feelings I didn't even know I had.

The March made me appreciate my friends and my family that much more – it made me appreciate life in general – even more."

For more information about the Toronto March of the Living 2003, contact Jennifer Turack at jturack@ujafed.org or Joyce Rifkind at jrifkind@ujafed.org or by phone at (416) 635-2883 ext. 265 or 256

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Neo-Nazism called threat to German democracy

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

"They want to kill me," said Ingo Hasselbach, trying not to be melodramatic.

Nine years after his startling defection from the neo-Nazi movement in Germany, Hasselbach is a hunted man.

"It's still dangerous for me," he said in a recent interview. "I get a lot of threats. I move around a lot."

Hasselbach, 35, founded the National Alternative, the first neo-Nazi party in East Germany, the now-defunct Communist state.

When the German government banned the National Alternative in 1993, many of its members joined the National Democratic Party, the largest neo-Nazi party in reunified Germany today.

After leaving the movement and telling the German security services everything he knew about his former associates, he wrote a blistering memoir, *Fuhrer Ex* – the first insider's account of neo-Nazism.

A best-seller, it sold 250,000 copies in Germany and 100,000 in North America.

Last month, he appeared at the Toronto International Film Festival to publicize the movie version of *Fuhrer Ex*, based loosely on his book.

He wrote it in conjunction with American journalist Tom Reiss, the son of a Holocaust survivor.

Since his departure from the neo-Nazi scene, Hasselbach, who is tall, blond, Hollywood handsome and soft-spoken, has campaigned vigorously against neo-Nazism so as to raise awareness of it.

"Neo Nazism is a danger to German democracy," he observed. "It's a dangerous movement for all of Europe."

And it may grow if the economy deteriorates, he added.

Ingo Hasselbach

In the late 1990s, Hasselbach founded Exit, an organization that helps ex-neo-Nazis rehabilitate themselves. Exit is supported financially by *Stern*, a mass-circulation magazine.

"About 200 people, including 10 leaders, have come to us," he said. "When you leave the movement, you leave everything in life."

"The neo-Nazi movement is a cult," he explained. "Those who leave are desperate and usually in danger. We try to help, educate and, when necessary, relocate. We also ask individuals to reflect on the consequences of their actions and to come to grips with a basic question: why do I hate?"

The average neo-Nazi, he noted, is from a dysfunctional household. Typically, the Neo-Nazi perception of Jews is based on myths. "They hate Jews, but have never met any."

Yet in Germany, anti-Semitism is anything but the preserve of neo-Nazis, he warned.

"It's such a normal thing, sometimes, for people to make jokes about Jews. And these are supposed to be regular, nice people."

Anti-Semitism, however, is not ingrained in German culture, he said. "No, this would be too much. It comes from stupid people."

Now a journalist who writes on social issues and radical right-wing politics for *Tip*, a Berlin magazine, he is no longer formally associated with Exit.

"It was time to move on with my life," said Hasselbach, who got married two years ago and lives somewhere in Germany.

He won't say where, because he is worried about his physical safety. "I don't want harm to come to my children."

Writing *Fuhrer Ex*, some of the proceeds of which he donated to children in the Third World, was a cathartic experience, Hasselbach said.

"It gave me a better understanding of myself."

Hasselbach was born in East Berlin, the son, ironically, of Communists. His father was a senior official who headed East Germany's state radio, while his mother was a journalist.

Continued on page 21

Israel's Spotlight on Culture

Israel's commitment to the arts – for every age at every level everywhere – places a world of culture at a visitor's fingertips. Orchestras, art galleries and theatres provide an added dimension to Israeli life from the smallest towns to the largest cities. Here is just a small taste of the cultural treats available.

Theatre in English – Israel's two most famous and historic theatres – Habima and Cameri, both in Tel Aviv – offer once-weekly English translations of performances. For more Cameri information, visit www.cameri.co.il/english.htm and for additional details on Habima's offerings, call 011-972-3-629-5555.

Israel Philharmonic Orchestra Celebrated musicians and conductors have transformed this orchestra, founded 66 years ago, into one of the world's best. Although based in Tel Aviv, the IPO performs all over Israel. Check out www.ipo.co.il.

New Israeli Opera – With historical roots extending back to 1926, the New Israeli Opera has established a strong following for its varied performances. You'll find detailed information at www.israel-opera.co.il.

Ticho House, Jerusalem – Anna Ticho was a beloved painter who settled, with her husband in what was then Palestine, nearly 100 years ago. Their house, which the couple bequeathed to the city, contains her collection of Jerusalem landscape paintings.

Museums – There's a museum in every corner of the country and, in big cities, on just about every block. Learn more about Israel's museum mania at www.ilmuseums.com.

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Hasselbach defected from neo-Nazi movement

Continued from page 20

A juvenile delinquent and rebel who left school to become a bricklayer, Hasselbach was a street brawler who painted swastikas in his neighbourhood. "I was already in trouble by the age of 13."

At 16, he was arrested for shouting, "The Berlin Wall must fall," and then re-arrested for giving a stiff-arm Nazi salute in public.

In prison, he learned the rudiments of Nazi ideology from hardened Nazi war criminals. "I became a neo-Nazi in jail."

With the collapse of East Germany, he acquired anti-Semitic literature from American and Canadian neo-Nazi propagandists such as Gary Lauck and Ernst Zundel.

Of Zundel, a former resident of Toronto, Hasselbach observed: "He is crazy and obsessive about Jews and the Holocaust. He's talking always about Jews. He uses Jewish material as toilet paper. He is sick in his mind."

Hasselbach said his own family was not anti-Semitic. "No one ever said a bad word about Jews. It was not a topic at home."

In the aftermath of his flight to what was then West Germany, Hasselbach met Michael Kuhnen, a prominent neo-Nazi figure.

With Kuhnen's assistance, he established the National Alternative, which never had more than about 1,000 members.

"Kuhnen, for me, was a father figure. He took me seriously." (Kuhnen died of AIDS several years ago).

Hasselbach's father broke ties with him after he gravitated toward Nazism. "We reconciled about a year ago. It's getting better now."

Under Kuhnen's direction, Hasselbach plotted the assassination of Ignatz Bubis, a Jewish community's leader, and desecrated the grave of German-Jewish revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg.

Hasselbach met Bubis, a Holocaust survivor, after he abandoned the movement. From Bubis, Hasselbach discovered how horribly misguided he had been as a Holocaust denier.

Hasselbach said he turned his back on his comrades because he was revolted by a series of neo-Nazi firebombings of foreigners' hostels in eastern Germany. These racially-motivated acts of arson galvanized anti-Nazi sentiment in Germany.

At around the time of his disillusionment with neo-Nazism, he met Winfried Bonengel, a left-wing German filmmaker whose hard-hitting movies (*Profession Neo-Nazi* and *We're Back*) had a decided impact on Hasselbach's world view. After Hasselbach spurned neo-Nazism, his former comrades sent a powerful bomb to his mother's home. If it had exploded, it would have levelled her house.

Looking back on his career as a neo-Nazi, Hasselback can hardly believe he was once a fascist thug. "My past seems far away," he said. "It's difficult to understand how I could have been so blind."

CONSECRATION CEREMONY: About 100 people attended a recent consecration ceremony for Temple Kol Ami's new administrative building at the temple's recently purchased land in Vaughan. The land, the site of the future temple, is located in a wooded area that will be preserved when the temple is built. Seen, from left, are Rabbi Daniel Komito-Gottlieb, spiritual leader of Temple Kol Ami; Tina Molinari, MPP, Thornhill; Susan Kadis, local councillor; and Michael DiBiase, mayor of Vaughan.

KLEZMER CONTEST WINNERS

Due to the announced postponement of The Klezmer Conservatory Band Concert,

(see page 41 for announcement)

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, Tuesday, Oct. 15 is deadline for Oct. 24 issue and Monday, Oct. 21 is deadline for Oct. 31. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, Oct. 10

'ISRAEL AT 55' LECTURES

Eric Vernon discusses Is Peace Possible? in the second in a series of lectures put on by Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am's continuing education committee, 8 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 11

MISSION TO CUBA

Elisheva Gould will speak about taking part in a recent mission to Cuba, 8:30 p.m., Solel Congregation. Call 905-820-5915.

Sunday, Oct. 13

JEWISH SPAIN

Entertainment & Cultural Connection and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood present A Journey Through Jewish Spain, 8 p.m., at the synagogue. Members free, non-members $2.

DANCE PARTY

Shaar Shalom Singles is holding a dance party, 8 p.m. at the synagogue. $10 includes dessert. Call **Dave**, 416-224-9494.

VEGETARIAN LUNCH

L'Chaim Vegetarian holds its lunch meeting and speaker at noon. Call **Howard Koch**, 416-663-4076.

RENEWING OUR SPIRIT

Day of study and discussion on a variety of topics, 9 a.m.-5:15 p.m., Beth Jacob Congregation. For schedule and registration, see www.torahinmotion.org or 416-633-5770.

JUDAISM IN MODERNITY

Rabbi Tzvi Hersh Weinreb, will discuss How Can Judaism Thrive in Modernity at a town hall meeting, 8 p.m., Beth Jacob Congregation. Call 416-633-5770.

FINDING FAITH

Free lecture on Finding Faith in Turbulent Times, with **Chana Weisberg**, JRCC Institute of Torah Study, 18 Rockford Rd. Call 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

Tuesday, Oct. 15

VOLUNTEERING IN ISRAEL

Dr. Rhoda Singer will discuss Volunteering During the Intifadah at a lecture sponsored by Shaarei Shomayim and Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem, 8 p.m. at the synagogue. Members free, guests $2.

THE NEW REALITY

Prof. Janice Gross Stein will discuss Israel Fenced In? The New Reality, 8 p.m., Adath Israel Congregation. No charge.

CHUG HATANACH

Chug Hatanach meets 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue to discuss Book of Ezekiel, led by **Harold Dessen**.

Wednesday, Oct. 16

JUDAISM & GENDER

Prof. Rachael Turkienicz will discuss Sexuality and Sexual Practices Within a Jewish Frame, 7:30 p.m. Beth Tzedec Congregation, 416-781-3511.

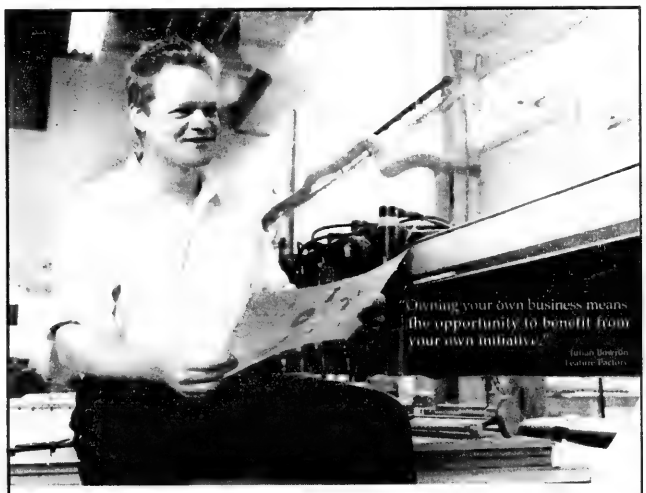
BEREAVED FAMILIES

Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario presents **Wendy Dean**, who will speak about One Family's Journey After the Death of a Child, 8 p.m., Adath Israel Synagogue. Call **Sheila Browne**, JF&CS, 416-638-7800, ext. 202.

JWI MEETING

Jewish Women International Markham-Unionville is holding its monthly meeting with a guest speaker. Call **Gail** , 905-294-9706.

Continued on page 23



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What's New

Continued from page 22

INTIMACY IN LATER YEARS

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. is sponsoring a public affairs forum on Sex and Seniors – Intimacy in the Later Years, 1:30-3 p.m. No charge.

And What Else is New

SHINONOME CHOIR

Shinonome Choir of Japan will perform Oct. 20, 8 p.m. at Temple Sinai. Tickets, $18; students and seniors $16, at temple office. Proceeds to Israeli victims of terror.

JRCC COURSES

JRCC offers several courses including Wednesday morning weekly meditation; Mystery of the Six Days of Creation; Shabbat, an Island in Time; and a Jewish education certificate program. Call 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

ADULT EDUCATION

Rabbi Moshe Stern of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation presents classes for the entire community, Tuesdays beginning Oct. 15, 8 p.m. Oct. 15 topic is What is the Purpose of an Eruv and What are the Halachic Implications of It?

ADOPT A FAMILY

Sharon Evans, founder and spokesperson for Adopt-a-Family will talk about twinning Diaspora synagogues with Israeli families, on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 8 p.m. at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham, and on Wednesday, Oct. 16, 8 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple.

HEALING PROJECT

Toronto Jewish Healing Project is holding a six-week group starting Wednesday, Oct. 16, 1-2:30 p.m. Led by **Rabbi Dow Marmur** and **Michelle Katz.** Register with **Etta**, 416-944-3359.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service is running the following groups: How to Talk with Your Ex, begins Oct. 15 at The Promenade, suite 313, 6:30-9 p.m.; Surviving Separation and Looking Ahead, begins Oct. 15, 7:30-9 p.m.; Parenting the Difficult Teen, begins Oct. 16, 7:30-9 p.m.; Adolescent Social Skills for teens 12-16 who are having difficulty making and keeping friends due to inappropriate or immature social skills, begins Thursday, Oct. 17, 7-8:30 p.m. For information on all groups, call **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

JEWS FOR JUDAISM

Gain an in-depth understanding of the differences between Judaism and Christianity at a six-week seminar beginning Oct. 17, 8 p.m., at Jews for Judaism Centre, 800 Steeles Ave. W. Free admission, advance registration required. Call 905-761-0040.

YIDDISH FOR CHILDREN

Free Yiddish program for children at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, Sundays, 9:30 a.m.-noon. Funded by the Toronto District School Board's heritage language program and the Committee for Yiddish of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Call **Naomi**, 416-635-2883, ext.150.

FOR SENIORS

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, the Ability Store and Hearing Services in conjunction with Hall Telecommunications presents a product information and training day on telephone technology for seniors, Monday, Oct. 21, 9 a.m.-noon, registration, 8:30 a.m. at the hospital recreation room at Baycrest. To register call **Nigel Applewhaite**, 785-2500, ext. 2667 or e-mail napplewhaite@baycrest.org.

Lunch & Learn in Retirement at Holy Blossom Temple presents **Edith Altschuler**, who will talk about School of Paris II, Wednesday, Oct. 16, noon. Charge, $2. Call **Shelly**, 416-789-3291, ext. 233.

L.Z.A. Seniors Cultural Club meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For more information, call 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Oct. 10 is a lecture with **Anton Glazer.** Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club, Casino Rama Oct. 23; Saturday dances Oct. 26, Nov. 9 & 30; Sunday dances Oct. 20, Nov. 3 & 17; Niagara Casino Oct. 17; fitness, line dancing and ballroom dancing Thursdays 10-11 a.m.; Atlantic City trip Nov. 3-6, $50 cash (US) in casino bonuses. 416-395-7881.

Young at Heart Seniors Miami vacation at glatt kosher Saxony Hotel with meals or efficiency. Free full breakfast and much more. **Helen** 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112.

Take a virtual journey with the Armchair Traveller, alternate Thursdays with **Brian Prosserman**. Members $1, non-members $2.

Sleep/wake disorders interest group, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 1:15-2:15 p.m. in music room.

Learn to speak effectively in front to people with **Steve Gabor** of the Scarbrough Toastmasters, Tuesdays, Oct. 15 & 22, 10 -11:30 a.m. Members $1.50, non-members $3.

The Thornhill Community Band is performing Tuesday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Free admission.

Have fun with Yiddish, sharing stories, jokes, anecdotes, watching videos and hearing speakers, Thursday, Oct. 10, 1 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking people meets Tuesdays, 7 p.m. On Oct. 15 is a concert. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211.

Fall children's' programs include Infant Centre, Creating Together, Now You're Two, AlphaMania, Let's Get Cooking, After school program. Call for registration and information.

JCC teen band specializing in rock, jazz and original compositions and arrangements by composer/conductor **Ken Rabow**. Fall session begins Oct. 20. Call for registration and information.

Tickets now available for two Holocaust Education Week programs: On Thursday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m. at OISE auditorium, 252 Bloor St. W., **Daniel Goldhagen** will read from his book *A Moral Reckoning: The Role of the Catholic Church in the Holocaust and its Unfulfilled Duty of Repair*, tickets $5 in advance, $8 at the door; Saturday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. at the JCC. The JCC, the Committee for Yiddish of UJA Federation and the Friends of Yiddish present The Holocaust: a Cultural Perspective. Members free, non-members $10.

A six-week program on Jewish Meditation with **Chashi Skobac** begins Tuesday, Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. Members $60, non-members $75. Call for registration.

Carlebach & Beyond Choir is an adult choir for people with good singing voices and a desire for something new, Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m., Oct. 15-Dec. 3. Fee $80, non-members $100.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre for the Arts/ Bathurst Jewish Community centre, 4588 Bathurst St., 416-636-1880.

Luncheon entertainers Rita and Alex, Tuesday, Nov. 5, Room 211, 12:30 p.m. Tickets on sale at reception desk. Members $7, non-members $8.

Benefits of reflexology and the importance of healthy feet, led by **Brenda Adler**, Tuesday, Oct. 15, 1-2:30 p.m., Room 211. No charge.

Habima Players, annual performance Sunday, OCt. 20, 1:30 p.m., Room 120, $3. Tickets on sale at reception desk.

Tickets on sale now at the reception desk for BJCC annual fundraiser, Mixed Doubles, Oct. 24, 2 p.m., Leah Posluns Theatre. $15 reserved seating.

For more information call **Janet**, 416-636-1880, ext. 259.

POLICE SERVICES AWARD: Lawyer Morley Wolfe, left, recently received the Police Services Award from Norm Gardner, chair of the Toronto Police Services Board, for his contribution to the Police Recruiting Coalition and the police service's former sub-committee on race relations.

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SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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On Campus

Anti-Semitism permeates: scholar

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The current furor over Israel on American university campuses has degenerated into outright anti-Semitism, an academic claims.

"The debate about Israeli politics and policies has taken a turn toward classic themes of anti-Semitism," Laurie Zoloth, the director of San Francisco State University's Jewish studies program, said last week.

Zoloth was in Toronto to deliver the annual Harry Crowe Lecture at York University. Her topic was Anti-Semitism in Academia.

In an interview prior to her speech, Zoloth, a professor of social ethics and Jewish philosophy, said this debate is becoming dangerous.

"The very existence of a Jewish people defending the existence of a democratic Jewish state is put up for debate," she explained.

Zoloth urged critics of Israel to be careful.

"To oppose Israeli policy is one thing. To say that Jews are pariahs, or that Jews eat Palestinian children, or that Jews control the media, is to cross a serious line that separates serious discourse from radicalized hatreds."

Zoloth made it clear that these critiques of Israel take the form of verbal rather than physical assaults.

"But the verbal attacks are a disturbing sign of the loss of civility, and must be strongly protested."

She said she is concerned that on many campuses Israel is now regarded as "the moral equivalent to apartheid South Africa."

Turning to a related topic, Zoloth warned that the divestment campaign against Israel at many American universities smacks of anti-Semitism.

"Singling out Israel as a pariah, or calling Israel a racist, colonialist fascist state, is anti-Semitic in intent. It discriminates against Israel in particular, and sets up Israel as a pariah nation."

Zoloth said she agrees with recent comments by the president of Harvard University, Lawrence Summers, about Israel.

Last month, Summers – who is Jewish condemned what he described as growing anti-Semitism on his campus and elsewhere.

Summers said that the push for divestment, as well as actions by students to raise funds for groups with ties to terrorist organizations, are anti-Semitic in effect, if not in intent.

The divestment campaign in San Francisco, Zoloth observed, has become a popular cause in "the very active progressive community."

And at San Francisco State University, she reported, Israel is the object of considerable animosity.

"On our campus, Israel is verbally blamed, in posters and leaflets, as the reason why American foreign policy is reviled.

"Most Americans do not hate Jews or Israel, but on the campus, the question of Israel's legitimacy is very much in question."

New Holocaust program at OISE

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Anti-Semitism is still the hidden, polite racism of the middle and educated classes, says Carole Ann Reid, the co-chair of a new diploma program on Holocaust and genocide education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE/UT) this year.

The University of Toronto program at OISE intends to address historical racist and anti-Semitic trends as they relate to the Holocaust and thereby highlight attitudes that promote ethnic hatred, Reid said.

It is hoped that the program, made possible by a donation by Albert Latner and family, will be the first stage of a broader Latner Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Education at OISE/UT.

It was felt that many students at OISE had no exposure to anything pertaining to the Holocaust and that this cycle of ignorance should not be perpetuated, said Reid, the former director of the Toronto Holocaust Centre of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The program, a collaboration between the University of Toronto and the Toronto Holocaust Centre, also deals with the Armenian holocaust and the Rwandan genocide.

It is an indictment of our current education system that teachers can graduate from our universities without ever coming across the Holocaust, Reid said.

It is important that they learn about the problems of genocide so that they can better understand the roots of racism and ethnic hatred and more effectively teach about the "importance of creating a civil society that honours human rights."

Jewish teachers do not want to teach about the Holocaust because they feel they have a vested interest in the subject, and non-Jewish teachers are afraid to teach about it because they don't know the history and feel they may be overstepping their bounds, she said.

The graduate diploma requires students to complete four courses dealing with the social history of the period, the development of appropriate pedagogical frameworks and curricula, a comparative analysis of genocide thought and action as it "challenges the conscience of humankind" and the examination of Holocaust and genocide education though literature and film.

In a multicultural classroom, teachers have to be especially sensitive about how they discuss the pain of the Holocaust, Reid noted.

"We have children coming from countries where state-sponsored terror is a way of life," and teachers cannot get drawn into comparisons of the different types of atrocities experienced by their students and their families.

Instead, "we want our teachers to be aware of where these kids are coming from and help them deal with their issues by looking at another story."

Reid said her current class contains a mix of Jews, non-Jews, children of survivors and a child of a suspected perpetrator. As a non-Jew, Reid stressed the importance of having everyone educated about Holocaust history.

"The Holocaust didn't just take place in Jewish history. It took place in non-Jewish history, because the non-Jews were the anti-Semites who did the killing.

"We have as much to learn about the Holocaust in our past, and as much to claim," Reid said.

On Campus

Scholarship winner melds variety of interests

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Jason Rotstein admits to having been a bit nervous before his interview for this year's Dennis Waldman scholarship. But the 17-year-old relaxed when he saw what had been set out on the table the day he met with Waldman family members. There were coasters with pictures of authors.

Nell Waldman, in turn, told *The CJN* she was impressed by Rotstein's literary abilities, the breadth of his interests and his clear commitment to the Jewish community. The scholarship is given to students graduating from secondary school who intend to pursue university-level study and have a history of involvement in Jewish communal life.

A first-year liberal arts student at the University of Toronto, Rotstein did a summer internship at the *Post* city magazines (where he interviewed several authors), was a regular contributor to *The CJN* last year, and co-founded and co-edited a literary journal at CHAT (Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto).

Among his other extra-curricular involvements, Rotstein volunteered this summer on the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care's youth council, which oversees youth volunteer services, and has also done volunteer work with patients at the centre as well as writing for the *Baycrest Bulletin*.

Now that he has some solid writing experience, Rotstein, who has a particular interest in 19th- and 20th-century European literature, is thinking of working towards a master's degree in journalism and a PhD in philosophy.

"I think in the end I want to become a professor of philosophy or literature, and write on the side," he said.

Back when he was in Grade 8 at United Synagogue Day School, which he attended

Jason Rotstein

following Grade 6 at Associated Hebrew Day Schools, Rotstein's focus was on sports, not books, he recalled.

"But you have to read when you get to high school, and I had a few good teachers," he said about his years at CHAT.

One of the books that originally sparked his interest was *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger. "I liked what it had to say, and I was able to identify with the protagonist."

In his Jewish studies, Tanach tied in with Rotstein's interest in literature, he said. "I liked the stories and the analysis of the text."

Now Rotstein reads and writes every day. "I love writing," he said. Aside from new involvements at university – he is vice-president of Tzedek Hillel, a pledge at the Jewish fraternity AEPi, and is also doing literacy tutoring – Rotstein is spearheading the publication of *Gam Yachad*, a journal of fiction, non-fiction, poetry, photography and art he is co-ordinating as a youth response to the crisis in Israel. (E-mail gamyachad@yahoo.ca for more information.)

Rotstein's parents, both physicians, "always emphasized reading," he said.

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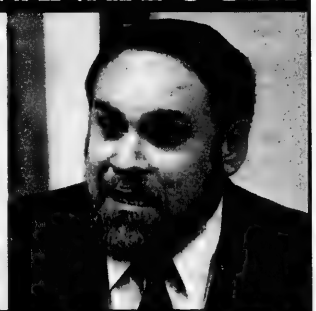

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On Campus

Rector asks Jews not to abandon Concordia

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Concordia University rector Frederick Lowy pleaded with the Jewish community not to withdraw its support because of the Sept. 9 "mini riot," with a reminder that its predecessor Sir George Williams University accepted Jewish students when other universities had quotas.

"It would be unfortunate and unfair if the Jewish community were to turn its back on a university that has given it so much," Lowy said in the keynote address at last week's FEDERATION CJA annual general meeting.

"Concordia's reputation, of course, has suffered and it hurts. It hurts especially to be vilified by Jewish organizations, the Jewish press, and from some synagogue pulpits, given [the] historic role of Concordia in educating the Jewish community and promoting Judaic studies."

Lowy recommended that the community tone down its rhetoric and instead dialogue with local Muslims.

"It would be unfortunate and unfair if strident voices were to succeed in further alienating the Jewish and Muslim communities in Montreal instead of advancing the much more difficult task of building bridges of understanding between them."

He announced a plan to send Hillel members to the West Bank and Gaza and members of Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR) into Israel to observe the impact of two years of strife. This, he said, was an idea proposed by Jewish and Arab students in a meeting held with the university administration and the Concordia Student Union (CSU) Sept. 27.

He said funding will be sought from the Jewish and Muslim communities and other sources.

Lowy hopes that most restrictions on Middle East-related activities on campus will be lifted in stages over the next few weeks, if students keep an agreement reached Sept. 27 that their activities will be based on mutual respect.

He defended this "cooling-off period" as necessary, "however unpopular it is with the activists and certain academics and journalists."

He said he believes the progress made toward reconciliation at the Sept. 27 meeting could not have been possible without the moratorium that was instituted after violent protests on Sept. 9 led to the cancellation of a speech by former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The agreement reached by the university, the CSU, Hillel and SPHR is that future activities will be non-violent, will not promote anti-Semitism, racism against Arabs or stereotyping, and will foster dialogue.

"We agreed that a test of these principles could be an event – debate, lecture, symposium – jointly planned by Hillel and SPHR. If the event goes well, a series of further such events can be planned and the restrictions of the cooling-off period can be lifted gradually," Lowy said.

He emphasized the importance of the larger communities setting an example for students.

"During the past century, the Jewish community has worked hard to build good relationships with Montreal's Christian communities and with francophone Québécois… The challenge now is to do the same work to secure good relationships with the Muslim community, which today, in Montreal generally as at Concordia, is larger than the Jewish community," he said.

He made clear he is not drawing "moral equivalency."

"We all know who were the aggressors and who were the victims [Sept. 9]. But many of you here also know full well that the matter is not so simple. Complex issues are never black and white."

Lowy added he strongly doubts there are 5,000 Muslims among a total of 29,000 students at Concordia, as has been reported.

"We do know that we have, this year, 289 international visa students from the Middle East. The majority of Muslim students at Concordia are Canadian-born or landed immigrants. It is also a myth that Concordia has recruited intensely in the Middle East."

Lowy said Concordia had plenty of security in place for Netanyahu's scheduled speech: 90 of its own security personnel; 80 Montreal police officers, including the riot squad; and 24 RCMP officers.

He said some "agitators" were not students, and three of the five people arrested are not enrolled at Concordia.

"The only people responsible for the violence were those who incited and committed the violence and those who planned in advance to prevent the scheduled speech from taking place," he stated. He said it is unacceptable to try to prevent someone with whom one disagrees from speaking.

Concordia security is trying to identify those caught on video cameras breaking the university's regulations. "A number of them seem not to be our students. Those who are will be disciplined once identified. I understand the police, who are also still reviewing films, intend to charge several [more] people," he said.

Lowy explained the factors that have contributed to the increasing radicalization of the CSU and militancy of pro-Palestinian students over the past four years.

"Concordia has the tradition of being the most open as well as the most diverse of Quebec's universities. That is perhaps why Concordia was apparently selected by the left-wing Canadian Federation of Students [CFS] for particular attention," he said.

Candidates supported by the CFS were democratically elected to the CSU four years ago by a small minority of eligible undergraduate voters and "essentially" the same students and former students, holding "a vigorous anarchist-Marxist ideology," continue to control the student government, he said. In a situation unique to Quebec, governing student groups can be legally certified as unions, as the CSU has done, giving it full control of its budget and the fees the university is obliged to collect for it, he said.

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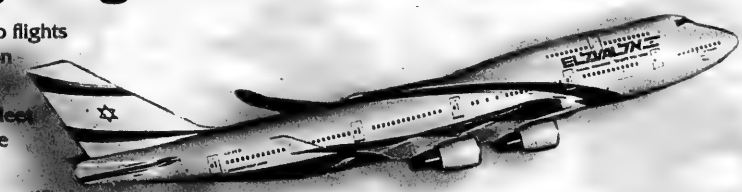

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Yuli Tamir

Head of the Rabin Center at Tel Aviv University and the former Minister of Absorption for the State of Israel

Introduction: Shira Herzog, Executive Vice President, Kahanoff Foundation

Thur. Nov. 21, at 8 p.m.

Coast to Coast

Holocaust series explores mother-child relationship

By CARLA S. SHORE
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — With his documentary series on how being a survivor of the Holocaust has affected mother-child relationships, Vancouver filmmaker Daniel Leipnik is breaking new ground.

Leipnik's 11-part series, *My Mother, My Hero*, documents how women who survived the Holocaust raised their children in a different way than other mothers did. It is Canada's largest Holocaust documentary series, as well as the first Jewish-themed program to be aired on the Shaw Multicultural Channel in British Columbia.

While there has been a lot of research done on the intergenerational effects of the Holocaust, Leipnik was surprised to learn that none of the children of survivors he spoke with had ever been asked to question their mother's parenting history in light of their experiences.

After interviewing 11 survivor mothers and their adult children in Canada, Australia and the United States, Leipnik found many common threads in their parenting experiences.

"In almost all the cases, while parents have told kids about their experiences in the Holocaust, they haven't talked about how it affected how the mother was as a parent," says Leipnik, 29. "In many cases, we're finding very heavy emotions. It's a topic people haven't thought to talk about.

"The kids recognize that their childhood was much more intense than what they saw in other kids. They had more to think about, more to handle, more to understand. Instead of having the luxury of being rebellious teens, they had to be conscious not to create any more anguish for their parents, which, of course, restricted their freedom."

The series airs Sundays from Sept. 22 to Dec. 29 on Shaw and Delta cable stations throughout the Lower Mainland. Leipnik has an international distributor and expects the series to air widely in the new year. He is also planning to package the footage into a feature-length documentary for next spring.

A native Australian, Leipnik moved to Vancouver five years ago and has worked successfully in film and video through his production company, Vibrance Alive Entertainment. Both his grandmothers are Holocaust survivors, and both are featured in episodes of the series.

One of his earliest memories of his maternal grandmother is being told how the family was killed in Auschwitz and Treblinka. He says doing this series with his family has given his parents a chance to talk with their parents in a way they had never done before. "It's been very liberating for both of them," he says.

When interviewing his paternal grandmother, Leipnik and his father learned for the first time that she had been a prisoner in Ravensbrook.

"My father has never been close to his mom," Leipnik says. "As a result of doing this project, they've been closer. In the show, he says, "I guess she is a hero, but he had never viewed her that way before."

With all 11 families featured in the series, Leipnik found a high level of resentment among the children of survivors.

"A lot of Jewish kids are brought up with overprotective, neurotic mothers, always concerned about how much they're eating, but this was all magnified with Holocaust survivors as parents," he says. "For example, the parents were fearful of non-Jews and strangers, experienced nightmares and insomnia, hid money in the basement, and were paranoid about darkness."

All immigrants have high hopes for their children, but the second generation of Holocaust survivors had emotional anxieties attached to this pressure, Leipnik says.

"The kids had to be the successful version of what their parents may have lost. Survivors have to be comfortable that what they lost is being regenerated. Their kids are their security policy for sanity."

While all this may seem like a terrible burden to grow up with, Leipnik has also seen a tremendous upside in being raised by a survivor.

"These kids have such intense passion, and that is one of the positive offshoots of being raised by Holocaust survivors," he notes. "Kids of survivors have this inner drive to be heroes, a driving momentum which says, 'I have to be a hero over every possible situation.' They've seen their parents be heroes over their own situations, so these kids have an incredible heroness about them.

"The average person doesn't hero over their own situation. These kids have such a drive to make every thing work. It's an incredible gift."

Shaw Multicultural Channel says it is proud to present this important series, and is open to other Jewish-themed programming. "We're looking for any kind of multicultural programming, and are always looking for more proposals that reflect the community," says Shaw's Karen Kilba.

Campaign '03 launched in Kitchener-Waterloo

WATERLOO, Ont. — Seasonal thunderstorm and heavy rains did not stop members of the Jewish community of Kitchener-Waterloo and Guelph from attending the 2003 United Jewish Appeal campaign launch at the Canadian Clay and Glass Gallery in Waterloo.

Michael Soberman, director of Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario (RJCO) told the crowd of almost 100 people that over the past year, "the communities of Kitchener/Waterloo and Guelph have shown their support and commitment to our campaign and Israel Emergency campaign, and you should all be congratulated for that."

He addressed the need for small communities to support programs at home and abroad.

"Through this year's campaign we must continue to meet and overcome the challenges that face our local Jewish communities including anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment," he said.

The keynote speaker was Israeli tour guide Ezra Eini, whose youngest son, Moishe, was killed in an ambush last year while serving in the army.

Also speaking was United Israel Appeal's executive vice-president Maxyne Finkelstein, and community leader Stephen Kay.

Coast to Coast

Hamilton cantor retires

By JULIA KOLLEK
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — When Ruth Slater announced she was retiring after more than 20 years as cantor at Temple Anshe Sholom, a young girl from the congregation came up to her and said, "I've been listening to you sing all my life. What am I going to do now?"

Slater was touched. "I told her to call me when she was getting married, and I'd sing at her wedding."

"Singing at a wedding is one of the nicest things about being a cantor," Slater said. "It gives you such a warm, good feeling. In this work, you become part of a family's life cycle – you're at their baby namings, confirmations and weddings. Music is fulfilling, but it's also uplifting: I always feel better at the end of a service, and I hope people in the congregation feel better too."

Ruth Slater

Slater pursued her love of singing at a time when there were few opportunities for women. When she became a cantor, there was only one other woman cantor in Canada. In time, she helped found a group called Kol Nashim (the Voice of Women), made up of six women cantors with accompanists, who performed throughout the Golden Horseshoe.

Today, she says, there are only two cantorial colleges in North America, and while there are more women applying, Reform congregations offer them the only job openings.

Slater, whose maiden name was Seligman, was born in Toronto of immigrant Polish parents. Although they were from the same town of Rachov, the couple met and married in Canada. The family lived for a time above the sportswear and lingerie factory her father owned; later her parents ran a wholesale ladieswear enterprise.

Slater's father, whom she remembers for his wonderful sense of humour, used to travel a lot, and she recalled how he came home one weekend and told the family he had written them a song because he'd felt so lonesome. He sang it, impressing his family with his talent. Some time later, when they heard the same song on the radio, they realized they had fallen for one of his pranks.

Music and the arts were a feature of the Seligman family's life. Slater took piano lessons as a child, her sister studied ballet, and an uncle was a trumpeter in a Toronto orchestra.

Slater skipped two years in elementary school, and at the age of 12, went to Harbord Collegiate, where Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster were also students. Every year, the school put on a Gilbert and Sullivan show, and Slater was offered a place in the chorus.

"I always loved to sing, and would hum and sing all the time. I never thought anything of it," she recalled.

Her music teacher was impressed with her voice and came home with her to suggest she be enrolled in singing lessons.

"My mother made sure I practised singing and piano every day," Slater said. "With my two aunts in tow, she came to all my recitals across the city, and took me to concerts at Massey Hall."

Studying under Russian singer and teacher, Madame Nina de Gedeanoff, Slater discovered a love for French art songs and Italian and German opera.

She went on to cantorial school in New York, and returned to Toronto to live after she married. Slater found work singing on weekends. She sang Shabbat services at Reform temples, and on Sundays, she was soloist at a number of churches. She earned $14 a week from her singing and supplemented her income with a series of other jobs that included working in a nursery school.

The couple lived in several big cities in the United States before heading back to Canada, where they first lived in Saskatchewan. They came to Hamilton in 1955. They had two children, and for some time, Slater continued to have a patchwork of singing jobs, including at Unitarian and Presbyterian church services, "which," she said, "are very different."

She was invited to be the first cantor at the Reform synagogue in St. Catharine's, Ont., and later became cantor at Temple Beth-El in Windsor.

Meanwhile, the family became members at Temple Anshe Sholom, and Slater joined the choir. One day, she got a phone call from the temple: the cantor was sick – could she fill in at a bar mitzvah? "And I never left," she chuckled.

There had always been an organ at Temple Anshe Sholom, and Slater began working with organist Tom Shilcock, whom she found easy to work with. He is not Jewish, but quickly learnt how to follow the prayer book, and was Slater's accompanist throughout her time at the temple.

Despite Slater's singing commitments, she found time in the 1970s to help bring professional opera to Hamilton.

"Festitalia [the annual Italian festival] brought in an opera company and orchestra from Italy, and a group of us asked, 'Why don't we have one of our own?'"

The Hamilton Opera Company was founded, and Slater found herself doing everything "except being artistic director. I had a great time and met some marvellous people I'm still friendly with," she said.

Although the company only lasted three years, it became the forerunner for the current Opera Hamilton.

Soon afterwards, the professional Hamilton theatre company Theatre Aquarius invited Slater to be their director of marketing and communications – a job she held for 15 years. "It was separate, with their own room and bathroom, and often they were glad they didn't have to stay in a hotel," she said.

Now retired, she is able to spend time with her family and grandchildren, who live in Vancouver.

Meanwhile, her second family at the temple are not letting her go easily. Slater was overwhelmed by the tribute weekend held in honour of her and Shilcock.

"I felt like a mezuzah," she said. "Everyone kept coming up and kissing me!"

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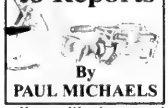
PA intimidation of journalists: an untold story

According to Reports



By PAUL MICHAELS

An important but under-reported story in the Middle East concerns the growing dissent, and the intimidation meant to stymie it, within the Palestinian leadership itself about Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat's disastrous rule.

Part of this neglect can be attributed to the greater drama of Israeli tanks and bulldozers confronting Arafat at his compound in Ramallah. That story is an easy, accessible one that sells readily, because it plays to the familiar image of Palestinians as beleaguered underdogs.

But another reason for the media's neglect of intra-Palestinian dissent surely rests with the reluctance of many journalists to break out from the "pack" pursuit of the familiar story to ferret out a new one that would require them to expose abuses by the Palestinian leadership that Arafat and company would prefer to keep hidden.

Even if Palestinian dissidents are unwilling to appear on camera or to be quoted directly for fear of retribution by elements of Arafat's security apparatus, journalists still have ways of getting this story out. Unless, that is, they fear either intimidation by the PA or being cut off from Palestinian sources that provide the grist for daily reports.

Some reporters seem to be less fearful than others.

Paul Adams, in his report "Many in Arafat's own cabinet doubt he can enforce reforms" (*Globe and Mail*, Oct. 1), dealt with the growing voices of dissent within Arafat's ranks. Yet, the story about Palestinian intimidation of these voices remains to be told.

Khaled Abu Toameh is a highly respected Palestinian journalist working for the *Jerusalem Post* and *Jerusalem Report*. In the *Post* (Sept. 24), Toameh reported that a senior aide to Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurei threatened him repeatedly over an item that he had planned to file, one deemed unflattering to Qurei.

"Intimidation of journalists in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is not a new phenomenon, but not all choose to tell the story," writes Abu Toameh. Actually, very few ever venture to tell the story.

The "real danger" for journalists in the territories, Abu Tomaeh continues, "comes from attempts by certain elements of the PA to intimidate journalists who are only trying to carry out their jobs in a professional manner."

Abu Toameh writes that, "unfortunately, some PA officials (especially those who returned from Tunis and Lebanon), have almost no understanding of the real role of the media. As far as they are concerned, the Palestinian media should not be different from those in the Arab world, official organs for the rulers and their regimes."

In the meantime, prominent Palestinians – such as former PA cabinet minister Nabil Amr, who has publicly criticized Arafat's rejection of former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak's generous peace offer at Camp David, as well as rampant corruption in the PA and the continued resort to terrorism against Israelis – have been subjected to physical intimidation, allegedly at the hands of elements of Arafat's security apparatus.

The same treatment was even meted out to PLO executive committee member Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), who has been mooted as a prospective Palestinian prime minister to whom much of Arafat's authority would be divested. At the end of September, Abbas left for Jordan after threats against his life, threats that only recently appear to have been stayed.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Reproductive technology explored

Continued from page 3

thorities, the PUAH Institute (also named for a biblical midwife in Moses' time) was created.

In addition to providing halachic responses to curious couples, the institute has an educational function. It hosts conferences each year, with 1,300 attending the most recent gathering, and its rabbis lecture on issues associated with the new technologies.

PUAH also supervises fertility treatments– acting as a sort of fertility mashgiach – right from the earliest stages, to ensure that the mistake of 12 years ago is not duplicated.

"We need to know that the material given in is the material given out...We have to know that the child is Moshe's and Chaya's and doesn't come from somebody else's sperm and egg," Rabbi Weitzman said.

Beyond the medical and legal issues involved in reproduction, PUAH's rabbis are attuned to the human and emotional aspect. Being childless when all around you are having children is very difficult for couples, Rabbi Weitzman said.

"It's a big psychological burden, and if you alleviate it for a few minutes and you get a call two months later that they're pregnant, you feel you're part of it. You really feel you've helped people and that's what 'rabbanut' is about."

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Vancouver Super Sunday set for Oct. 27

VANCOUVER — The Combined Jewish Appeal's Super Sunday Telethon, during which funds are raised for a wide range of projects here and abroad, will be held Oct. 27.

The goal of $4.5 million will make many more plans a reality, but for those organizing CJA, the notion of giving means donating not only money, but also time. Letting potential donors know that their volunteerism is a valuable resource is a stated goal this year, says Sondi Ritter, Jewish Federation of Greater Vanvouver president.

"Donations of time bring in new ideas, new energy, and different perspectives, truly valuable in an organization and a community this diverse."

This year's CJA campaign theme, Many needs – one way to give, conveys the diversity of activities funded under the CJA umbrella.

Through one gift, donors can support social and educational services in Greater Vancouver and abroad – from hot lunches for seniors in Kiev and emergency aid for families in a newly impoverished Argentina, to local food banks and daycare centres. Planning is also underway to address the increasing concerns of housing and poverty in Greater Vancouver.

"We've been successful in trying to reorganize the campaign to make it more relevant to potential donors," says CJA vice-chair Jeffrey Goldberg. "Donations to CJA have a real effect on real people's lives."

Successful projects include sending children to camp who otherwise could not go, a job-match program for the unemployed, and providing companionship and meals for the elderly. Through the federation, CJA also welcomes the community to become involved in planning for more, and encouraging leadership in new areas, Goldberg says.

The federation's allocations planning committee makes recommendations as to how the funds raised through the CJA are distributed to constituent agencies. Last year, new priorities were placed on poverty relief (the current poverty level being recognized as 17 per cent) and on outreach, as the population spreads outwards in Greater Vancouver.

"Funds are allocated in a communal way, in a fair way, and with a transparent process," says Judy Oberlander, vice-president for community development and planning.

To volunteer to make calls at the telethon on Oct. 27, call 604-257-5100.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

יצחק לייבוש פּרץ, 150 יאָר זינט זיין געבורן־יאָר

פֿון יחזקאל מאַנדעלמאַן

כּדי אָפּצומערקן דאָס 150סטע געבורן־יאָר פֿון גרויסן **יצחק לייבוש פּרץ**, איז ווערט צו נעמען אויף זיך די אירפֿגאַבע צו מאַכן אַ סך־הכּל פֿון זיך לעבן, פֿון זיין לימעראַרישן שאַפֿן אין פֿון זיין עפּנטלעכן טאָן. די וואָס איטערעסירן זיך מיט דער אַנטוויקלונג פֿון דער ייִדישער לימעראַטור אין גאַנג פֿון דער ייִדישער מאַדערנער געשיכטע דאַרפֿן זיך נענטער נעמען צוקוקן צו דעם, וואָס פּרץ האָט אונדז איבערגעלאָזן בירושה. זיי דאַרפֿן אָפּשאַצן, וואָס אין איר איז צייטוויליק אין פֿאַרשווינדלעך אין וואָס עס בלייבט אייביק אין אומשעצבאַר; וואָס פּרץ איז געווען פֿאַר זיך דור אין וואָס ער איז געווארן פֿאַר זיך פֿאַלק אין אפֿשר פֿאַר דער גאַנצער מענטשהייט. אַזא אַרבעט איז ניט קיין לימכטע. צו פֿילזייטיק אין פֿאַר־שידנאַרטיק איז פֿרצעס שאַפֿן מען זאָל דאָס קענען אַריינעמען מיט אין בלויק.

פֿרצעס גייסט איז געווען אַ וווּנדערבאַרער אַרגאַניזם מיט הונדערטער שפּירעקע נערוון, תּמיד אַנגעצויגענע, תּמיד ויבּרירנדיקע. יעדער נערוו האָט געהאַט זיין אייגענעם נעם טאָן. די הונדערטער נערוון האָבן אַריסגעבראַכט פֿון זיך אַ סימפֿאָניע פֿון טענער אין וועלכע עס קלינגען די אַלגעמיינע מענטשלעכע קאַמפֿן פֿון זיין זיסע; די ליידן, האָפֿענונגען אין נצחון־קאַמפֿן פֿון זיין ייִדיש פֿאָלק; די בענקשאפֿט פֿון זיין דור; די פֿראַבלעמען פֿון זיין קונסט; די אייבּיקע סודותפֿולע שאלות פֿון דעם מענטש־לעכן דענקען בכלל.

דאָס אַלץ פֿלעגט דורשטיק אינזאַפֿן אין זיך די שפּי־ריקע, תּמיד ויבּרירנדיקע נשמה פֿון פּרצן. עס האָט אַ־קומען בי אים אַ באַוונדערע קלאַנג־פֿאַרב, אַן אייגענעם פֿרץ־טאָן, דורכגייענדיק דורך זיין אייגנאַרטיקן שאַפֿנדיקן גייסט.

י. ל. פּרץ קען באַציכנט ווערן ווי דער דענקער, דער קינסטלער, דער ייִד, ווי אויך פּרץ דער לידיקער, דער דראַמאַטורג, דער ראַמאַנטיקער, דער רעאַליסט, דער סימבאָליקער. מען מח אויך צוגעבן פּרץ דער רעליגיע־זער מיסטיקער, דער נביא און דער פֿאָלקטרעגער פֿון דער טראַגישער עטיק. וויפֿל נאָך פֿרצעס זיינען דאָ, וועלכע איך האָב ניט אויסגערעכנט? . . . אין וויפֿל פֿרצעס וואָלטן נאָך דערבליקט דעם שיין פֿון דער וועלט, ווען דער טויט וואָלט אים ניט אַוועקגעריסן פֿון אונדז אַזוי פרי! אָן אומעטום, אין אַלע זיינע פֿאַרבונדיכע גע־שטאַלטן איז ער פּרץ, פּרץ, פּרץ!

ביים פֿאַרענדיקן איז ווערט צו דערמאָנען, וואָס שמואל ניגער זאָגט וועגן פּרצן איך זיין בוך: „פֿראַבלע־מען פֿון ייִדן אין ייִדישקייט", אַריסגעגעבן אין 1952. דאָרט, אונטערן קעפּל „צוואה", וויזט ניגער אָן, וואָס מיר דאַרפֿן אַריסליינען פֿון פּרצעס לעבנס־צוואה אירפֿן גרונט פֿון זיינע ווערק. עס פּילט זיך אין די דאָזיקע שורות, אַז ביים אַריינקוקן אין דער נשמה אין איך די גע־פּילן פֿון יצחק לייבוש פּרץ, אַנטפּלעקט אויך שמואל ניגער זיינע אייגענע גדאָנקען אין געפּילן, וואָס זיינען געמיינזאָם פֿאַר אים אין פֿאַר פּרצן אין וואָס דאַרפֿן זיין דער „אַני מאמין" פֿאַרן מאָדערנעם ייִד. טראָכט אין שרייבט וועגן דעם מענטש אין דעם ייִד, ניט נאָר וועגן דעם ייִד אין דעם מענטש.

זיינ ייִדן — פֿאַרוואָס אונדז פּרצעס צוואה — אַבער פֿאַרגעסט ניט, אַז אייגנטלעך זיין אַ ייִד הייסט זיין אַ מענטש, און זיין אַ שיינער ייִד הייסט זיין אַ שיינער מענטש.

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Mazel Tov MOMENTS

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

Mazel tov to Rachel Kanner who has taken part in UJA Federation's Walkathon 28 times, and for the third time was named a Chai Walker.

Edie & Jackie Marcus and Barbara & Peter (Freddy) Scher are delighted to announce the engagement of Lauren and Adam. A winter wedding is planned.

Mazel tov to Shani Cohen who recently celebrated her bat mitzvah in Jerusalem. Love from grandmother Paula Mintz and family.

Mazel tov to Pesa & Moishe Katz on their 53rd wedding anniversary! With love, Reisa, Ricky, Robyn, Corey, Judy, Howard, Alan and Robbie.

Marla, daughter of Betsy & Lou Fruitman, and Ronald, son of Leny & the late Jay Struminger announce their engagement. Grandparents are Mary & David Dale.

Mazel tov to David Blitzer on your bar mitzvah May 17. Best wishes and love from your grandparents Imi & Popsi.

Happy fifth birthday May 17 to Hailey Foreman. Love from brother Joshua, parents Melanie & Mitchell, grandparents Marilyn & Stanley Beder and Marilyn & Albert Foreman.

Mazel tov to Esther Spiegelman on your graduation from Bais Yaacov. Now its off to Chicago for a great year of study. Love from your family.

Reggie & Terry Delovitch and Sharon & Jerry Wiesenfeld are delighted to announce the engagement of their children Shayna Delovitch and Matthew Wiesenfeld.

Mazel tov to Shiry & Jason on your engagement. Parents, Lucy & Dave Waldman, Joan & Irwin Keltz, and siblings Debra Keltz and Dany Waldman.

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At least 13 killed, over 50 hurt in IDF Gaza raid

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — At least 13 Palestinians were killed and dozens wounded when Israeli tanks backed by helicopters raided a Palestinian neighbourhood in the Gaza Strip early Monday morning, witnesses and hospital officials said.

Several hours later, troops fired into Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, where hundreds had gathered to learn about the fate of relatives, witnesses said. Four more people were wounded by army fire at the hospital.

Israeli security officials called the operation "very important" and "obligatory" in striking at a Hamas stronghold that Israel had refrained from attacking since the start of the latest intifadah.

After a missile was fired at a house viewed as a Hamas stronghold, troops were met by gunfire and a gunfight ensued. But as troops began pulling out several hours later, a helicopter fired a second missile close to a crowd of Palestinians who had left their shelters to return home, killing several people, witnesses said.

Brig.-Gen. Yisrael Ziv, head of the army's Gaza division, said the neighbourhood was a Hamas "nest of terror" and that an initial probe showed Israeli forces aimed only at armed men.

Palestinian Authority (PA) minister Saeb Erekat called the raid a massacre and called on the international community to protect Palestinians. He said the raid was timed to disrupt the Mideast visit of Javier Solana, the European Union's foreign policy chief.

Also on Monday, two people were reported killed and 10 injured in clashes between Palestinian police and Hamas gunmen in Gaza.

The PA accused Hamas of killing the head of its riot police in Gaza earlier in the day. Col. Rageh Abu Lehiya was shot dead by masked gunmen who attacked his car in Gaza City. Israel Radio said Lehiya was close to deposed PA security official Raji Jibali and had been accused by some of corruption.

Belgian prime minister apologizes

By YAIR SHELEG
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt issued the country's first official apology Sunday for the complicity of government officials in deporting tens of thousands of Jews to Nazi death camps during the Holocaust.

Belgium deported about half of its 70,000 Jews.

In a ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of the first deportations from Belgium, Verhofstadt said his country must acknowledge those deeds and assume responsibility. "There were too many collaborators in Belgium. We should have the courage to say it, to acknowledge it and to bear it," he said.

He also paid homage to those who did not co-operate with the Nazis, such as municipal officials in Brussels who refused to force Jewish residents to wear yellow stars on their clothes.

Over the last few years, Belgium has signed a number of agreements to compensate Jews for property stolen during and after the Holocaust.

Continued on page 34

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- **Becoming Canadian:** Permanent residents who can become Canadian citizens are encouraged to apply for their citizenship.
- **When To Apply For Your Permanent Resident Card:** Applications are now available. They will be processed based on the year you became a permanent resident of Canada. Check the chart below to see in which month you should apply. For example, if your year of landing as a permanent resident was 1998, you should submit your application in May 2003. There is no need to apply earlier.

YEAR OF LANDING	WHEN TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION
2002	October 15 to November 30, 2002
2001	December to February 2003
2000	March & April 2003
1996 - 1999	May 2003
1992 - 1995	June 2003
1988 - 1991	July 2003
1980 - 1987	August 2003
1973 - 1979	September 2003
Before 1973	ANYTIME after October 2002

Word Congress concerned by rising anti-Semitism

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The World Jewish Congress (WJC) is set to establish a new European Jewish Action Centre in Paris to combat the rising tide of continental anti-Semitism.

The proposed centre will serve as a think tank, provide an academic resource, write op-eds and serve as a counterweight to the rhetoric emanating from anti-Israel sources, including those on campuses, said Keith Landy, president of Canadian Jewish Congress.

"I think there's a recognition that there's a real need for work on campus," he said. "Students come without knowledge of history [of the Middle East] and this will prepare them to combat anti-Semitism and anti-Israel propaganda

Landy and CJC executive-director Jack Silverstone were among 100 delegates from 35 countries who attended last week's WJC executive meeting in Jerusalem. The two-day meeting touched on a number of topics, including the campaign against terror, security concerns, international law and Israel, and Jewish people and the clash of civilizations.

French legislator Pierre Lellouche, a deputy in the French parliament, told the WJC meeting that in recent years he has become worried that his children might be subject to anti-Semitic attacks in the street. While the number of anti-Semitic incidents has dropped recently, thanks to stepped-up policing and a more activist approach by the government, the threat remains.

The line between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism has been blurred, leading many to openly espouse anti-Jewish views, news reports quoted him as saying.

Landy said Lellouche's description of anti-Semitic incidents in France – attributed by him to some in the Muslim immigrant population – should lead Jews "to be vigilant about the kind of immigration permitted."

Landy said he briefed his colleagues on the state of anti-Semitism in Canada, focusing in particular on the murder of David Rosenzweig and the Concordia University incident that prevented former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from speaking.

"I think we're certainly not facing the level of anti-Semitism the Europeans are. That doesn't mean the danger signs aren't there. They are," he said.

"We should be watching the signs that are happening in Europe and not think we can be isolated from it."

In other developments, WJC President Edgar Bronfman made an emotional appeal for funds to assist the Jewish community in Argentina. On a recent trip to Argentina, Bronfman donated $1 million (all figures US) and he asked the WJC members to participate in a new $2 million campaign for Argentine Jews.

"There are Jews in Argentina who are going hungry, who need urgent help," said Jack Silverstone, quoting Bronfman. "We made a promise that we would convey the message to our federations."

CCRA seizes then releases pro-Israel literature

Continued from page 1

as they may constitute obscenity or hate propaganda.'"

A day later, he received a voice message from a CCRA representative saying the box would be released. By Friday, however, he had not received the package.

Girn said the box clearly indicated it contained 350 copies of the newsletter, *In Moral Defense of Israel*. Although CCRA did not say why it choose to investigate the package, Girn said, "I think it's specifically related to the fact it's defending Israel. We have other pamphlets attacking health care and multiculturalism, and those haven't been stopped or questioned. So I don't know why these ones were.

"The only thing I can think of is that they're trying to be balanced during the investigation of terrorism and they have to investigate the other side as well."

The CCRA recently won a case against Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel, allowing it to proceed to revoke the group's status as a registered charity.

"You don't think in terms of customs stopping literature and articles," Brook said. "My first response was complete surprise that anyone in the Western world would be exposed to such complete censorship."

Bernie Farber, national executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress, said he pored over the newsletters several times to determine what might have caught CCRA's attention, but could find nothing: "The pamphlet is perfectly banal in relation to hate literature," he said.

A call to the office of CCRA Minister Elinor Caplan was not returned by *The CJN*'s deadline, but CCRA guidelines state that the importation of books, magazines and other literature can be prohibited if the material "advocates or promotes genocide or promotes hatred against an identifiable group."

Brook said his group's newsletter, which can be downloaded from the ARI's Web site (http://www.aynrand.org/israel/israel_sept_2002.pdf) supports Israel as a democratic state that protects individual rights and the right to private property.

The newsletter also refers to Israel as a Westernized state under attack "by terrorist organizations, theocracies, dictatorships and would-be dictators."

Some of the articles criticize elements in the Islamic world that employ terrorism.

Brook suggested some might consider the ARI's arguments "radical… We say some people are the good guys, some are the bad guys. Today, to say that some are the good guys and bad guys, that some cultures are evil is not permitted in our multicultural, politically correct world."

Brook contrasted the seizure of the ARI newsletter with "the anti-Semitic, anti-Israel material available at any campus bookstore. [It] is really horrific. But it's consistent with the anti-Israel atmosphere prevalent on U.S. campuses, in Europe… and now maybe in Canada too."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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Apology from Belgian PM

Continued from page 33

Last year, it passed a law enabling properties that belonged to Jewish families to be returned to their owners. It also signed an agreement with the local Jewish community to pay 55 million euros in compensation for property that was stolen and can't be returned and for unclaimed insurance policies of Holocaust victims. And Holocaust survivors recently reached an agreement with the Belgian banks for a similar sum to cover bank deposits of Holocaust victims.

Verhofstadt's apology came about two months after a committee of historians set up by the government to investigate Belgian collaboration with the Nazis published its report.

Avi Becker, the secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress, said Sunday the apology was a direct result of the report, "which revealed to the Belgians that they were not innocent of collaboration or of taking Jewish property."

Becker, who was part of the talks over both the establishment of the committee and the compensation deals, added that Belgium had been slow to set up the committee and to publish its conclusions. He said he believes this is because half of Belgium's Jews were saved, thanks to many citizens who refused to collaborate with the Nazis.

"For this reason the Belgians had a very positive self-image and found it difficult to accept that they too had numerous collaborators," he said.

The Week in Israel

Sept. 30

• Sgt. Arie Weiss, 22, was killed in Nablus in an operation seeking out terror suspects and arms caches. Another soldier was seriously wounded in the exchange of fire.

Oct. 1

• More than 75 per cent of northern Israeli Arabs want Israeli-Palestinian violence to end, according to a recent poll reported in the *Jerusalem Post*.

Oct. 2

• Security forces operating in Ramallah arrested Rakad Salem, the leader of the Arab Liberation Front, a pro-Iraqi group that gives money to families of suicide bombers.

Oct. 3

• The government announced it will not grant entry to any new foreign workers until at least the end of 2003. Deportation procedures against workers who never obtained visas are continuing. An estimated 250,000 foreign workers are in Israel, of whom some 150,000 are illegal.

Oct. 4

• Jerusalem police stormed the Temple Mount after dozens of Palestinian worshippers threw stones at the officers, stationed metres away from the Western Wall plaza, following prayers. Police used stun grenades and tear gas to disperse the Palestinians. According to Palestinian sources, there were some 5,000 worshippers on the Mount at the time.

• The Palestinian Authority (PA) is ready to impose security in Gaza to help end violence but first wants U.S. and Israeli guarantees its areas would not be attacked, Mahmoud Abbas said. Abbas (Abu Mazen), widely seen as a potential successor to PA President Yasser Arafat and a strong proponent of Palestinian reforms, made his remarks to the pan-Arab *al-Hayat* newspaper during a trip to Moscow.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Jews expelled from Arab lands get new voice

By RACHEL POMERANCE
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — An initiative seeking compensation for Jews forced to flee Arab lands during Israel's creation is gaining steam.

Justice for Jews From Arab Countries (JJAC) was launched last week to publicize the "historical truth" of Jewish refugees from Arab countries, said former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Richard Holbrooke.

The group says about 865,000 Jews had to flee Arab and Muslim lands because of hostility surrounding the the State of Israel's formation. That's more than the estimated 750,000 Palestinian refugees who fled or were expelled from Israel in the 1948 War of Independence.

Many of the Jewish refugees were stripped of their property when they fled.

The issue of Jewish refugees from Arab lands has been swept under the "Persian carpet," joked Holbrooke, an honorary chairman of the new group, along with Lord George Weidenfeld of Great Britain's House of Lords.

Also taking leadership roles are Canadian MP and human rights lawyer Irwin Cotler and former Knesset speaker Shlomo Hillel, who helped some 100,000 Jews leave Iraq just after Israel's War of Independence.

The new group was created by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the American Sephardi Federation and the World Jewish Congress.

The coalition seeks "redress" for Jews displaced from Arab lands. Exactly what form that will take should be determined in Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, the group says.

"If the Palestinians will be getting financial restitution, then we believe Jewish refugees will be getting financial restitution," said Stanley Urman, director of the Center for Middle East Peace and the JJAC's co-ordinator. "We want to make sure that every time the issue of refugees is discussed within the context of the Middle East peace process, then the rights of former Jewish refugees will also be addressed."

The group plans to collect claims from Jewish refugees, start a legal committee to document the claims, lobby heads of state and international bodies, mobilize Jewish communal support and back a public education project.

The new coalition comes five months after Israeli Justice Minister Meir Sheetrit said his ministry was preserving and computerizing more than 10,000 claims from previous compensation initiatives that had been abandoned.

The ministry has partnered with the Sephardi Federation, which has been publicizing the effort and seeking new claims.

The goal is to gather information on Jewish property in Arab states to counter Palestinian claims to lost property in future talks, Sheetrit said in June.

Most Jewish refugees from Arab lands went to Israel, which undertook a massive effort to absorb them. Today, they and their descendants comprise half of Israel's Jewish population.

In contrast, Arab states largely refused to settle Palestinian refugees, denying them citizenship and forcing them into squalid camps to keep the conflict with Israel alive.

Israeli and Jewish leaders believe any final deal with the Palestinians will include compensation for Palestinian refugees. But they reject allowing refugees and their descendants to return to Israel, seeing it as tantamount to Israel's demographic destruction.

But Palestinian leaders continue to insist on the "right of return." The issue was a key factor in the collapse of the July 2000 Camp David summit and subsequent peace talks.

The impetus for the new group, Urman said, is the prospect of future talks, the Justice Ministry push for documentation and the fact Jewish refugees with first-hand knowledge of their property claims in the Muslim world are dying off.

Until now, Jewish groups and individuals have crusaded for the cause with little support. Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents, said there has been no "vehicle for doing this on a sustained basis" and "the UN wasn't taking it up."

JJAC does plan to bring the matter to the UN, asking both UN delegations and Jewish groups with consultative status to broach the issue.

One basis for the group's diplomatic efforts will be UN Security Council Resolution 242, which since the 1967 Six-Day War has been the basis for land-for-peace talks. It also seeks to settle the refugee problem – without specifying which refugees.

The JJAC said it won't pursue a lawsuit against the Arab League, as proposed in June by Amram Attias, president of the International Committee of Jews From Arab Lands, which is part of the American Sephardi Federation.

"Our priority is to engage in political discussions," Urman said.

Attias said his group is still examining grounds for a suit, but said he would defer to the new coalition. "Right now, we want to talk in one voice," he said.

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Government of Canada / Gouvernement du Canada

Canada

When smallpox comes to town

By HASKELL NUSSBAUM
Special to The CJN

Last week, 36-year old Marjorie Pick, an Australian-born hematologist who works in Tel Aviv's Sourasky Medical Centre, was infected with smallpox.

The infection, which involved an active strain of the virus, is part of Israel's plan to ready itself for a possible biological attack by Iraq.

About 15,000 health care and security personnel will be vaccinated as a prelude to vaccinating the entire population with their antibodies – a process known as passive vaccination.

Health Ministry spokespeople explain that of the 15,000 active vaccinations, they hope for 12,000 viable units of blood from which to extract antibodies. As of the end of September, about 3,200 people had been vaccinated. The process is expected to be completed within a few weeks.

I sat with Pick in her small Jerusalem apartment shortly after her vaccination to ask her about her experience, her expectations and her fears.

Q. What's the procedure for getting vaccinated with smallpox?
A. They ask people to fill out a form, and we must write down if we've had any previous vaccinations of smallpox, or specific diseases and if we have any skin disorders, because apparently the virus can affect you if you've had any skin disorders. [The nurse said that] they're picking people who've been vaccinated before because if you've had it once then the booster will give you a better immunization. And because they want to use us to immunize the rest of the country, it means that our antibodies should be very high. [Booster shots for smallpox at birth expire after 10 years.]

Q. Is the virus injected into you?
A. No. They put a drop of the virus onto our skin, on the right arm, and they take a needle and insert it into our skin 16 times so that we bleed and the blood mixes with the virus. Then they put a patch on so that the blood and virus keep mixing and that's how it gets into our circulation.

Marjorie Pick

Q. How long does it take to incubate?
A. They say that we should start to produce an immuno-response in a week, then a disgusting scab will form and the bigger the scab the better. After that, we see a doctor, they take blood, and make sure that we had a good response and not too many side effects.

Q. What are the possible side effects?
A. Temperature, aches – a lot of bone ache, a one-in-a-quarter-million chance of meningitis, swelling, pain. It depends on each person's body or pain tolerance. The vaccine was uncomfortable, for me, for a few hours and then it was okay. But apparently it takes about 48 hours before any side effects would start.

Q. What do your parents think about all this?
A. They're so excited. I asked them to check when I first got the vaccine [as a child] and they were very cute; they took out my baby book, [from] six months to a year after I was born, and they were looking through photographs, and my first words – they went on a trip down memory lane. I think that my parents are the type of people who would say that [the authorities] are doing this out of protection and that there won't be any actual need for it.

Q. They don't think that a biological attack will actually occur?
A. No.

Q. Do you think that something will happen?
A. I think that there must be enough intelligence information for [the government] to spend millions and millions of dollars to vaccinate us. There must be enough of a fear [that something will happen].

Q. In the event of an attack, what will be your role?
A. I'm not really sure. Because I'm actively vaccinated, I'm assuming that they'll ask me to be a caregiver, because I'll be strong enough. The rest of the community will be only passively immunized – I don't know how good that immunization is.

Q. Do you feel safe? Are you scared?
A. I have to admit that before the vaccination I was nervous, partly because I thought that I wouldn't be allowed to be around people for almost two weeks and I thought how dangerous could this vaccine be? But [it turns out that] no one is allowed to touch the area of the vaccination, but otherwise it's okay. I'm not contagious.

Q. Did you volunteer for this?
A. Yes. They're only taking volunteers for the active vaccination.

Q. Do you think that the government is doing enough to prepare for a biological attack? Is the hospital where you work prepared for a smallpox attack?
A. I doubt it. I doubt that anyone is. Do you really know how to prepare for it before it ever happens? What I know is that if we're on high alert, then I have to be available.

Smallpox vaccination was given today to Ichilov Hospital staff as a precaution against biological warfare from iraq.

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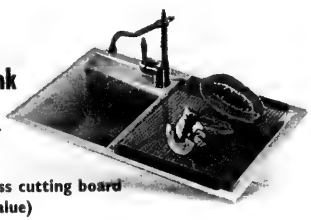

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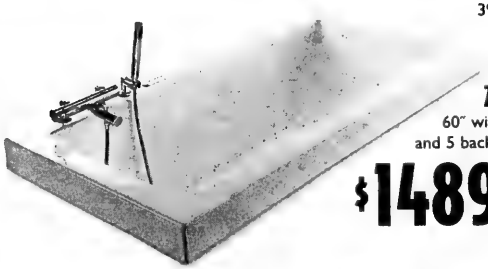

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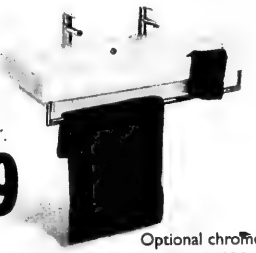

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THE DINING GUIDE

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Triple Crown Restaurant

1252 Lawrence Ave. E. • 416-443-3376
Also visit our other location:
Windfield's Restaurant at 801 York Mills Rd.
Open daily 11a.m.–2a.m. Wheelchair access

At Triple Crown, you'll experience a bright, friendly atmosphere, for both family and business dining. The Executive Chef prepares a large selection of dishes suited to the most discriminating palate. For starters, you can indulge in tasty calamari or bruschetta, followed by your choice of souvlaki, prime roast beef, tender and juicy steaks, ribs, fish, delicious pastas, and gourmet pizzas. Triple Crown offers it all!

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Baton Rouge Restaurant

7520 Weston Rd. • 905-265-8471
Hours 11a.m.-11p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11-midnight
Reservations recommended for weekend nights.
Wheelchair access. Parking in front.

Baton Rouge chooses the finest ingredients: crisp lettuces; ripe, ready tomatoes and peppers; the best of the day's catch; hand- selected prime beef. The chefs make dressings from scratch, and grill over fine hickory and aromatic hardwoods; watch them work in the open kitchens. They're finicky; each signature dish must be perfection: baby back ribs, chicken tenders light as air, raved- over dips. At well- spaced tables or tucked into intimate, oversized leather booths, the atmosphere is inviting: greenery and warm brick, burnished mahogany and brass, softly mirrored lamplight. Service is prompt and caring; you'll come back, bringing family and friends.

Akasaka Restaurant

Empress Walk, 5095 Yonge St.*
416-222-8188 (North York Centre subway)
Richmond Hill, 280 West Beaver Creek Rd.
905-764-9291
www.akasaka.ca *3hr. Free Parking $30.+

Akasaka's second restaurant on Empress Walk is an authentic Japanese dining experience. The dining room has sushi and tempura bars. In the teppanyaki room, the chef works at the centre, and everything is grilled before your eyes. The private tatami section hosts 15 to 25 guests, seated Japanese-style. The teppanyaki menu includes Angus beef, fish, chicken and seafood. Everything's fresh, with live lobster and crab and a tremendous sushi selection. For lunch, there are complete menus from $8.99; complete bentoh boxes from $11.99; and complete teppanyaki lunches at $10.99.

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817 Queen St. W. • 416-703-5069
Visit us at www.bandofgypsies.com
Hours: Mon. 6p.m.-12a.m.
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Furama House

100 Steeles Ave. W. • 905-731-3288
Hours: 10a.m.–11p.m., Dim Sum 10-4, 7 days.
Eat-in or take out. Licensed. Wheelchair access.
Reservations recommended.

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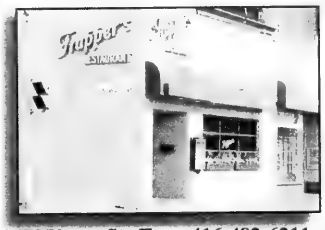
Ongoing specials include Live Lobster (buy 1, get 1 free), and the Live Lobster & King Crab combo. If you pay cash, you'll enjoy 20% off the dim sum Monday to Friday, 10 to 4 except holidays, and 10% off dinner in the evenings, not including specials. It's one more reason to savour the Furama House experience.

Trapper's Restaurant



3479 Yonge St., Tor. • 416-482-6211
www.toronto.com/trappersrestaurant
Lunch Mon.-Fri. 11:30a.m. - 2:30p.m.
Dinner Mon.-Thurs. 5p.m.-9p.m., Fri. & Sat. 5p.m.-10p.m.
Non-smoking. Partial wheelchair access

Among the tastes Trapper's has created to tempt you, are charcoal grilled Black Angus steaks, Atlantic salmon, Chilean sea bass, bouillabaisse, Alberta veal chops, Muskoka trout, PEI mussels, and roast breast of Broom Lake duck. It's Canadian-Continental cuisine, with a little international touch. The atmosphere is elegantly casual, ideal for an intimate romantic dinner. In 2001, *Where* magazine recommended them for the best wine list, and gave them the Most Memorable Meal award; and the Zaggatt survey of quality meals rated them excellent. Trapper's caters, and hosts private functions such as bar/bat mitzvahs or wedding rehearsals.

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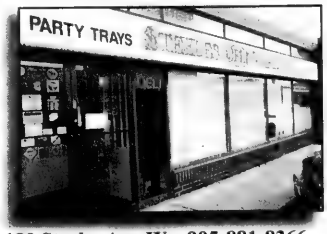
1962 Avenue Rd. • 416-787-3211
Hours: Lunch Mon.-Fri. 12:00noon–2:00p.m.
Dinner 7 days a week 5p.m.-10p.m.,
Licensed. No reservations. Non-smoking.

At 37 years, this is Toronto's longest-lasting and best-known lobster establishment. As the name implies, they feature lobsters — one to four pounds, live in tanks and fresh, prepared whatever way you like them. Also, they offer other fine seafoods and fish, such as Alaska king crab legs; for meat eaters, there are tasty items like filet mignon or chicken breast; and there is a kids' menu. The ambience is casual and friendly; most of the tables are booths, for privacy and comfort. The decor brings to mind a fisherman's cabin, with its traps, buoys and abalone shells on the walls.

Steeles Deli Warehouse



180 Steeles Ave. W. • 905-881-8366
Open Mon.-Fri. 10a.m.–9p.m., Sat. & Sun. 9a.m.–9p.m.
Wheelchair access.
Reservations advised for 6 or more.

Do you love old-fashioned deli cooking, with its homey tastes, textures and aromas? Come to Steeles Deli. Their liver and onions, gefilte fish, potato latkes and beef knishes are famous. They keep Montreal's smoked meat tradition alive in Toronto, while offering choice new delectations like chicken cacciatore. The healthful, delicious salads now include sesame chicken salad; and there are heart-warming soups in jars to take out. Most of the patrons are regulars who relish the good food and friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Bring the family; there's a special kids' menu. Enjoy a beer or house wine with your meal. There's take-out and catering too.

THE DINING GUIDE

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Baton Rouge Restaurant

216 Yonge St.
Toronto Eaton Centre
Reservations: 416-593-9667

Hours: Mon.–Thurs. 11a.m.–11p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 11a.m.–midnight
Sun. noon–10p.m.
Wheelchair access.

One of Montreal's leading restaurant chains, Baton Rouge features ribs, steaks, burgers and pastas. Everything here tastes of quality. The beef is Stirling Silver, Canada's #1 grade. The ribs, after 12 hours' slow baking and char-broiling, literally fall off the bone; you can eat them without using your fingers. The meat is aged in-house and fish selected daily; sauces and dressings are also made fresh daily. You'll love the mahogany interior, with its deep, rich reds; Frank Sinatra and Billy Halliday seranade. Come for dinner before the theatre, and return for dessert after.

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7 days a week
Parking available

smoke free

At Windfield's Restaurant you'll experience a bright, friendly atmosphere, for both family and business dining. The Executive Chef, Cristopher Fotakis, prepares a large selection of dishes suited for the most discriminating palate. For starters, you can indulge in tasty Calamari, or Bruschetta, followed by a choice of Souvlaki, roast beef, ribs, fish and pastas. Windfield's offers it all!

Even the kids will love the great kid's menu and delicious desserts. Windfield's also offers an all-day Breakfast! Come by any morning from 7-11 a.m. for the most wonderful breakfast specials. Windfield's is centrally located on the south east corner of York Mills & Leslie for your enjoyment.

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- **BREAKFAST SPECIAL:** 2 eggs, choice of breakfast meat, home fries, toast & coffee, **$2.99** Mon.-Fri. 7:30–11:30 a.m. excluding holidays;
- **EARLY BIRD SPECIAL:** Enjoy one **HALF PRICE Dinner Entrée** when a second Dinner Entrée of equal or lesser value is purchased, Mon.–Thurs. 3:30–5:30 p.m. excluding holidays. Not valid with other offers.

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3838 Midland Ave., Unit 121
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The feast starts with the appetizers, which offer more choice than some entire menus. It continues with Greek specialties such as Rack of Lamb, Moussaka, and Lamb Kleftiko. Fresh fish? Grilled Swordfish Steak with lemon and herbs; Whole Broiled Sea Bass; Atlantic Salmon Steak — whatever your selection, it will transport you to Greece on first bite. In freshness, preparation and authenticity, the Palace stands alone.

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visit us at toronto.com

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Reservations recommended for Fri. & Sat.

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New must-try offerings like Pan Seared Grouper (delicacy incarnate with its thin strip of salmon, in a white wine cream reduction wrapped around asparagus and served with new mini potatoes and cherry tomatoes) join time-honoured classics like Char-Grilled Loin of Lamb with fig and orange glaze to make Pan's menu one of a kind. Enjoyed in a candle-lit yet vibrant atmosphere, they make the recently renovated Pan a magnet for good food lovers everywhere.

VOYAGES TO SEPHARAD (SPAIN) AND THE ITALY OF THE SEPHARDIC DIASPORA
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Arts & Travel

Deb Filler aims for the stomach again

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

Deb Filler says she has always felt like an outsider because she's a Jewish female comedian from New Zealand whose father survived the Holocaust. But Filler is just like many Jewish women in one way: she has a love of food.

That facet of Jewish culture takes centre stage at Filler's one-woman show *Filler Up!*, running at the Artword Theatre in Toronto until Oct. 18. The two-hour performance features 27 characters exalting the joys of cuisine, from pineapple cheesecake to Chinese take-out. The native New Zealander contorts her body and voice to offer audiences multiple perspectives on culinary lust.

"Food has always been a big part of my life," Filler, who now resides in downtown Toronto, said. "I was born in a bakery, my mother loved food but hated it, and my German grandparents praised me for eating so much."

She recounts how her late father starved during the Holocaust – a trauma that affected the family's dinner table.

"He never wanted to waste a thing," she said.

Filler gives out pieces of challah to an audience who watch her bake it during the performance. The three-braided challah, she says, represents the three strands of personalities central to the show: the mother, father and daughter. With humour and sincerity, these characters explore the power and paradox of eating.

"How can we be happy with our food passion and our passion to be thin?" Filler said. "The play examines how we can't be happy holding onto that something that holds us back."

Filler's characters either obsess about food or body image, and sometimes both issues collide painfully. The father character mocks his family's overeating habits while the mother struggles to fight her cravings, the Long Island aunt solves all problems with Chinese food, and an ex-boyfriend remarks to a young Filler: "Baby, you'd be perfect if you lost 10 pounds."

Filler said people can identify with those food-obsessed personalities. She remembered one woman approaching her after a preview and saying, "That's me, that's my family, that's my life."

Deb Filler offers challah to her audience.

It's not surprising. Anyone with Jewish relatives will appreciate a Filler line such as, "Look at you, did you lose weight in da face?"

This show is one more notch on Filler's expanding belt that includes the 1993 hit *Punch Me in the Stomach*, which was subsequently made into a film. That one-woman show also featured Filler's seamless impersonations and theme of survival.

"I'm an observer," she said, "and I like to inhabit people's skins. I tend to become all those that I see everyday."

Having lived in Jewish communities from Auckland to New York and performed with theatre companies all over Europe, Filler has an extensive database of kvetchers and noshers to draw from. Her comedy shows send her travelling from Scotland to Israel.

Filler Up!, in fact, had been workshopped in cities such as Boston, Washington and Wellington, New Zealand, to rave reviews before making its North American premiere in Toronto.

To pay the bills, Filler also lends her talent to toys and cartoons. She is the voice of the Peg Bundy doll and "Mummy" in the animated series *Bob and Margaret*. She also plays guitar and has two punk cabaret bands, The Ratz and Debbie and the Dum Dums. Her rhythm skills shine onstage as she remixes songs to reflect *Filler Up!*'s theme. Beethoven's *Ode to Joy* and the children's song *Teddy Bear's Picnic* both get tasty makeovers.

In light of her father's Holocaust experiences, Filler, who says she's overly sensitive to the tragic events that haunted him, believes there is a serious side to being funny.

"I can't make fun of human suffering," she said, "especially as a child of a Holocaust survivor." She adds that her father's experience taught her how amazingly resilient humans can be facing darkness and despair.

"Laughter is a survival mechanism, and it's a way of coping with grief."

Filler said her mission in life is to create value, whether it be comedy or compassion. She said she never takes a day for granted and always appreciates doing what she loves for a living.

"And if I ever complain," she said, "well, then punch me in the stomach."

For tickets to *Filler Up!*, call 416-872-1212 or visit www.ticketking.com.

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'Hello Muddah?, it's Allan Sherman'

By CARRIE BRODI
Special to The CJN

Jewish-American screenwriter and director Rob Krausz, sits in the front row of an empty New Yorker Theatre, discussing his 10-year-old hit musical, *Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh*, premiering soon to an "embracing" Toronto audience. He's already eaten in three of the city's Hungarian restaurants, and can't boast enough about the politeness of Canadians.

"Casting directors, actors, investors, producers – everyone just does their job," he says.

Krausz, a seasoned television writer who earned a law degree at Duke University, but ditched it the morning of his first law gig, has come to town for more than schnitzel and civility, though. He's here to spread post-9/11 joy and laughter via the memory of a rotund kibitzer from the '60s, named Allan Sherman.

Referred to as the original Weird Al Yankovich (a popular, contemporary parodist) , Sherman was the first to parody popular folk songs like Harry Belafonte's *Matilda* (*My Zelda*); and *Alouette*, (*Al 'N' Yetta*), and he did so from an overtly, "culturally" Jewish perspective.

Sherman's short-lived career (1962-1966) produced 33 albums, including *My Son The Nut*, which yielded the Grammy Award-winning homesick-child-at-summer-camp plea, *Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh*, which Krausz says, is

Continued on page 43

Greenlight Project winner has strong Jewish content

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

A few months ago, I received an invitation to a press screening of the film *Stolen Summer*. And although I wanted to attend, prior commitments made it difficult. As well, the late notification made it impossible to get a review into this paper in time for its opening.

The film opened in a few theatres in the Toronto area and played for about one week. Then it was gone.

But thanks to video, I recently had the opportunity to see the film at home. It is a must see for all those interested in Jewish film.

The screenplay won a contest run by Ben Affleck and Matt Damon – the Project Greenlight Contest. The prize for winning was a guarantee the film would be produced and distributed.

For first-time script writer and director Pete Jones, it was a wonderful opportunity that resulted in a very charming film.

The story is set in Chicago in 1976. Eight-year-old Pete O'Malley comes from a large Catholic home. His father is a firefighter who doesn't believe in a college education for his children and instead wants to set them up in secure jobs with the city.

Pete has been taught in school that the path to heaven is through faith and a belief in Jesus. And in order to ensure his own entry into paradise, he goes on a quest to convert someone to Christianity.

Because of his age, Pete's understanding of theology is somewhat immature and naive, and in his innocence he tries to help the seven-year-old son of the local rabbi to find his way to heaven. The result is often humorous and always enchanting.

Not only is Pete's understanding of theology limited, but he must overcome the obstacles placed in his path by the adult world around him.

While not a great film, *Stolen Summer* has enough charm and appeal to justify renting or purchasing a copy.

It features Aidan Quinn, Bonnie Hunt, Kevin Pollak, Brian Dennehy and Adi Stein as Pete O'Malley and Mike Weinberg as Danny Jacobsen.

Stolen Summer is being distributed in Canada by Alliance Atlantis and should be available at most video stores. It is being released on both VHS and DVD.

Concert Postponed

A concert featuring The Klezmer Conservatory Band, scheduled for the Hummingbird Centre on Oct. 17, has been postponed. It will be presented next spring. Patrons are advised to keep their tickets which will be honoured for the new performance date. Patrons will be notified of the new date by mail. For updates, visit www.hummingbirdcentre.com. If preferred, refunds are available at point of purchase.

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Born in Romania 90 years ago, **Tutzi Haspel Seguin** is a little woman with a big smile and a bigger heart. Her life's passion has been shared between her family, her art and hundreds of students she has encouraged and befriended. A well-known personality in Toronto, she has held classes all over the city and in her home studio. Small groups of art lovers have printed, painted, sculpted and socialized at her studio. Home-baked refreshments and soft-spoken instruction are staples of her classes.

Seguin is a recipient of national and international awards. Her works hang in private and corporate collections. She has recently been the subject of a CBC video and had her own cable-TV show years ago. Writing a book of memoirs is a more recent project.

Seguin's beloved husband and daughters have passed away before her, yet she still continues to share her knowledge and paints constantly. After breaking her hip last year, she used her memories of gypsies to prepare a show that was hugely successful. The event took place just after she lost her husband, yet she came and opened the show to an audience of fans and buyers. The small colourful canvases just about sold out.

She is a participant in the fourth annual North York Visual Artists Studio Tour, Oct. 19 and 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Her studio at 43 Camberwell Ave. in the Eglinton-Bathurst area is a good spot to start a weekend of art. Twenty-five artists will join Seguin by opening their studios to the public. For information and a brochure, 416-638-2502.

* * *

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

Rodak Studio Tour: North York artist **Jean Rodak** also opens her home studio to the public as part of the North York Studio Tour and Sale, Oct. 19 and 20, noon to 6 p.m. Rodak's studio and exhibit remain open on Oct. 21 and the rest of the week by arrangement.

Yvette Tollar

Rodak's family came to Toronto to reunite her father with his sister, both Holocaust survivors separated for many years. Rodak has taught and encouraged children at the Koffler School of Fine Art. She paints impressionistic images and abstracts in bold, bright colours and various styles. The show, which includes pieces with Judaic motifs and Hebrew texts, is a retrospective of many years of experimenting with different methods of painting. 12 Maxwell St. (Bathurst-Sheppard area). 416-638-2502.

* * *

Winnipeg Author in Toronto: Historian and novelist **Allan Levine** is speaking here this week on his latest nonfiction book, *Scattered Among the Peoples: The Jewish Diaspora in Ten Portraits* (McClelland and Stewart).

Reached in Winnipeg, Levine told Eye On Arts that he has produced a third detective novel, *The Bolshevik's Revenge*. The novel, which features Jewish sleuth Sam Klein in a story set around the Winnipeg general strike of 1919, is being published this month by Great Plains.

Levine's first detective novel, *The Blood Libel*, has reportedly been doing well in Germany. Published in German translation as *Under A False Tongue* by Goldmann, a subsidiary of Bertelsmann, it has reportedly sold more copies in Germany than in Canada. The company is preparing to publish a translation of Levine's second detective novel as well.

"In Germany they like Canadian stuff," Levine said. "From their point of view, the north end of Winnipeg is as exotic as anywhere else in the world."

As for *Scattered Among the Peoples*, Levine reported that the Outlook Press of New York is preparing an American edition to be published next year. He gives an illustrated lecture on the book at the Beth Tzedec Synagogue, Toronto, on Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Arts Briefs

- Toronto vocalist **Yvette Tollar** and her band, with special guest **Levon Ichkhanian**, perform jazz with a modern edge. The opening act, **Katztollar,** consists of **Brian Katz** and **Ernie Tollar**. Adults $16. Harbourfront Centre's du Maurier Theatre, Oct. 11, 8 p.m. 416-973-4000. www.yvettetollar.com. Katz will also perform two concerts with virutoso klezmer clarinettist **Martin van de Ven** on Oct. 16 at Walter Hall (80 Queens Pk. Crescent, free noon hour concert) and at Mezzetta (681 St. Clair Ave. W.) on Nov. 6 at 9 p.m. Call 416-658-5687 for reservations.
- **Honey Novick** performs at Fat Albert's Coffeehouse and records a live CD to aid UNESCO. Bloor Street United Church, basement. 300 Bloor St. W. Admission $2. Wednesday, Oct 16, 8:30 p.m.
- Théâtre français de Toronto launches its 35th season with a mini-festival. Oct. 16 to Nov. 3. $24 to $42. Berkeley St. Theatre. 416-534-6604.

* * *

At the Galleries

- **Gauguin to Matisse:** French Masterpieces from Russia's Hermitage Museum. Art Gallery of Ontario. Opens Oct. 12.
- Klim Art Publishers presents the etchings and oils of **Ronnie Wood**, who has been an artist as long as he has been the drummer for the **Rolling Stones**. 2473 Yonge St., above Eglinton. Opens Thursday, Oct. 17, 7 p.m. Until Oct. 31.

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What critically acclaimed Broadway theatre concert will Mandy Patinkin be performing?

(Hint: the answer can be found in their advertisement printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by 1 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 1/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Mon., Nov. 4/02 at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: 'Mandy Patinkin' Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 'Mandy Patinkin' Contest, 416-391-0949.

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FLIGHT CENTRE

Arts & Travel

Paintings preserve the spirit of Toronto neighbourhoods

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

An exhibition of 23 watercolour paintings of street scenes and landscapes by Franklyn Glazier titled torontoUpCloseetc. will be held in the Upper Link Gallery at the Civic Garden Centre at Edwards Gardens, 777 Lawrence Ave. E. (Corner Lawrence Avenue and Leslie Street), Oct. 23 to Nov. 3.

Glazier, 68, a retired architect, says he is attracted to some older parts of the city and the spontaneous and mainly unaffected vitality associated with them.

"With limited budgets, they established a kind of zany, colourful ambience, with many varied establishments abutting and sometimes colliding with each other," says Glazier.

Glazier's nostalgic paintings are whimsical and lighthearted – realistic yet in caricature. "They make me smile," he says. "That's my measure of success."

Italian cafe on Baldwin Street.

There are familiar street scenes, paintings of the waterfront, the Beaches, Little Italy at College and Bathurst streets, Baldwin Street and other neighbourhoods where many Jewish immigrant families lived in the 1920s and '30s.

"Thus on Baldwin Street, you have the Italian cafe with Yiddish script on the front window of what was Mandel's creamery," Glazier says. "In Yiddish, it says butter, cheese, cream, eggs, fresh daily. And next to this Italian/Yiddish combo is a Japanese restaurant.

"The older areas tickle me. I respond to them – the character of the neighbourhoods. It's funky paintings of funky locales.

"Although I didn't set out to create an historical record of these areas, I do believe I've captured the spirit of the way they exist today which will serve as a record of the ambience and life in these areas which will not be with us for long."

He says that with "the inexorable beat of unrelenting development underway in many of these neighbourhoods, it is important that their spirit be preserved if only in two dimensions, for future reference and, alas, remorse."

Glazier was born in Toronto, attended Forest Hill Collegiate Institute and graduated from the University of Toronto's school of architecture in 1957. He worked on a wide variety of projects and retired five years ago.

Among his early painting experiences, Glazier says, was one in 1952, when he attended a sketching camp in Dorset, Ont. "I enjoyed it immensely."

With a busy career, he took a hiatus from his art until he retired, "and then I had time and my interest in painting was peaked again."

His first solo exhibition was held last year at the Civic Garden Centre.

For more information on the exhibition, call Glazier at 416-444-4208.

'Hello Muddah?, it's Allan Sherman'

Continued from page 40

as recognizable to this day, as the song *Happy Birthday*.

Krausz and co-conceiver, Douglas Bernstein's five-character, smash off-Broadway homage to Sherman, has enjoyed successful runs in Chicago, Los Angeles, and Boston prior to the start of its run in Toronto. The lively, family-friendly musical explores universal themes of birth, love, marriage, mid-life crisis, and, of course, food. A sort of Jewish *bildungsroman*, with an all-you-can-eat bent, set against the Laugh-In television show backdrop.

"The play follows the two main characters, Sarah and Barry Backman," Krausz says, "from birth till they go to the great Early Bird Special in the sky in Florida, but it's all told through the songs of Allan Sherman."

The wedding scene, replete with a band called Noah and the Nudnicks, sees an overzealous "Steve (Lawrence) and Edie (Gourmet)" set of parents act more concerned with showcasing the buffet and "schtick entertainment" than their child's nuptials, Krausz says. One of the characters asks, "Do you all see the completely edible statue of Golda Meir?" Fun. Jewish. But in Krausz' opinion, the show has a wider appeal.

"This is not a Jewish show; it's an Allan Sherman show," he says. "Yes, of course he was Jewish but Sherman was a parodist. Is Billy Crystal a Jewish comedian? Is Robert Klein a Jewish comedian? These are great comedians. Jews just happen to be great comedians."

But all great comedy comes from pain, Krausz says.

"People were homesick in the '60s," Krausz says. "People had problems with their in-laws, problems with their weight. Sherman was really able to touch all of those themes."

Watching people leave the theatre — children, parents and grandparents — smiling, makes Krausz very happy.

"The material is so embraceable," he says. "Funny words to a tune you know. It's a connection everybody can make."

The play runs at the New Yorker Theatre from Oct. 17 till Jan. 5, with a preview on Oct. 11. Tickets can be purchased from the box office, or from Ticketmaster at 416-872-1111 or online www.ticketmaster.ca.

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Health & Lifestyles

Yad b'Yad helps Israeli girls at risk

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Rachel Schwartz is a woman with a mission. She wants to rescue some of the estimated 15,000 young women in Israel who have been enticed into the world of drugs, alcohol and sex by their unscrupulous Israeli Arab boyfriends.

Schwartz recently founded an organization called Yad b'Yad, which has established a home in Beit Shemesh for these girls and wants to establish more, to be safe havens for them and to encourage them to finish their education and become productive members of society.

"Rachel Schwartz" is not her real name. It is the name she uses for public purposes, to prevent what she feels is the very real possiblity of retaliation against her and her family.

Like most Israelis, Schwartz, a teacher, speaker, mother of four and new grandmother, was not aware of the problem, she said in a recent interview here – until, on the way to Be'er Sheva one day, she picked up a 14-year-old hitchhiker.

The girl told Schwartz that when she was 10 years old, an employee of a nearby grocery store began giving her candy, something her very poor family could not provide, and meeting her secretly to talk and socialize. So charming was he that for two years she didn't go to school, so that she could be with him.

Then the blow struck. The board of education told her parents she had not been attending school. Terrified, she ran to her friend, who took her to his home. It was only then that she discovered that he was not Jewish, but was an Arab.

For three weeks, the girl told Schwartz, he treated her like a princess. He also began to give her drugs – free at first. Then he informed her that she would have to sell drugs and encourage others to use them.

She soon became the leader of a group of 135 girls, all involved in unsavory activities. She returned to her parents' home, offering to give them money if they let her live there without any restrictions. Desperately poor, they agreed.

Influenced by a Chabad rabbi she met, she decided to leave the life she had been living. The day she made that decision was the day she met Schwartz.

Skeptical about the girl's story, Schwartz took her to her home in Beit Shemesh. Under her direction, Schwartz went to the area of Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem that was the hangout for the girls and their Arab friends. She was appalled at the swarms of young people she found there – Israeli girls and Israeli Arab boys.

She discovered that the girls came from very poor or dysfunctional homes. Many had been abandoned by their families for being too difficult to handle, or, in the case of some from haredi homes, for fear that the girls would prevent shidduchim being made for their siblings.

There was no indication, at first, that these boys were not Jews, as they said they were, Schwartz said. They spoke perfect Hebrew.

Schwartz determined to do something about the situation.

She went to Rabbi Mordechai Eliyahu, the Shas minister of welfare for the Israeli government. Using some creative persuasion, she convinced him to provide matching funds for any she raised.

The home in Beit Shemesh has already been opened. In addition to creating a home for these girls, it provides social workers and psychologists, and programs, as Yad b'Yad's promotional brochure puts it, "to meet the emotional, social, spiritual and occupational needs of each individual girl."

But this home can only help a few people. A government report says that 30,000 young girls are at risk, Schwartz said.

She wants to create a whole village, where large numbers of girls can come and get schooling, employment and, especially, spiritual and emotional healing.

Schwartz was in Toronto recently to raise funds for her project. She is willing to come back to Canada to speak, to attend parlour meetings, to do whatever she can to make her dream come true.

For information, go to the organization's Web site, www.yadbyad.net or call the Toronto contact, Marty Stoltzman, at 905-731-0178.

Goldbloom named chair of Montreal health board

Victor Goldbloom, the new chairman of the Montreal regional health board, said he believes chronic care must not be overlooked in planning for the city's health care system.

"We absolutely must ensure that there is an adequate number of beds at long-term, convalescent and rehabilitation facilities," he said.

He noted that the two planned mega-hospitals, the McGill University Health Centre and the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, will both have fewer acute-care beds when they are completed than the total at the hospitals they will replace.

That will likely mean they will not give up many of their remaining acute-care spaces for chronic-care patients, as the hospitals they will replace do now, he said.

Goldbloom, who had been a member of the regional health board, was appointed chairman by the Quebec government after the resignation of Kathleen Weil. He will complete her three-year term, which ends in December, 2004.

The health board, usually referred to by its French name, the Régie, was restructured by Bill 28, which was passed last year. Most notably, the legislation created the new top position of president and executive-director, which is held by David Levine, who was briefly junior health minister earlier this year.

Under Bill 28, the role of chairman of the board, a volunteer position, has been reduced mainly to chairing board meetings and the public hearings the Régie holds once or twice a year, said Goldbloom, who was a provincial Liberal cabinet minister in the 1970s.

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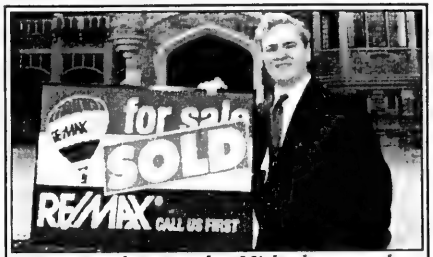

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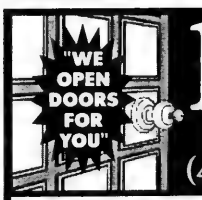

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HARRY GREENBERG ז"ל
will take place
Monday, Oct. 14th, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Blue Star Lodge Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HELEN GREENWOOD ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 13th, Noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth Emeth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MELVYN NAIMER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 13th, 11:00 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

330 OBITUARIES

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335 UNVEILINGS

The dedication of a monument to the memory of the late beloved

ADELE GERSTEIN ז"ל

will take place

Monday, October 14th, 10:30 a.m.

Lambton Hills Cemetery

Ostrovtzer Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MILTON HAMBURGER ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Oct. 20th, 11:00 a.m.

Beth Tzedec Memorial Park

Section H

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

SARAH KAIMAN ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, October 20th, at 10:30 a.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park

Beth Sholom Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

MILDRED LEVY ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, October 13, at 1:00 p.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park

Chevra Mishnais Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

EMMA SUGAR ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Oct. 13th, 10:30 a.m.

Mount Sinai Memorial Park

Ozrower Section

Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late

RIVKA (REGINA) TANENBAUM ז"ל

will take place

Sunday, Oct. 13th, 11:00 a.m.

Pardes Shalom Cemetery

Community Section 4

Relatives and friends are invited to attend

336 CARD OF THANKS

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CALL ME
Hi, I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs old. I'm a warm person, honest very open, out going good listener and good to communicate with. I also friendly, and I enjoy people. Looking for a widow 54-62 for friendship first **AD#1403**

MAKE YOU LAUGH
I am a professional woman in my mid 50's I have been a widow over a year and would like to meet someone This person must be someone who's single and professional with whom I can share my interests with. Perferrably someone who lives in metro-toronto. I am outgoing, funny to be with and easy to talk to. **AD#1461**

QUIET TIMES
I am widow in my 50's and I'm starting over I'm a non smoker, friendly, down to earth, love cooking and baking I enjoy romantic, quiet times listening to music and sitting in front of a fire. I would to like to meet a widower 55-60 **AD#1344**

WARM SMILE
I am a Jewish widow, and would like to meet a widower 55-63, likes music, old movies. I'm a caring and sharing romantic, warm person, who's down to earth and likes to smile a lot **AD#1191**

YOUNG AT HEART
I'm a youthful 58 yr old single female who's warm, kind and compassionate I don't smoke and I'm financially secure I would like to meet someone to share interests with like going to movies, the theatre, walking and other interests Looking for loving partner to enjoy life with **AD#1032**

WIDOWS ONLY
Would like to start a widows group social. 50-60 yrs only, no divorcees **AD#1040**

A REAL FIND
I'm a smart, kind hearted, loyal, very very funny female who's cute, youthful, physically fit, & professionally successful with no strings, I'm looking to meet a wonderful Jewish man 50-80 yrs of age to share, enjoy & enrich our life experiences **AD#1156**

A MENSCH FOR ALL SEASONS
Michelle is an engaging, fun-loving, energetic, fanatically-fit widow with a zest for life & a passion for work & family Friends say she is attractive & fun to be with. She is looking for a mensch. (by definition a life loving man of integrity) **AD#1012**

LET'S MEET
Hi, I'm a sincere lady with a warm smile I'm kind, caring & compassionate I'm also honest & have a good sense of humour I love animals & seek a gentleman for companionship between 60-65 yrs I also enjoy long walks, dancing, theatre & music **AD#1447**

FINER THINGS
Hi, I'm an attractive professional woman in my early 50's I'm 5' 6", red hair and have 2 grown wonderful children I'm sincere respectful, caring, romantic and fun loving I enjoy cooking, fine dining, dancing, theatre, opera, travel, walks in the park, and I love to sing **AD#1402**

NEW LIFE WITH YOU
I'm a widow who would like to rebuild a new life with a widower or a single male 54-60 yrs I'm active, outgoing and down to earth I enjoy life, non smoker I like art, adventure & travel Seeking a mature relationship **AD#1383**

LET'S MEET FOR COFFEE
Hi, I'm 39 yr old single female I'm seeking a male 39-49 yrs, who's attractive, hard working like myself, and easy going Looking for friendship, hopefully leading to a relationship I like dancing, going out to eat & movies **AD#1269**

STARTING OVER
I'm a widow in my 50's, who would like to start over I'm a caring & sharing individual, a good listener, non smoker, positive person w/ a smile I enjoy life & people and humour Would like to meet a single man in his 50's w/ similar interests **AD#1236**

EUROPEAN WIDOW
European, retired widow, is looking for a loving, reliable w/ widower or divorced man, loves music, art , swimming, walking & tennis **AD#1182**

SPEND TIME TOGETHER
I'm a widow looking for a widower between 50-60 yrs. I enjoy music and reading I'm very open, caring, romantic, enjoy country drives and holding hands Looking for a warm person with a great smile, and sense of humour with similar interests **AD#1380**

STREETCAR NAMED...
Hello my name is Stella, looking for a serious relationship w/ a honest man who is intelligent & has a sense of humour who likes the outdoors, music, travel & many other things. I enjoy outdoor activities, I'm sincere, outspoken person. Seeks quality time w/ someone **AD#1460**

PLAY GAMES WITH YOU
Hi, I'm a tall, attractive, Jewish woman, 39 yrs, independent, honest, down to earth, love to read, do crossword puzzles, play scrabble, dance, long walks, I'm looking for a tall Jewish, warm, intelligent & kind man who knows what he wants out of life. **AD#1152**

SIMPLE THINGS
I'm a slim, shapely, very attractive, 50'ish, single Jewish female who's 5' 4" tall, dark hair & eyes, a great smile, warm & affectionate As far as interests are concerned, the simple pleasures of life are the very best For me it's laughter, good conversation, sipping wine at a cafe **AD#1029**

SOULMATE SEARCHING
33 yr old female, with long brown hair & eyes, very good looking, out going, charming, loves to have fun Looking for a down to earth attractive male between 30-40 yrs, non smoker, who shares same interests as I I'm looking for my soul mate, if your interested please respond **AD#1406**

DESTINATION: LOVE
Hi, if your interested in meeting a special single Jewish female, baggage free, has air miles & loves to travel you've answered the right ad I'm a very attractive, slim, shapely, fun loving, 50'ish, single Jewish female with a warm smile, integrity & many interests **AD1061**

HIGH CLASS
Larissa is attractive, Jewish, 55 yrs, 5' 3" tall and seek an interesting accomplished, classy gentleman between 55-65 yrs for companionship & more **AD#1443**

CALL ME
Cindy is a petit, brown eyed brunette, 5' 2", very friendly, intelligent, loving, compassionate looking for a professional gentleman, between 50-60 yrs, who shares similar qualities with whom I can enjoy companionship & happy times Some interests include movies, theatre & music **AD#1185**

LIFE PARTNER
Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, petite, cute, attractive, pretty and slim She enjoys music, dancing, nature, hiking, quiet beach walks, non smoker, non drinker, looking for a life partner, preferably an easy going, single jewish male between 35-55 yrs with similar interests **AD#1200**

I AM FOR YOU
Unique, Jewish female, attractive, 5' 5", intelligent, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established, male 45 yrs young, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable and over 6 feet tall **AD#1240**

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP
Attractive, 40 yrs, single Jewish female, seeks male 40-52 yrs who's attractive, hard working like myself. I like to go out to eat, dance, movies & a bit of sports. If you have similar interests, leave me your name & number. I'm looking for a serious relationship. **AD#1037**

KILLER SMILE!
Hi, my name is Debbie I'm 47 yrs almost, a Virgo—Sept 6th is my birthday, divorced for 8 yrs and very comfortable with that I'm 5 3" with short brown hair & brown eyes and a smile that will knock you dead Little bit overweight but working on it diligently, I love the outdoors **AD#1038**

LOVE CONNECTION?
Jewish female, pretty, creative professional, young lady, 5'5ft, slender, enjoys travel theatre & fine dining Seeks an established & fit male, between 43-53 yrs, complimented by sincerity & spontaneity to share in the zest of life **AD#1151**

SHARE WITH YOU
Marianna is 5' 4", with hazel eyes and dark hair She enjoys sports, concerts, walks and dancing, and is seeking a male to share those interests She describes herself as outgoing, friendly, straight forward & easy to talk to **AD#1382**

RESPECT & SINCERITY
40 yr old honest caring, sensitive female writer, looking for compatible male in his 40's to share meaningful moments I enjoy long walks, talks, cafes, movies, art, poetry, nature, animals, I'm open minded I value respect & sincerity, friendships & genuine relationships **AD#1401**

LET'S MEET
Great personality, easy to please, lovely lady who's considerate intelligent, good natured and attractive 53 yrs old, hoping to meet a nice polite gentleman for genuine relationship between 55-73 yrs old **AD#1136**

WALKS BY THE LAKE
Barb is very young, 50'ish, a single mom w/ 2 grown children She lives in central Toronto and seeks a Jewish gentleman to develop a friendship with to laugh, cry & grow with She enjoys walks by the lake out in the country, movies, sharing and cuddling Please call and leave a message **AD#1204**

VIVACIOUS FEMALE
Montrealer who now lives in Hamilton She's vivacious, fit, slim 5' 5", 120 lbs, seeks male for tennis partner Also for dining, movies, walks & wilting to explore a little bit Looking for a compassionate man for a wonderful relationship **AD#1186**

LOVE, FUN & LAUGHTER
Single female, 44 yrs young, attractive, intelligent, honest, sincere, down to earth, funny & good natured She enjoys music, dancing, reading, travelling. If you seek love, fun & laughter, call me. **AD#1132**

PEOPLE PERSON
Financially secure, professional female who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a companion to enjoy theatre, sports and fine dining with If you are between 60-70 yrs please give me a call. **AD#1260**

OPTIMISTIC FEMALE
She's down to earth professional independent & fun loving is seeking a male who shares the same qualities for a companion first and see how it goes from there **AD#1124**

WARM & COMPASSIONATE
Sandy is Jewish in her 50's and attractive She's 5' 6" with red hair and blue eyes She's sophisticated sexy, warm compassionate, sensuous and loves life She seeks a classy man between 60-69 yrs preferably tall, non smoking, sweet kind hearted & well groomed **AD#1030**

PEOPLE PERSON
A financially secure, professional woman, loves to travel & meet new people She enjoys theatre and concerts and seeks a male for a companion between 60-70 yrs old **AD#1405**

SEXY, SOPHISTICATED
I've been looking for love in all the wrong places, searching for my niche I'm 59-69 yrs, a non smoker who's kind w/ good qualities I'm also a sexy, sophisticated woman in my 50's, and I love life & dancing I'm compassionate & sensuous Call me **AD#1159**

HARD WORKING GAL
Attractive, down to earth and friendly female She's 40 yrs old, a hard worker, and never been married She enjoys movies dining & dancing and seeks an attractive friendly, down to earth, hard working male between 40-49 yrs, for a serious, long term relationship **AD#1387**

PROFESSIONAL WOMAN
41 yr old, single, professional woman She enjoys a variety of interests ranging from the intellectual to the creative & physical Seeking an intelligent, considerate family oriented man who's serious about getting serious **AD#1225**

HELLO TRAVELLER!
Life is exciting, but more exciting with a companion to share the way Financially secure, perky widow who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a male between 60-70 yrs who is physically fit **AD#1095**

men seeking women

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Hello my name is Michael I'm a 41 yr accountant, and have been working for many years. In my spare time during the summer I enjoy playing baseball, bike riding and hiking I also enjoy getting together with friends I'm looking to meet a young lady with similar goals, which hopefully leads to long term relationship **AD#1370**

INCURABLE ROMANTIC
Jewish male, non smoker, in his 70's going on 50. A university graduate, 5'.5", 145 lbs. I have many varied interests including theatre, music, dancing, the arts, tennis, golf, dining, travelling I'm also an incurable romantic & social drinker with a great zest for life. **AD#1235**

PROFESSIONAL MALE
Hi I'm a single 40 yr old male, professional, physically fit easy going, who enjoys meeting people and have a joy for life. I'm looking for a female 30-40 yrs, who meets my common interests **AD#1286**

DOCTOR OF LOVE
My name is Dan, I'm 51 yrs and work as a medical doctor. I have 2 daughters that live with me and I'm a devoted father I'm slim, fit, energetic, intense, and I'm always looking to learn new things. I take course most of the time. Interests range from art, philosophy, foreign languages & ballroom dancing. **AD#1293**

ROMANTIC MAN
Hi, I'm a Jewish male, late 50's, who's looking for a sharing & caring woman, non smoking, 45-58yrs. I'm a romantic who likes long walks & enjoys nature, quiet evenings cuddling together at fireside **AD#1478**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
I'm a man in my 50's w/ blue eyes, dark brown hair, who would like to meet a woman, also in her 50's. She should enjoy travel, museums, the arts & musical theatre Looking for someone who can share lots of laughs w/ a good sense of humour. Home cooked meals would be a definite bonus **AD#1234**

HEALTHY WEALTHY
Hi my name is Arnon, I'm a white executive living in Thornhill. I look in the mirror & I see a healthy young 1939 model w/ no deficiencies, I'm told that I'm not bad to look at either I've got salt & pepper hair, beautiful blue eyes, slim, 5' 10" and I have good teeth too My passions are the sun & sea **AD#1005**

UNEMPLOYED BUM
Are you looking for a ugly, short, fat, bald, unemployed bum? Well keep looking because I'm none of the above. I'm honest, successful, good looking with no dependents. I love gourmet foods, wine tasting, movies & I'm a very good cook Seeking a woman between 38-48 yrs. **AD#1227**

LET'S MEET
Hi my name is Marvin, I'm a warm & thoughtful person, single, 60 yrs old and I live in GTA. I'm a romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who loves to travel, watch movies, bake long walks, rides in the country. I also enjoy great conversation, nice quiet times at homes, and I love to read. **AD#1074**

DO YOU JUBU?
Physically & spiritually active male, 33 yrs old. Seeks non materialistic female with insight, aged between 25-35 yr old for mindful & compassionate relationship **AD#1315**

FRIENDSHIP & LOVE
Single Jewish male of Indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest, Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-, 30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family **AD#1459**

FUN GUY
Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things. Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading. Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands **AD#1368**

LET'S TALK
I want to enjoy all the things in life like any normal person. I'm not interested in marriage, but would like a steady relationship. If you're slim, good looking, with a nice personality & would like to meet a nice, funny, good looking, 70 yr old, 5' 6", slim guy, let's talk. **AD#1055**

PICTURE THIS
I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more. If you find this brief introduction interesting, leave a message **AD#1442**

EASY GOING
Steve is an easy going Jewish male, fun loving, enjoys walks and good conversation. Seeks attractive female up to age of 39 yrs who's easy going, enjoys the simple things in life, such as going out for dinners and other things **AD#1390**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Chaim, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs, 5' 8", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family in a wonderful atmosphere. Please call and leave a message **AD#1239**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1178**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'
Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook. He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET
Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female (Jewish preferably) around the same age, who's honest sincere female and shares the same interests. If interested please leave a voice mail. **AD#1070**

MUSIC & WINE
Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-65 yrs. He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports **AD#1280**

AM I ASKING TOO MUCH?
Divorced Jewish male, 47 yrs with 2 teenaged children, seek woman 25-40 yrs, thin, good looking, who likes rock n roll, sports, 3 stooges, Howard Stern, pet lying & swimming because I have a pool. Am I asking too much? Give me a call. **AD#1318**

KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN
Bob is 48 yrs, professional, seeking to meet female who's into cycling and would like to explore the city/country. If you're interested in meeting a very nice guy to have fun with and get a little exercise, please leave a message **AD#1238**

LOOKING FOR YOU
37 yr old male, 6' 3", 230 lbs, with black hair, brown eyes & goatee. He enjoys spending time with family & friends, likes playing golf and surfing the net, and seeks a nice lady who has similar interests. **AD#1063**

LET'S TALK
Dave is 37 yrs old, slim and handsome, with brown hair, blue/grey eyes, and has a BA. He enjoys the outdoors, travelling, dining, and baseball. He's a good conversationalist, and seeks a Jewish female between 32-38 yrs who is tall & attractive. If you like what your reading, please call and leave a message **AD#1158**

WILLING TO SETTLE
Alan is 42 yrs, 5' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes. He's very active, enjoys exercise, boating and camping. He seeks an honest, generous, romantic, female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down. He is honest & straight to the point **AD#1439**

NEW IN TOWN
Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love **AD#1051**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

FRIENDLY FELLA
Martin, 48 yrs, is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets. He seeks a friendly good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well. Kids are okay. **AD#1206**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Jewish male, 46 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling. **AD#1436**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship **AD#1130**

COFFEE TALK
Hi, there If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice and good looking - but the the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me Let's talk over a cup of coffee **AD#1224**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship **AD#1340**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!
Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes. Exterior. Tall, handsome, good body. Interior. Compact, sporty, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink caddie, 1962-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded **AD#1252**

HEART OF GOLD
Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented. **AD#1407**

KIND & CUTE
46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile. Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating. Also seeking long term relationship Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park. Kind and caring wants future family. **AD#1095**

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Caracas will no longer host Pan Am Maccabi Games

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Political turmoil in Venezuela has forced a change in venue for the 2003 Pan American Maccabi Games.

The Confederation of Latin American Countries, a unit of the Maccabi World Union, in conjunction with Maccabi Venezuela, recently decided to move the Games most likely to Chile, said Allen Gerskup, national athletic chair of Maccabi Canada.

Although a final decision on a new location has yet to be made, it's likely the re-scheduled Games will be held in Santiago, the Chilean capital, in December 2003, Gerskup said. The Caracas competition was moved because of the deteriorating security situation in the South American country.

"The situation is heating up... It's not getting better, it's getting worse," Gerskup said.

A recent U.S. State Department fact sheet indicated "'express kidnappings,' in which victims are seized in an attempt to get quick cash in exchange for their release, are increasing in Caracas," while "kidnapping of U.S. citizens and other foreign nationals, from homes, hotels, unauthorized taxis and the airport terminal is occurring on a regular basis."

Furthermore, the report stated, "political demonstrations occur regularly" while "increased violence, including exchanges of gunfire, has occurred at more recent demonstrations."

Organizers feared if the situation deteriorated further and they were forced to move the Games at the last minute, it might force cancellation of the Games outright

Organizers feared that if the situation deteriorated further and they were forced to move the Games at the last minute, it would throw all plans into disarray and might force cancellation of the Games outright. Instead, they decided to move the event with enough advance notice to give local Maccabi organizations enough time to plan for the new location, Gerskup said.

But the shift to December could change the plans of a number of athletes already chosen to the 200-delegate Maccabi Canada team.

"We could lose some people," Gerskup said. "On the other hand, we could gain some people who want to make it their vacation time."

The Canadian delegation consisted primarily of participants in team sports. Planners expect to send five basketball teams, including a masters squad (for those over 40), an open (adult) men's team, a junior boys' team (14-16 year-olds), a youth boys' team (17-19 year-olds) and an open girls' team.

A boys' youth baseball team along with two softball teams – masters and open men's – are also slated to go.

Three soccer teams, including a youth girls' team, a youth boys' team and an open men's team, are part of the Canadian contingent, as are athletes in 10-pin bowling, water polo, squash, swimming, half-marathon, gymnastics, judo, karate, beach volleyball, golf and bridge.

Though large, the Canadian team pales in comparison to the 550-strong American delegation.

Altogether, the Games are expected to attract 2,500 athletes and officials, Gerskup said.

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Israel shut out in Champions League play

CJN News Services

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Israeli league champion Maccabi Haifa dropped a 2-0 decision to German titlists Bayer Leverkusen in Champions League play last week, putting the team behind the eight ball in its bid for the second spot in Group F behind Manchester United.

Playing its "home game" in Nicosia, Cyprus, Maccabi Haifa could not beat Leverkusen's goalkeeper despite fielding three attacking players. The Israelis were also stymied when a penalty kick by Avishai Zano in the 44th minute hit the post. Zano then booted the rebound into the stands.

Two goals from Croatian Marko Babic in the 31st and 64th minutes spelled doom for Haifa, which struggled for most of the match.

Haifa was unable to reproduce the same intensity as they did in its 3-0 "home" win against Olympiakos Piraeus a week earlier in a game that was also played in Cyprus.

The Germans were more dangerous and held the majority of possession, but they lacked the finishing touch to put Maccabi away.

In the group standings, Bayer joined Olympiakos and Haifa with three points, six behind runaway leaders Man U.

"It wasn't an easy game at all; Maccabi played very well, but they looked a little tired," said Leverkusen coach Klaus Topmoeller.

"We created chances to score that we didn't manage to convert and we conceded two goals. That's the only difference between us and Bayer Leverkusen," said Haifa manager Yitzhak Shum.

Israeli soccer teams have been unable to host games in their home stadiums because of a ruling by UEFA, the European soccer federation. Concerns over security have meant that Israeli teams must play their home games abroad. Shum acknowledged that the travelling was taking its toll.

Haifa's next champions league games are on Oct. 23 versus Bayer Leverkusen in Germany, Oct. 29 against Manchester United at "home," and an away game on Nov. 13 versus Olympiakos.

In other developments, Israel's home qualifying match for the European (nation's) soccer championship against Cyprus on Oct.16 has been postponed until next April.

The match, due to be staged in Romania because of the security situation, will be played on April 30, 2003, the Israeli Football Association (IFA) said, quoting a decision taken by UEFA at an emergency meeting.

"The Israeli Football Association has greeted the decision with great satisfaction and thanks UEFA for taking a decision which is a victory for sport," the IFA said in a statement.

Prior to the UEFA announcement, the Romanian Soccer Federation said Romania would host the Israel-Cyprus contest, Israel's first home game in Group One qualifying for the 2004 tournament to be held in Portugal.

Best copy available

Recommended Reading

FICTION

• ***No Star Too Beautiful: An Anthology of Yiddish Stories from 1382 to the Present,*** edited and translated by Joachim Neugroschel, W.W. Norton & Co., $57.99, HC.

This wonderful and very important collection – six centuries of Yiddish literature – includes the first English translation of medieval Yiddish fiction. Divided into four sections (The Old Yiddish Period, Mysticism and Moralism, the Jewish Enlightenment and Modernism), it chronicles the history of the Jewish people and its culture and is an outstanding contribution to posterity.

• ***Husband and Wife,*** by Zeruya Shalev, Grove Press, $39.95, HC.

A stunning, heartbreaking novel about a marriage in crisis by an award-winning Israeli writer. "No short quote could capture the orgiastic design of her prose… One puts the book aside convinced that no other novel could equal Zeruya Shalev's masterpiece" (*Die Zeit*, Germany).

• ***The Judges,*** by Elie Wiesel, Alfred A. Knopf, $36, HC.

This latest work of fiction by Wiesel (the current choice for Chicago's popular citywide book discussions) centres upon five imprisoned strangers forced to reflect upon their lives and their purposes. It explores philosophical issues such as guilt and innocence, good and evil, history and memory and the meaning of life.

NON-FICTION

• ***Burnt Bread and Chutney,*** by Carmit Delman, Ballantine Books, $34.95, HC.

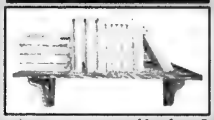
Reading this interesting, touching memoir of an Indian Jewish girl growing up within the Ashkenazi community is a rich cultural experience. According to the author: "From the outside, no matter what the gradations of my mixed heritage, the shadow of Indian brown in my skin caused others to automatically perceive me as Hindu or Muslim… still, I trekked through life with the spirit of a Jew."

• ***Martin Buber: A Contemporary Perspective,*** edited by Paul Mendes-Flohr, Syracuse University Press, $42.50, SC.

This collection of writings on Buber by eminent intellectuals, based on the proceedings of a conference held at the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities (of which Buber was the founding president), was published to honour the memory and recognize the enormous contribution of one of the greatest modern Jewish thinkers. The editor is professor of Jewish thought at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

• ***The Golden Land: The Story of Jewish Immigration to America,*** by Rabbi Joseph Telushkin, Harmony Books, $44.95, HC.

This fascinating, beautiful gift book describes the experiences and achievements of American Jewry. It includes removable documents and artifacts, among them George Washington's letter thanking Jews for their patriotism during the Revolution and promising them fair and equal treatment by the new nation. Telushkin is the author of many works, including *Jewish Literacy*, the most widely read book on Judaism of the past two decades.



• ***Apples From the Tree: Transmitting Torah Values to Our Children,*** by Rabbi Moshe Young, Israel Book Shop, N.Y., $41.95, HC.

Written by a renowned Torah educator in London, England, who founded and directs an advisory service providing suport groups for teachers and parents, this book offers invaluable advice. The author is haredi and some views may seem extreme to the less observant. Yet most of his suggestions on how to transmit proper values to the next generation are universal and worth taking into consideration.

YOUTH

Ages 8-12

• ***Understanding Buddy,*** by Esther Marc Kornblatt, McElderry Books, $23.50, HC.

As Sam spends more and more time with the social outcast of the class, he begins to understand him and what it means to lose a loved one. A wonderful lesson in tolerance and compassion.

Ages 3-6

• ***Where Is?*** by Tamar Bergman, Houghton Mifflin Company, $24.95, SC.

An adorable book about a little boy wondering where his Mommy went for the day. Both the author and the illustrator (Rutu Modan) have won prestigious awards in Israel for their work.

Recommended Reading appears monthly and is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

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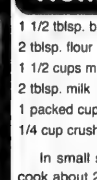

Homemade Mac & Cheese

1 1/2 tblsp. butter
2 tblsp. flour
1 1/2 cups milk
2 tblsp. milk
1 packed cup shredded cheddar cheese
1/4 cup crushed canned tomatoes
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. sugar
dash cayenne pepper
dash white pepper
1/2 lb. small elbow macaroni, cooked until barely done

In small saucepan, melt butter over low heat, blend in flour and cook about 2 mins. Beat in milk and cook over medium heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a slow boil and thickens. Remove from heat. Stir in cheese until melted, then crushed tomatoes, sugar and 2 peppers. Stir in macaroni. Pour into shallow, buttered baking dish and bake in preheated 400°F oven until brown, 25-30 mins.

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About Teens

Dear Karilani,

It's my last year of high school and I am extremely stressed out, especially since I'm in the double cohort year. I get home every day and feel like I should be doing homework but I can't really focus. I get distracted very easily and upset over the smallest things. I find myself arguing with my parents, my friends, even my pet iguana, Jim. I don't know what to do with myself. Please help!

Stressed

Dear Stressed,

Relax! This is understandably a very stressful period in your life. What you need to do is to stop obsessing. You know, getting home and thinking you need to start doing huge amounts of work doesn't exactly put you in the best mood for studying. So, break up your evening. Study for half an hour and then do something you actually want to do for half an hour. Then you can go back to studying. You'll find alternating activities helps you clear your mind and stay focused. Doing different things should also help you become less distracted when you are actually working on your homework.

As for getting upset over small things – that happens to everyone when they're stressed. You should try talking to the people who are important to you – friends and family – as often as possible and explain to them how you are feeling. You'll find talking to them about whatever happens to be on your mind will make you realize that everyone might be feeling the same way (especially your friends), and that it will be easier if you can help each other through it.

Also, don't let getting into university next year overwhelm you. There are lots of other things that you can do if you don't get into your first choice school. My uncle Syd, the one who owns an appliance store, says the business world just doesn't get a fair shake these days. And don't dismiss taking time out to explore non-academic options.

I hope this helps. Good luck!

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The Canadian Jewish news

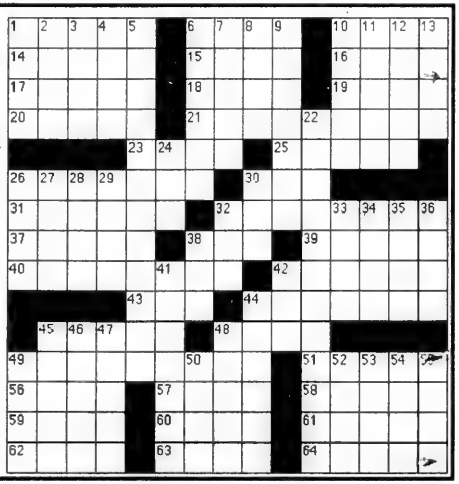
(Answers to the crossword are on page 50.)

Champions of Sport

© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Gen. mgr., Boston Celtics
6. Rock style
10. First shepherd
14. So long, in Strasbourg
15. School or tie
16. Starter for vant
17. Stuff again
18. Aleutian island
19. Point of ____
20. Etic preceder makes one vigorous
21. 49 across' 58th
23. One who's feeling sorry
25. Sound measurement units
26. Shawn Green et al, at plate
30. A little, in Lyons
31. Eagles nests
32. Soup
37. 76ers coach
38. Knicks great Holzman
39. And others, plurally used
40. Glues again
42. Loiter, hang about
43. What those in NFL, NBA are
44. To celebrate him, in French
45. Princess of Argos, mother of Perseus
48. Husband, as a garden
49. Nearly caught King of Swat
51. Harold ____, star of 'Chariots of Fire' (abbrev.)
56. Hayworth
57. City on northeast coast of Oahu
58. Independence, MO, historic mansion
59. ____ about
60. Decade, in Hebrew
61. Angry
62. NFL team, for short
63. Mtg. or legisl. gathering
64. Greek isle

Down
1. Bern's river
2. Netherlands city
3. " 'Ailinon,' Ailinon ____", Wilde poem
4. Aft
5. Broadcasting great
6. Early American painters
7. _____ Pradesh, Taj Mahal's state
8. Negatives
9. NHL Norwegian All-Star
10. Fire crime
11. Mayor Abe
12. Pronoun for Francoise and Edith
13. Sex-tinged expression
22. Barnstorming baseball team (not Jewish but named after Hebrew royalty)
24. Chaldean capital, namesakes
26. Children's story elephant, for short
27. Well-ventilated, spacey, in Paris
28. Capric. or Canc. climatic zone
29. New Mexico Native American
30. Whale family group
32. These, in French
33. Western Native American
34. Columbia University pitcher Waldman
35. Ms., in Marseilles
36. Ten, in Tiberias
38. Car 49 across might have driven
41. Upper clefs
42. Marsh
44. Artist Fernand and family
45. Ale or milk
46. Modem brand
47. Approaches
48. Musical groups
49. ___ Morne, Canadian National Park
50. Comfort
52. Uncovered
53. Iranian monetary unit
54. Vocal part
55. Giggle sounds



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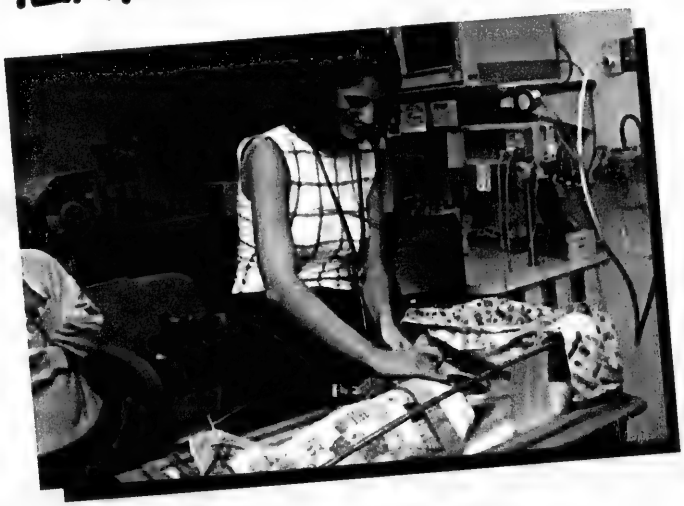


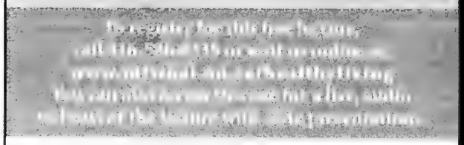
Nurse Janice Manes performs the first official hearing test of the Province's Infant Hearing Program. Mount Sinai has been performing these tests for years so it is no surprise that Krista Riko, Director and Dr. Martyn Hyde, Assistant Director of Mount Sinai's Otologic Function Unit were instrumental in working with the Province to implement the program. Now every child in Ontario will have their hearing tested before they are discharged from the hospital.

The program is designed to provide the opportunity for all newborn babies to have their hearing screened. This program provides all babies with access to the Universal Hearing Screening process, which will be conducted before mother and baby are discharged from the hospital, or in the neonatal unit. In addition, babies that are identified as being at risk of hearing loss can receive follow-up monitoring at specific community clinics.

Healthy Living Lecture Series

DIALOGUE ON BREAST CANCER CARE
Tuesday, October 22, 2002 • 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
BEN SADOWSKI AUDITORIUM, 18TH FLOOR
MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

Women with Breast Cancer are now living longer than ever before. Join us as three leading experts talk about weight, menopause, and cognitive functions (thinking ability) and their relationship to breast cancer care.



Keep up with events on our website www.mtsinai.on.ca

High Tea Fashion Show

Pictured (L-R) Nancy Duckman, Event Committee – Marla Wasser (Co-Chair), Wendy Sokolwski-Pezim (Co-Chair), and Marlene Borins (President)

The Mount Sinai Auxiliary hosted a high tea fashion show presented by Milli, a high fashion retailer featuring Fall/Winter 2002 and Spring 2003. The Tea was held at the home of renowned Canadian builder/designer Joe Brenman and Danny Greenglass.

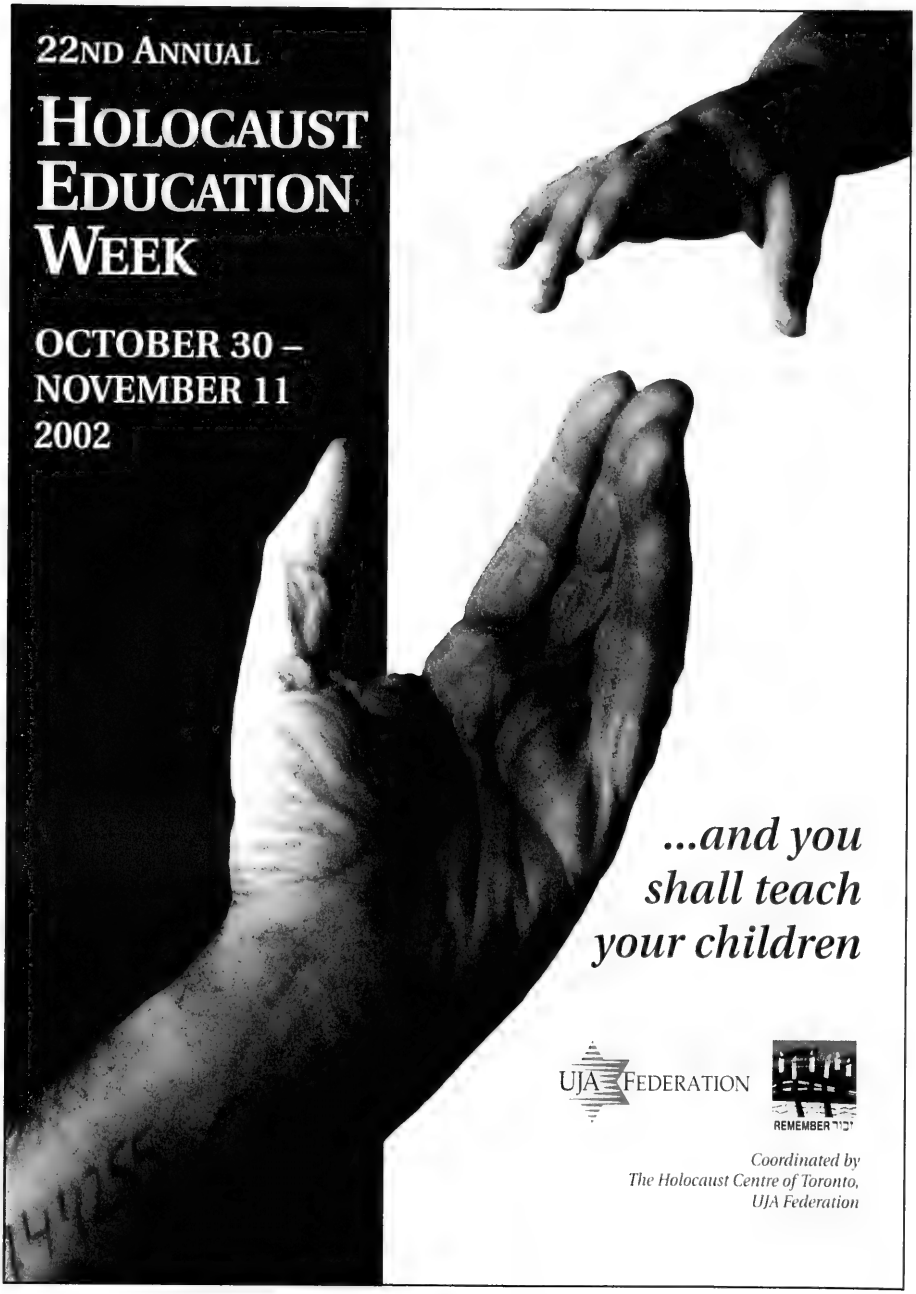
WE ARE DEDICATED TO DISCOVERING AND DELIVERING THE BEST PATIENT CARE WITH THE HEART AND VALUES TRUE TO OUR HERITAGE.

Over 100 events in venues across the Greater Toronto Area

22ND ANNUAL

HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK

OCTOBER 30 – NOVEMBER 11 2002



...and you shall teach your children

UJA FEDERATION

REMEMBER זכור

Coordinated by
The Holocaust Centre of Toronto,
UJA Federation

...In Support of Holocaust Education Week

Town of Richmond Hill

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
William F. Bell

On behalf of the members of Council of the Town of Richmond Hill, I am very pleased to offer my support for the 22nd Holocaust Education Week. The Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation is to be commended for increasing public awareness of this tragic time in history through its presentation of a number of programs in schools, synagogues, libraries and churches throughout the Greater Toronto Area. In honouring the memory of the millions who suffered or perished during the Holocaust, we better ensure that evils of the past are never repeated.

Sincerely,

William F. Bell
Mayor

CITY OF MISSISSAUGA

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

On behalf of the residents and members of Council of the City of Mississauga, I am pleased to express my support for the 22nd Holocaust Education Week. I commend UJA Federation of Greater Toronto for organizing an event that honours the millions of men, women and children who were lost to the Holocaust. Through education and awareness, we will not allow that chapter of history to repeat itself. Instead, we must all strive to ensure that racial harmony exists within our communities. By working together, we can build a foundation of tolerance and understanding where our children can grow as equals.

Sincerely,

HAZEL McCALLION
MAYOR

MARKHAM

W. Donald Cousens

On behalf of the town of Markham, I am honoured to show our support for the Annual Holocaust Education Week, coordinated by The Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation. In memory of all those who perished in the Holocaust, it is our duty to curb prejudice and racism by continuing to educate our children and raise public awareness to develop a deeper understanding of our responsibility for the future. With renewed resolve, let us strive to eliminate racial and religious discrimination from our communities and our lives.

Don Cousens
W. Donald Cousens
Mayor

Vaughan

York Region

On behalf of the City of Vaughan and members of Council, I wish to express my support and appreciation of the important work being done by The Holocaust Centre of Toronto and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto to raise public awareness of the Holocaust. The numerous events being held in Vaughan during the 22nd Holocaust Education Week provide a valuable opportunity to reaffirm our community's commitment to the memory and lessons of the Holocaust.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Brase
Mayor

Town of Newmarket
395 Mulock Drive
Newmarket, Ontario
L3Y 4X7
Tel: 905 953 5193
Fax: 905 953 5102
town.newmarket.on.ca

On behalf of the Members of Council and Citizens of our community, I am pleased to express my support of the 22nd Holocaust Education Week. Your organization has shown, by its persistent efforts, a strong commitment in providing education in the continuing struggle against racism and discrimination of people today. I am confident that this event will be very successful in its endeavor to educate about this unspeakable atrocity, the power of the human spirit and the unforgettable message that this horror must never be allowed to happen again.

Sincerely

Tom Taylor
Mayor

TORONTO

Proclamation

Holocaust Education Week

October 30 - November 11, 2002

WHEREAS this 22nd annual Holocaust Education Week allows us time to reflect on the atrocities of the past and to honour the memory of the millions of men, women and children who perished or suffered during the Holocaust, and

WHEREAS it is essential that we educate our children to learn the lessons of the past through programs and initiatives in synagogues, schools, libraries and churches throughout our communities, to help them develop a deeper understanding of their responsibility for the future, and

WHEREAS these unimaginable horrors must never be repeated. We must work to ensure that our communities exist in racial harmony and only through remembrance, education and understanding of the Holocaust can public awareness be heightened, and religious discrimination, racism and prejudice eliminated.

NOW THEREFORE I, Mayor Mel Lastman, on behalf of Toronto City Council and the 2.5 million people of our great City, do hereby proclaim **October 30 - November 11, 2002** as **"Holocaust Education Week"** to recognize and applaud the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation on its tireless efforts to ensure that this horrendous time in history is never forgotten.

Mel Lastman
Mayor

REMEMBER זכור

It is my great pleasure to invite you to participate in the 22nd annual Holocaust Education Week. This event is the largest and highest profile initiative of the Holocaust Centre of Toronto each year, and a wide array of programs is again being offered to afford you the opportunity to explore and examine many different aspects of the Holocaust.

The mandate of the Holocaust Centre is to promote Holocaust education and remembrance. This is achieved in many ways, of which Holocaust Education Week is one. We host 30,000 visitors annually at the Centre, and arrange a number of events during the year, including outreach to the community at large. A highlight of 2002 was the opening of our Survivor Speaker Photographic Exhibit, a tribute to our most treasured resource at the Centre, our survivor speakers. Not only will the exhibit ensure that our survivor speakers will always be remembered, but the photographs and attached storyboards have considerable interest and educational value for visitors to the Centre.

As well, the Centre was a proud co-sponsor in October of the International Child Survivors and Second Generation Conference, held in Toronto. This annual event provides a forum for child survivors, their spouses and children, and all descendants of the Holocaust to share in their past, rejoice in their survival, deal with the issues facing them, and pass on their stories to future generations.

2002 also marked the first year of operations of the Latner Program for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, a joint endeavour between the Centre and OISE/University of Toronto. The purpose of this diploma program is to provide instruction as to how the Holocaust should be taught to students, a subject which we consider to be of the utmost importance.

The Holocaust Centre is a hive of activity and you are invited to visit and participate in the many events which take place annually. It is only through remembrance and education that we can ensure the memory of those lost and learn the lessons of the Holocaust. Racism, bigotry, Holocaust denial and prejudice are sadly part of our landscape today, and can only be eliminated by continued education and discussion.

I would like to congratulate and thank Barbara Rusch and her diligent committee for their passion and commitment in providing a superb roster of events for Holocaust Education Week. I do hope that you will avail yourselves of the opportunity to participate in as many of the programs as possible.

Howard Driman
Chairman, The Holocaust Centre of Toronto
UJA Federation

UJA FEDERATION

UJA FEDERATION
ISRAEL EMERGENCY CAMPAIGN 2003

Once again, our community manifests its commitment to remember and teach the lessons of the Shoah. The recent horrific and traumatic conditions in Israel and the negative experience of Jews around the world reinforce the need to remember and learn from the past. Many thought the challenges of anti-Semitism had been largely met and had begun to recede as a threat. However, the convergence of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic behaviour, as witnessed in the rhetoric and violence here at home and abroad, teaches us otherwise.

Today's circumstance underscores the need to learn from the past and confront the dangers of the present. With this reality, the relevance and importance of Holocaust education cannot be overstated. The resurgence of anti-Semitism and the hateful anti-Israel propaganda must be met with renewed determination to remember, to teach and to act to safeguard our community.

With best wishes for a successful Holocaust Education Week.

Sincerely,

Ralph Shedletsky, PhD
Chair of the Board
UJA Federation

22nd Annual Holocaust Education Week

There are many different kinds of memorials. Some are inscribed with names and dates; others are built of materials intended to endure for centuries; while still others are as fragile and ephemeral as the souls they commemorate. Whether in the likeness of a valiant hero carved in granite, or in the form of an imposing building, a wall of memory or a perishable flower garden, all memorials require constant care, attention and replenishing. But perhaps the most significant are built on the memories, the words and the intensely personal stories of those who survived, as well as those who study, write about and recreate the events of the past for the benefit of those who never experienced them.

Holocaust Education Week, though not permanent or immutable in a physical sense, has in its own way become as substantial and sustaining a memorial as any built of steel or concrete. Now in its 22nd year, it has expanded and evolved, constantly replenishing itself and still dedicated to searching for a renewed sense of understanding for the tragic events which took six million Jewish lives and changed countless others. It is our continued pledge to honour their memory, remember their courage and perpetuate their voices.

This year our programs, over 100 in all over a two-week period, include musical tributes and dramatic presentations, films, exhibits and other cultural events, lectures with an academic or historical perspective, in addition to remarkable accounts of terror and survival. They take place in synagogues, churches, libraries, book stores, schools and community centres throughout the Toronto area, and will include something for every interest and age group. Once again we invite you to participate in an extraordinary program of remembrance and commemoration.

I would like to thank Howard Driman for his invaluable assistance and encouragement, and the members of my committee for their outstanding commitment and enthusiasm. We would also like to express our appreciation to all the participating organizations for their generosity of time and resources. A special debt of gratitude is due to Mary Siklos and the staff of The Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation.

Barbara Rusch

Barbara Rusch
Chair
Holocaust Education Week 2002

THE CHRISTIAN-JEWISH DIALOGUE OF TORONTO

2 Carlton Street
Suite 800
Toronto, Ont
M5B 1J3
(416) 598-4242

It is the privilege and the responsibility of Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto, through its Holocaust Remembrance Committee, to coordinate the participation of Christian churches during Holocaust Education Week.

For this year's Main Event, Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto decided to go back to the primary authorities on the Holocaust, the survivors themselves. For Christians who may not have had much exposure to the reality or even a history of the Holocaust, the experience of meeting survivors face-to-face, hearing their stories, asking them questions and sharing their memories can be both profoundly moving and enlightening. So we are especially grateful this year to the survivors who have graciously agreed to participate in our program on Sunday, November 3. You will find more information about the program in this brochure on page 4.

We commend our participating churches for continuing to support this educational effort, and we thank The Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation for not only inviting our participation, but also for its active support and cooperation.

Glen Nelson

Ada Wynston

Co-Chairs, Holocaust Remembrance Committee

Sponsors

Diocese of Toronto of the Anglican Church of Canada
Canadian Council of Christians and Jews
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto
Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region
Toronto Conference of The United Church of Canada
Relation & Encounter, Sisters of Our Lady of Sion
Eastern Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

22nd Annual Holocaust Education Week

Opening Night Program

Wednesday, October 30
7:30 pm
Beth Tzedec Congregation 416-781-3511
1700 Bathurst Street, Toronto

HANA'S SUITCASE

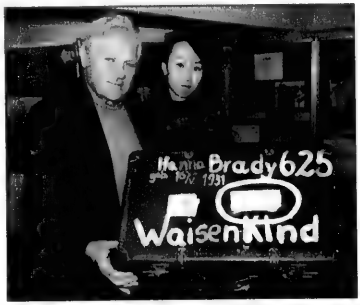
Hana and George Brady – November 25, 1941

In March 2000, a suitcase arrived at the Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Centre. On the outside, in white paint, were the words *Hana Brady, May 16, 1931 – Waisenkind*, the German word for "orphan". Japanese children were full of questions: Who was Hana? What sort of girl was she? What happened to her? The curator of the centre, Fumiko Ishioka, was determined to find the answers. Her relentless search across Europe led her ultimately to Toronto and to George Brady, the surviving brother of Hana Brady.

KAREN LEVINE will introduce her Peabody Award-winning radio documentary *Hana's Suitcase*, based on this remarkable story that has attracted worldwide attention, and will discuss the writing of her current best-selling book of the same name. Ms. Levine will be available to sign her book.

MICHAEL ENRIGHT, well-known CBC personality, will moderate the program which features GEORGE BRADY, who will describe his visit to Japan and how the appearance of Hana's suitcase in Tokyo has changed his life. FUMIKO ISHIOKA will describe her work in Japan to promote Holocaust education, and the impact that the appearance of Hana's suitcase has had on this work.

This program is generously co-sponsored by the Abraham and Ida Moncik Memorial Fund for Holocaust Education.



George Brady and Fumiko Ishioka with Hana's suitcase.

Wednesday, October 30

7:30 pm

St. Elizabeth Seton Roman Catholic Church
905-895-3019
17955 Leslie St., Newmarket *(north of Davis Dr.)*

"I AM JOSEPH, YOUR BROTHER"

This new film focuses on the healing relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the Jewish community following Pope John XXIII's recitation to Jewish leaders of the reconciling words of the biblical Joseph to his estranged brothers. Produced, directed and written by Eli Tal-El, Amy Kronish & Elaine Tal-El.

Thursday, October 31

10:30 am

Mount Pleasant Library
416-393-7737
599 Mt. Pleasant Rd., Toronto

"HIDING FROM THE NAZIS"

ADA WYNSTON will recount her story of being a child hidden from the Nazis in Holland. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

2:00 pm

Northern District Public Library
416-393-7618
40 Orchard View Blvd., Toronto

"ANGELS CAN SPEAK FRENCH"

Born in Czechoslovakia, BARUCH RAND, educator, author and lecturer, will focus on two French people, his "angels," who, during World War II, were instrumental in saving his life. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

7:00 pm

Israel's, The Judaica Centre
416-256-1010
897 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto

"HITLER'S INFERNO"

Book launch with VERA SCHIFF, author of *Hitler's Inferno: Eight Intimate and Personal Histories from the Holocaust.* A survivor, she shared her incarceration with many of the individuals depicted in her new book.

7:30 pm

Goethe Institut 416-593-5257
Kinowelt Hall, Toronto
(King St. W. & University Ave. - St. Andrew Subway)

"THE GIRAFFE/MESCHUGGE"

RONNY LOEWY, expert on Jewish cinema, will discuss this psychologically penetrating film by Dani Levy. Moving between America and Germany, and between the generations, strangers converge in this engaging thriller that is part historical, part political commentary. He will discuss why this film is important within the genre of contemporary Holocaust documentaries.
Admission: $5. Age: 18+. Seating capacity: 80.

8:00 pm

Adath Israel Congregation
416-635-5340
37 Southbourne Ave., Toronto

"THE SHOAH AND THE VATICAN – A VERY UNCOMFORTABLE PAST"

The often-heated debate about the Vatican's role in facilitating the Holocaust has focused on the issue of Pius XII's "silence" during World War II. Much more important, however, is the largely ignored question of the role played by the Vatican in the decades leading up to the Holocaust in fomenting hatred of the Jews. In reaction to DAVID KERTZER's 2001 book, *The Popes Against the Jews: The Vatican's Role in the Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism,* the Church has responded with a variety of denials and denunciations. Kertzer will address these attacks and show how involved the Vatican was in the demonization of the Jews before the Second World War. The author will be available to sign copies of his book.

8:00 pm

Anshei Minsk
416-595-5723
10 St. Andrew St., Toronto
(Kensington Market)

"THE ORIGIN OF YIDDISH AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE ASHKENAZI CULTURE IN THE HOLOCAUST"

ADAM FUERSTENBERG, Professor Emeritus at Ryerson University, is Director of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Committee for Yiddish, and an authority on Canadian Jewish and Yiddish literature. He will examine the cultural impact of the Holocaust in Central and Eastern Europe. Not only were millions of innocent Jews murdered during the Holocaust, but a way of life and a vibrant Ashkenazi culture that expressed itself in art, theatre, music and the thousand-year-old Yiddish language, also perished.

Friday, November 1

2:00 pm

Wychwood Library
416-393-7639
1431 Bathurst St., Toronto

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

EDITH GELBARD was born in Vienna and left Austria just before WWII. She and her family first lived in Belgium, then in France, where she was placed in a holding camp and later lived in hiding until Liberation. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

7:00 pm

Roma Community & Advocacy Centre
416-406-5905
Northern District Library
40 Orchard View Blvd., Toronto

"THE ROMA AND THE HOLOCAUST: THE BLACKBIRD OF DEATH"

RONALD LEE, Executive Director of the Roma Community and Advocacy Centre, will present *The Blackbird*, a video describing the history of the Roma genocide in concentration camps run by Czechoslovakians. Also featured will be a live performance of the most famous Roma song from the Holocaust, composed by Ruzina Danielova, the only survivor of her entire family.

Saturday, November 2

7:30 pm

Goethe Institut
416-593-5257
Kinowelt Hall, Toronto
(King St. W. & University Ave. - St. Andrew Subway)

"JEWISH THEMES IN EASTERN EUROPEAN AND GERMAN CINEMA"

RONNY LOEWY, an expert on Jewish cinema, will discuss the developments in Polish and East and West German cinema over the past five decades. Through video clips, he will show how post-War realities have coloured presentation, modes of storytelling, themes, attitudes towards Jews, the tragedy of the Holocaust and past memories. Discussion will follow. *Admission: $5. Seating capacity: 80.*

7:30 pm

Indigo Books, Music & Café
905-731-8771
8705 Yonge St., Richmond Hill

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

INGE SPITZ was born in Potsdam, Germany, where she witnessed the Kristallnacht pogrom in 1938. During the War years, she and her sister hid in France and escaped to Switzerland in 1944.

8:00 pm

Morris Winchevsky Centre
416-789-5502
585 Cranbrooke Ave., Toronto

"SOBIBOR, OCTOBER 14, 1943"

On October 14, 1943, Jewish prisoners of the Sobibor concentration camp killed 12 Nazi guards before 365 inmates escaped. As a result, Sobibor was shut down. In 1979, director Claude Lanzmann interviewed Yehuda Lerner, one of the leaders of the rebellion to help tell this heroic story. *Hebrew with English subtitles. Co-sponsored by the Morris Winchevsky School and United Jewish People's Order.*

8:00 pm

Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation
416-635-2883 ext. 301
4600 Bathurst St., Toronto
Lipa Green Building

"THE RINGELBLUM ARCHIVES"

Pulled from the rubble of the Warsaw Ghetto, the Ringelblum Archives are a primary source for research on the history of the Ghetto and the Holocaust. They are housed in the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, where DR. ELEONORA BERGMAN is Deputy Director and Curator. She will describe the Archives and their historical significance.

Sunday, November 3

9:30 am & 10:30 am

Augsburg Lutheran Church
905-459-3262
224 Mill St. South, Brampton

"THE RIGHTEOUS GENTILES"

MARTIN MAXWELL, who escaped Nazi Germany on the Kindertransport to England, will tell the story of non-Jews who, against all odds and at great personal risk, helped Jews survive the Holocaust. He will lead a discussion at the 9:30 am adult class and preach the sermon at the regular 10:30 am worship service.

10:00 am

United Congregational Schools
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue
416-633-1338
100 Elder St., Toronto

"MESSAGE TO YOUTH: YOUR BRAIN IS YOUR BEST WEAPON"

Rarely does a man who has lived such an exceptional life possess a passion for teaching and motivating young people. Born in Palestine in 1929, PETER Z. MALKIN was a secret agent with the Mossad for 27 years. He offers two unique perspectives: a compelling story as the secret agent who physically captured Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann, and insights from a life guided by discipline and ethics in a profession that is a mystery to most. The central tenets of his message are to counter the violence so prevalent in present-day culture, and to use the brain as one's most effective weapon to solve the real conflicts children face in today's society, not the artificial ones glamorized by television, video games and the cinema. Youth Program. *Recommended for students grade 6+.*

10:00 am

Royal York United Church
416-231-9401
851 Royal York Rd., Toronto

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

During the regular Sunday worship service, JUDY COHEN, a Holocaust survivor from Hungary, will describe her experiences in the Auschwitz death camp. She is the editor of the website: www.womenandtheholocaust.org

10:30 am

Miles Nadal JCC
416-924-6211
750 Spadina Ave., Toronto

"HANA'S SUITCASE"

In March 2000, a suitcase arrived at the Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Centre. Painted on the outside were the words *Hana Brady, May 16, 1931* and *Waisenkind* – the German word for "orphan". Children who saw the suitcase were full of questions. Who was Hana Brady and what happened to her? They wanted Fumiko Ishioka, the centre's curator, to find the answers. In a suspenseful journey, she searched for clues across Europe and North America. The mystery of the suitcase took her back seventy years, to a young Hana and her family, whose happy life in a small Czech town was turned upside down by the invasion of the Nazis. **KAREN LEVINE**, award-winning author of *Hana's Suitcase*, will read from her highly-acclaimed book and show slides. *Recommended for students grade 4+.*

1:30 pm

Finnish Society of Toronto
(Forever Young Club)
416-421-3228
Stan Wadlow Seniors' Centre
373 Cedarvale Ave., Toronto
(1 block east of Woodbine Ave.)

"THE JEWS OF SHANGHAI"

The film, *A Place to Save Your Life*, features the poignant story of thousands of European Jews who sought refuge from the Holocaust in Shanghai, China. The safety of many refugees was made possible by the humanitarian efforts of Chinese Consul General Dr. Feng Shan Ho, who worked in Vienna from 1938 to 1940, and more than a dozen other diplomats stationed in war-torn Europe.

Programs highlighted in green are specially suitable for youth.

1:30 pm

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies
416-864-9735 ext. 28
4600 Bathurst St., Toronto
Lipa Green Building

"LIVING HEIRS"

TERRELL HUNT, an insurance specialist, helped negotiate the U.S.-Austria Holocaust Settlement in January 2001. After 4 years of tireless work, in July 2001 he acquired Risk International's Holocaust Division and formed the Living Heirs Foundation of which he is President and Executive Director. He will explain how one can find out about property stolen by the Nazis and how one can still make a claim on that property.

Also participating in the program will be GEORGE PREGER, a Holocaust survivor who is currently the Canadian Director of the Living Heirs Foundation and LEO ADLER, born in Germany to Holocaust survivors, and a criminal lawyer who is counsel and Director of National Affairs for Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

3:30 pm

Beit Rayim Synagogue 905-707-7639
9711 Bayview Ave., Thornhill

"HANA'S SUITCASE "

Hana's Suitcase, by two-time Peabody-Award winner Karen Levine, is currently receiving widespread acclaim. Based on her radio documentary for the CBC, it details the efforts of Fumiko Ishioka, the curator of the Tokyo Holocaust Education Resource Centre, to uncover the story of young Hana Brady, whose empty suitcase was sent for exhibit to Japan from Auschwitz. This remarkable book follows Ishioka to Europe, and finally to Canada where she finds Hana's brother, George Brady, and learns the story of Hana's life and fate. KAREN LEVINE, FUMIKO ISHIOKA and GEORGE BRADY will participate in this program. A book signing will follow. *Recommended for children.*

7:00 pm

Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto
– MAIN EVENT –
416-598-4242
Runnymede United Church
432 Runnymede Rd., Toronto

"CONVERSATIONS WITH SURVIVORS"

After a brief panel discussion, moderated by TV personality RITA DEVERELL, 20 Holocaust survivors, representative of the diverse experiences of the many Holocaust survivors living in Toronto, will relate their stories and answer questions in small, informal groups.

7:30 pm

Chapters Inc.
905-881-2846
7040 Yonge St., Thornhill *(Yonge & Steeles)*

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

IBI GROSSMAN, whose husband, parents and two sisters were all murdered by the Nazis, lived in the Budapest Ghetto with her baby son. She was liberated by the Soviet Red Army in January, 1945. During the Hungarian Revolution, she fled Hungary to Vienna in 1956 with her young son.

7:30 pm

Congregation Darchei Noam
416-638-4783
15 Hove St., Toronto

"HOLOCAUST MEMORY AND JEWISH IDENTITY IN CANADA IN THE 21ST CENTURY"

The legacy and lessons of the Holocaust continue to resonate with Canadian Jews. DR. FRANK BIALYSTOK, author and Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Waterloo, will explore how and why the Holocaust has become increasingly important in the formation of ethnic identity and collective memory, even for generations removed from the event by time and experience.

7:30 pm

Indigo Books Music & Café
416-640-5512 ext. 4216
2300 Yonge St., Toronto *(Yonge/Eglinton)*

"MIRACLES OF THE HOLOCAUST"

ALVIN ABRAM is a storyteller and author of several books, including *Light After the Dark, Why, Zaida?* and *An Eye for An Eye*. Currently working on his new book, *The Minyan*, he has recently been elected President of the Canadian Authors Association, Toronto Branch.

7:30 pm

Jewish Storytelling Arts
Congregation Habonim
416-782-7125
5 Glen Park Rd., Toronto

"TALES FROM THE KINGDOM OF NIGHT/ I AM FIRST A HUMAN BEING"

ALEC GELCER will host a series of readings from *Tales from the Kingdom of Night*. Following will be a special presentation of the play *I Am First a Human Being*, based on the lives of Nelson Mandela, leader of the fight against apartheid in South Africa and Krystyna Wituska, a young girl in the Polish resistance during World War II. Their struggles were fought on different continents, in different periods of history, yet they shared common ideals. Script by Irene Tomaszewski. *Co-sponsored by Congregation Habonim.*

7:30 pm

Temple Kol Ami
905-709-2620
Leo Baeck Day School
36 Atkinson Ave., Thornhill

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

ANNA CHESZES was born in Poland during World War II. At the age of three, her mother secretly smuggled her out of the Bialystok Ghetto to live with a family who ultimately became her parents.

7:45 pm

Toronto Jewish Film Society
416-413-1212
Art Gallery of Ontario, Jackman Hall
317 Dundas St. W., Toronto

"ANGRY HARVEST"

Nominated for an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film, *Angry Harvest* tells the riveting, yet disturbing, story of a Polish farmer who harbours a young Jewish woman during World War II. The farmer risks his life by taking her in, but feels, as a good Christian, he must. The film delves into the darker side of human behaviour as the differences in their education, religion, philosophy and age cause the farmer and the woman to detest each other. The film marks the directing debut of Agnieszka Holland *(Europa, Europa)*. Armin Mueller-Stahl won Best Actor Award at the Montreal Film Festival for his role as the farmer. *Co-sponsored by the Goethe Institut. Tickets: $8 (available 15 minutes prior to the screening). For more information, call 416-924-6211.*

8:00 pm

Shaar Shalom Synagogue 905-889-4975
2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill

"EICHMANN IN MY HANDS"

PETER Z. MALKIN is an Israeli intelligence legend. In his 27 years in the Mossad, ultimately as Chief of Operations, he took a lead role in Israel's most celebrated intelligence coups and covert operations, and was twice awarded the Prime Minister's Medal, Israel's highest honour. But even had he done nothing else, his place in history would be secure because of his action on May 11, 1960, the night he physically captured Adolph Eichmann, the most hunted of Nazi war criminals, with an elite commando team in Argentina. Malkin will describe his remarkable life and particularly the mission which led to Eichmann's being brought to justice. He will be available to sign his book.

This program is generously co-sponsored by The Sharon Diamond and Walt Family Fund at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, in loving memory of Sharon B. Diamond and Isidore J. Walt.

Monday, November 4

9:30 am

Markham Branch Library
905-294-2782
6031 Hwy #7, Markham *(corner of Hwy #48)*

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

SALLY WASSERMAN is a Jewish Holocaust survivor born in Katowice, Poland. She will recount the story of her survival as a hidden child, rescued by Righteous Gentiles in Poland. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

10:00 am

United Synagogue Day School
Bayview Campus
416-590-1227
3080 Bayview Ave., Toronto

"LET MEMORY SPEAK"

Written, directed and produced by BATIA BETTMAN, this award-winning documentary deals with the experiences of child survivors before WWII, during the Holocaust and Liberation and currently. The script is based on children's writings and testimonies. A discussion with Bettman, herself a child survivor, will follow. Bettman is an educator who has won a number of professional awards. A free teachers' guide is available from www.bjec.org. *Recommended for students grade 5+.*

1:30 pm

Bathurst Clark Resource Library
905-709-1103
900 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

BRONIA BEKER was born in Kosowa, a small town in Eastern Poland. While most of her family were shot and killed by the Nazis, she managed to survive. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

1:30 pm

Unionville Library
905-477-2641
15 Library Lane, Unionville

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

As a child, FAIGIE LIBMAN and her mother lived in the Kovno Ghetto before being transferred to the Stutthof concentration camp. Surviving their terrible experience, both were eventually liberated by the British Army. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

Visit our website
www.jewishtoronto.net
for information & any program changes

2:00 pm

United Synagogue Day School
Richmond Hill Campus
905-770-0642
9711 Bayview Ave., Richmond Hill

"LET MEMORY SPEAK"

Written, directed and produced by BATIA BETTMAN, this award-winning documentary deals with the experiences of child survivors before WWII, during the Holocaust and Liberation and currently. The script is based on children's writings and testimonies. A discussion with Bettman, herself a child survivor, will follow. Bettman is an educator who has won a number of professional awards. A free teachers' guide is available from www.bjec.org. *Recommended for students grade 5+.*

7:00 pm

Goethe Institut
416-593-5257
Art Gallery of Ontario
317 Dundas St. W., Toronto

"MIRRORING EVIL – NAZI IMAGERY"

NORMAN KLEEBLATT, the Susan and Elihu Rose Curator of Fine Arts at The Jewish Museum, New York, will discuss this recent exhibition. The show includes the work of 13 internationally recognized young artists who have departed from traditional ways of addressing the Holocaust. About his research he wrote, "I began to notice a new generation of artists who look at these events (related to the Holocaust) in a radically different – indeed disturbing – way. They created works in which viewers encounter the perpetrators face-to-face in scenarios in which ethical and moral issues cannot be easily resolved." With the use of slides, Kleeblatt will highlight the work of several of these artists and discuss the debates and controversies that began when the show opened.

Presented in partnership with the Art Gallery of Ontario. Tickets: $8 students & AGO members; $10 general public.

7:00 pm

Hashomer Hatzair
416-736-1339
15 Hove St., Toronto
B'nai Brith Auditorium

"THE NEED FOR TOLERANCE TO AVOID GENOCIDE"

Panel discussion on tolerance and anti-Semitism. Two exhibits of Holocaust-related art and literature will be displayed, one produced by youth during the Holocaust and the other by various Jewish youth groups today, including BBYO, Bnei Akiva of Toronto, Habonim Dror, NELFTY, United Synagogue Youth and Young Judaea.

7:30 pm

Beth Torah Congregation 416-782-4495
47 Glenbrook Ave., Toronto

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

PETER SILVERMAN, partisan and co-author of *From Victims to Victors*, will share his war-time experiences. Silverman witnessed the massacre of his hometown's Jewish population and managed to escape, spending eight months in hiding. After joining the Jewish-Russian Partisan Brigade, he actively participated in armed resistance.

7:30 pm

Chapters Inc. 905-438-1867
3175 Hwy #7, Markham

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

ETTY ZIGLER was born in Radautz, Romania. Her family was deported to a camp in Transnistria (Ukraine), where two-thirds of all the deportees, including her father, grandmother and younger sister, died of various untreated ailments.

7:30 pm

Indigo Books, Music & Café 905-731-8771
3401 Dufferin St., Toronto *(Yorkdale)*

"JOURNEY FROM LOSS TO HEALING"

Trauma happens to all of us – be it disaster, bereavement, accident, abuse, unemployment, or a host of other shocks. RUTH BRADLEY-ST.CYR believes one can learn from trauma and grow through it. As lonely as the journey of grief is, the author writes in her book, we can help one another along the path.

7:30 pm

Israel's, the Judaica Centre 416-256-1010
897 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto

"WARTIME EXPERIENCES IN LITHUANIA"

MIRIAM BECKERMAN, translator of *Wartime Experiences in Lithuania* by Rivka Lozansky Bogomonlaya, will discuss the story of a survivor who experienced the mental anguish of seeing relatives and friends murdered by those who had been neighbours and acquaintances.

7:30 pm

Temple Sinai 416-441-2239
210 Wilson Ave., Toronto

"CIRCLES OF SILENCE: THE IMPACT OF THE HOLOCAUST ON INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES"

JOAN SIMALCHIK, a highly qualified and award-winning educator, has designed programs for refugees and survivors of war and torture for the past 25 years. She frequently presents workshops on the subject of children affected by war and socially organized violence.

7:30 pm

Workmen's Circle
416-787-2081
471-473 Lawrence Ave. W., Toronto

"THE STREET SINGER OF THE LODZ GHETTO"

An illustrated lecture in Yiddish by HENIA REINHARTZ, Yiddish educator and activist. Introduction in English by IRENE KOHN, doctorial candidate whose area of interest is the Lodz Ghetto. Songs by CANTOR DEBORAH STAIMAN.

8:00 pm

Jewish Genealogical Society
416-967-6241
Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
470 Glencairn Ave., Toronto

"RECONSTRUCTING THE PAST AND PRESERVING OUR HERITAGE"

During the Holocaust, 3 million of Poland's 3.3 million Jews were systematically murdered, leaving behind the remnants of their Jewish heritage. It is only within the last 20 years that we have become aware of the extent of that heritage. DR. ELEONORA BERGMAN is Deputy Director of Warsaw's Jewish Historical Institute and a leading expert on Jewish historical sites in Poland. She will discuss the work currently being done to preserve that heritage and the role of Jewish communities in Poland and around the world.

8:00 pm

Medina Theatre Ensemble
416 -785-1074
Baycrest Wagman Centre
55 Ameer Ave., Toronto

"HANNAH SENESH"

This is the Canadian premiere of an inspiring play about the famous heroine, written by Israeli playwright Aharon Megged, winner of many literary awards. *In cooperation with Baycrest Holocaust Resource Project.*

8:00 pm

National Council of Jewish Women
416-633-5100
4700 Bathurst St., Toronto

"LOOTED ART"

BONNIE CZEGLEDI is an international art and cultural property lawyer based in Toronto. IRENE SZYLINGER is an art historian and museologist who lectures in Art History at York University and the University of Toronto. They will focus on the history of returning looted art to Jewish owners or their heirs and Canada's position on the question of restitution. *Co-sponsored by UJA Federation Women's Campaign & Advocacy.*

Tuesday, November 5

10:00 am

United Synagogue Day School
Bathurst Campus
416-781-5658
1700 Bathurst St., Toronto

"LET MEMORY SPEAK"

Written, directed and produced by BATIA BETTMAN, this award-winning documentary deals with the experiences of child survivors before WWII, during the Holocaust and Liberation and currently. The script is based on children's writings and testimonies. A discussion with Bettman, herself a child survivor, will follow. Bettman is an educator who has won a number of professional awards. A free teachers' guide is available from www.bjec.org. *Recommended for students grade 5+.*

1:30 pm

Deer Park Library
416-393-7673
40 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto

"EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT THE HOLOCAUST BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK"

This program will allow people to come forward and ask those questions which might be embarrassing to them but are not for the speaker, LEONARD VIS, a survivor from Holland. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

1:30 pm

Thornhill Community Public Library
905-881-5668
7755 Bayview Ave., Thornhill

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

ANNE EIDLITZ was born in Antwerp, Belgium. During the War, she was in hiding and was later smuggled into Switzerland. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

1:45 pm

Louis-Honoré Fréchette School
905-738-4869
40 New Westminster Dr., Thornhill

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

HELEN SCHWARTZ, born in Bialystok, Poland, survived the Bialystok Ghetto where Ukrainian guards murdered her little brother. She was deported to Majdanek, then to the Blishjen slave labour camp, to Auschwitz-Birkenau and finally to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.
Recommended for students grade 6+.

2:00 pm

Barbara Frum Library
416-395-5456
20 Covington Rd., Toronto

"DIVIDED WE FALL"

This feature, nominated as Best Foreign Language film in 2000, is about a childless couple in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia who agree to hide a Jewish friend at great personal risk of discovery and execution. A brief discussion will follow this beautifully acted and finely nuanced portrayal of war-time loyalty.

7:00 pm

Bathurst Clark Resource Library
905-709-1103
900 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill

"RACISM: A CHALLENGE TO US ALL"

LEN RUDNER, Director of Community Relations, Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region and ELIZABETH MOORE, an anti-racism educator and former member of the Heritage Front, will discuss the challenge racism currently presents to Canadian society. A short video, *Not in Our Town*, will be shown before the discussion.

7:00 pm

Indigo Books Music & Café
416-640-5512 ext. 4216
2300 Yonge St., Toronto *(Yonge/Eglinton)*

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

ARNOLD FRIEDMAN was born in Chudlovo, Poland and deported to Auschwitz in the spring of 1944. In January, 1945 he survived a death march to Gross Rosen and Dachau camps and was liberated on May 4, 1945 by the U.S. Army near Garmish-Partenkirchen. With his mother, younger brother and father murdered in Birkenau, he was brought to Canada as a War orphan in 1947.

7:30 pm

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care
Hospital Main Floor, Multi-Purpose Room
416-785-2500 ext. 2271
3560 Bathurst St., Toronto

"GOOD GRIEF?"

This program will examine the issues impacting on survivor families, their children and grandchildren. Presenters include JUDI COHEN, Social Worker, Baycrest Hospital; PAULA DAVID, Coordinator, Baycrest Holocaust Resource Project; and DR. CINDY GRIEF, Psychiatrist, Baycrest Hospital.

Holocaust Education Week
Hotline 416-631-5689

7:30 pm

L'Arche Daybreak
Dayspring Chapel
905-884-3454 ext. 227
11339 Yonge St., Richmond Hill

"ABHORRENCE OF DIFFERENCE: THE FATE OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN THE NAZI ERA"

This program will feature ERICA FÉE GOLDFARB, sister of Reinhard Beyeth, a young man with epilepsy and disabilities, who was murdered during the Holocaust along with 16 other handicapped persons, despite the best efforts of the Protestant Church to save them. This moving story will be followed by music provided by BRIAN KATZ. *Co-hosted by Richmond Hill United Church and St. Mary Immaculate Roman Catholic Church.*

7:30 pm

Na'amat Canada
416-636-5425
Labour Zionist Alliance
Borochov Cultural Centre
272 Codsell Ave., Toronto

"THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE JEWISH BRIGADE DURING WORLD WAR II"

How did the Jewish Brigade from Palestine come to join the British Forces during World War II? What was their contribution? These and other related questions will be answered by COL. (RET) YAEN VERED, an historian with a long and distinguished career in the Israeli military. *Co-sponsored by Bialik Hebrew Day School and Habonim Dror Youth Organization.*

7:30 pm

Polish Jewish Heritage Foundation
Miles Nadal JCC
416-924-6211
750 Spadina Ave., Toronto

"IN THE SHADOW OF THE HOLOCAUST: POLES, JEWS AND COMMUNISTS"

In 1946, in the wake of the Holocaust, there were some 140,000 Jews in Poland. Two years later, only 100,000 remained. Facing a crisis of identity, some passed as Poles, others submerged their ethnicity living as Communists, and the remainder maintained their Jewish identity. This lecture by DR. FRANK BIALYSTOK, author and Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Waterloo, will look at this turbulent period for Polish Jews as they tried to create new lives in the shadow of the Holocaust.

7:30 pm

Royal York United Church
416-231-9401
851 Royal York Rd., Toronto

"SHADOW ON THE CROSS"

A powerful documentary describing Christian anti-Semitism, the ambivalent role of the Church during the Nazi period, and the tentative path toward reconciliation between Jews and Christians in the post-War era. Following the film, there will be a discussion led by PROFESSOR ALAN DAVIES of the University of Toronto.

8:00 pm

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue
416-633-3838
100 Elder St., Toronto

"DISPLACED PERSONS: GROWING UP AMERICAN AFTER THE HOLOCAUST"

As a child of Holocaust survivors, JOSEPH BERGER emigrated to New York City in 1950. In his poignant memoir, *Displaced Persons*, described by Elie Wiesel as "powerful, brilliantly written and a remarkable tribute not only to his parents but to an entire generation of Holocaust survivors," Berger documents a difficult coming of age, torn between the painful memories and unimaginable losses of his parents and the life of promise and opportunity he carves out for himself in the new world. In many ways, this is not just his own story, but the compelling tale of thousands of second generation Holocaust survivors, told with honesty and humour. Berger is deputy editor of *The New York Times*, former bureau chief and a veteran reporter for that newspaper on religion and education.

This program is generously co-sponsored by the Rash Family in loving memory of Harry Rash and in honour of the birth of his great-grandson, Hayden Gray Steinberg.

8:00 pm

Beth Tikvah Congregation
416-221-3433
3080 Bayview Ave., Toronto

"EUROPA, EUROPA"

Directed by Agnieszka Holland, this Academy Award-nominated film tells the true story of an intense will to survive. Thirteen-year-old Solomon Perel becomes separated from his family during the Nazi Soviet partition of Poland in 1939. He escapes to the Russian zone only to be placed in a Komsomol community youth organization. During the German invasion of Russia in 1941, he is captured by the Nazis and somehow convinces his captors that he is an ethnic German, a story that keeps him alive.

8:00 pm

Hart House Theatre of University of Toronto
416-787-1060
7 Hart House Circle, Toronto

"CHILDREN OF A VANISHED WORLD"

From 1935-1938, the renowned Roman Vishniac photographed the shtetlekh of Poland, Romania, Hungary and Russia. With the assistance of his daughter, Mara Vishniac Kohn, producer and director JUDY KOPELOW uses poignant Vishniac photographs as staging for a special remembrance of the lives of children who vanished in the Holocaust. Over 50 photographs will be enlarged to fill the stage and become an integral part of the dramatization. Yiddish folk songs and instrumentation accompany this production. Musical direction by SABATINO VACCA. A discussion with MARA VISHNIAC KOHN, moderated by CBC's EVAN SOLOMON, will follow.

Cheder boys, Vrchni Apsa, 1937
Copyright Mara Vishniac Kohn, courtesy International Center of Photography

Photographs with special permission from Mara Vishniac Kohn and The International Center of Photography, New York. Special thanks to the Art Gallery of Ontario and The Windsor Arms Hotel. Tickets: $22. Contact the Box Office at 416-978-8668 or www.harthousetheatre.ca

Wednesday, November 6

10:00 am

B'nai Brith
416-633-6224 ext. 112
15 Hove St., Toronto

"A KINDERTRANSPORT EXPERIENCE"

SUZY GOLDSTEIN and WENDY SHARE, daughters of a Kindertransport participant, will talk about their father's life as a child growing up in Germany, and later as one of the children of the Kindertransport. Like the majority of the 10,000 children who fled Germany by train in this unprecedented rescue effort, he never saw his parents again. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

10:00 am

Milliken Mills Community Library
905-940-8323
7600 Kennedy Rd., No. 1, Unionville

"HIDDEN CHILD"

HELEN YERMUS was born in Kovno, Lithuania. In 1941, when the Kovno Ghetto was liquidated, her father was sent to Dachau, Germany where he died of starvation. Her brother was taken away and most likely murdered. Helen and her mother were sent to the Stutthof concentration camp in Germany where both miraculously survived. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

1:30 pm

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living
416-225-2112 ext. 116
1003 Steeles Ave. W., Toronto

"HIDDEN HEROES"

This film, created for Vision TV, tells the story of Dutch Christians who rescued Jewish children during the Holocaust. ADA WYNSTON, one of the hidden children in the film, will speak following the screening.

1:30 pm

Forest Hill Library
416-393-7706
700 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

As a child, FAIGIE LIBMAN and her mother lived in the Kovno Ghetto before being transferred to the Stutthof concentration camp. Surviving their terrible experience, both were eventually liberated by the British Army. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

1:30 pm

North York Central Library
416-395-5691
5120 Yonge St., Toronto

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

MAX EISEN was born in Moldava, Czechoslovakia. He and his family were deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau in 1944 where they worked as slave labourers. He later survived a death march to Mauthausen, Melk and Ebensee and was liberated by the 80th U.S. Infantry division on May 6, 1945. *Recommended for students grade 6+.*

7:00 pm

Dutch Canadian Association of Greater Toronto
416-229-1753
4600 Bathurst St., Toronto
Lipa Green Building

"LIBERTY IS OUR MOST PRECIOUS POSSESSION"

REV. SIBREN DE VRIES will discuss the Resistance Movement in the Netherlands during World War II. Born in The Hague in 1920, Rev. de Vries joined thousands of people during the War who opposed the occupation forces by joining the Resistance. He emigrated to Canada in 1948 and was ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada in 1957. During his years in the Ministry, he often spoke of his War experiences, always stressing the importance of liberty.

7:00 pm

Grace Church on the Hill
416-488-7884
300 Lonsdale Rd., Toronto

"I AM JOSEPH, YOUR BROTHER"

This new film focuses on the healing relationship between the Roman Catholic Church and the Jewish community following Pope John XXIII's recitation to Jewish leaders of the reconciling words of the biblical Joseph to his estranged brothers. Produced, directed and written by Eli Tal-El, Amy Kronish and Elaine Tal-El. A panel discussion will follow.

7:00 pm

Israel's, the Judaica Centre
416-256-1010
897 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto

"HOLOCAUST LITERATURE FOR CHILDREN"

KATHY KACER is the author of the award-winning *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser* (ages 6-9) and *Clara's War* (ages 10+). Both are unforgettable, dramatic works of historical fiction inspired by real events. Kacer currently visits schools where she speaks to young people about the importance of understanding the Holocaust.

7:00 pm

University of Toronto
416-978-0421
15 King's College Circle, Toronto

"FAMILY ALBUM"

This haunting television drama tells the compelling story of an independent young woman forced to confront a painful family legacy. Produced by the late Tony Sheer, multiple award-winning screenwriter and producer, the film will be followed by the personal recollections of Holocaust survivor NATE LEIPCIGER. Born in Chorzow, Poland, he survived a series of ghettos and camps, including the Sosnowiec Ghetto, Auschwitz-Birkenau, Fünfteichen, Gross Rosen, Flossenberg, Leonberg, Mühldorf am Inn and Waldlager (two sub-camps of Dachau).

7:30 pm

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue
416-633-3838
100 Elder St., Toronto

"THE PAWNBROKER"

Sol Nazerman, a pawnbroker in Harlem, is a survivor of the Holocaust, in which he lost his wife and family. He has been left devoid of emotion, feeling nothing for anybody or anything. As the anniversary date of his loss arrives and passes, his world of isolation begins to crack. Voices, visions and calendars begin to haunt him. He is not accustomed to feeling anything, yet his first feeling is fear. Directed by Sydney Lumet, *The Pawnbroker* stars the late Rod Steiger in the title role.

7:30 pm

Indigo Books Music & Café
416-925-3536/5102
55 Bloor St. W., Toronto

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

VERA SCHIFF, born in Prague, was deported in 1942 to Theresienstadt (Terezin) camp, where several members of her family died. She is the author of *Theresienstadt – The Town the Nazis Gave to the Jews* and has recently launched her new book *Hitler's Inferno: Eight Intimate and Personal Histories from the Holocaust.*

7:30 pm

Pride of Israel Synagogue 416-226-0111
59 Lissom Cres., Toronto

"RESISTANCE AND HITLER'S SECRET WEAPON"

This program will present the remarkable stories of two Holocaust survivors. JACK HEIDEMA joined the Dutch Resistance during the winter of 1943. Arrested by the German police (Sicherheitdienst)) in 1945, he was transported to Germany where he spent time in the Dorsten, Borken and Bocholt camps. MIKE ENGLISHMAN survived five concentration camps and two prisons. He is currently working on his autobiography to be used as an educational tool for teaching about the atrocities in the concentration camps and as an example of man's inhumanity to man.

8:00 pm

Chabad Lubavitch
905-886-0402
83 Green Lane, Thornhill

"FAITH & SUFFERING: WHERE IS G-D WHEN IT HURTS?"

RABBI DR. IMMANUEL SCHOCHET, noted scholar and acclaimed speaker, will address this very important question.

8:00 pm

Chapters Inc.
416-222-6323
2901 Bayview Ave. Toronto *(Bayview Village)*

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

NECHEMIA WURMAN was born in Kurov, Poland. From 1942 to 1944 he worked in a Nazi slave labour camp from which he escaped and joined the Partisan Resistance fighters. On their orders, he infiltrated the German 72nd infantry battalion and passed information back to them. He is the author of *Nechemia – German and Jew in the Holocaust.*

Visit our website
www.jewishtoronto.net
for information & any program changes

8:00 pm

Holy Blossom Temple
416-789-3291
1950 Bathurst St., Toronto

"THE VATICAN AND THE HOLOCAUST: REVIEWING MORE EVIDENCE FROM FRANCE"

Controversy over the role of the Holy See during the Holocaust continues unabated. In an effort to put some of this debate into historical context, PROFESSOR MICHAEL MARRUS will examine one more crucial piece of evidence - a confidential diplomatic report to Marshal Philippe Petain, the French head of state, which revealed a great deal about Vatican attitudes as well as those of the French leadership of the anti-Jewish campaign that immediately preceded the Holocaust. Professor Marrus is Dean of the Graduate School and the Chancellor Rose and Ray Wolfe Professor of Holocaust Studies at the University of Toronto.

8:00 pm

Temple Har Zion
905-889-2252 ext. 240
7360 Bayview Ave., Toronto

"RESISTANCE DURING THE HOLOCAUST"

Terezin survivor GEORGE BRADY witnessed the actions of a small group of young men aged 13-15 who produced a secret publication between 1942 and 1944. He will reflect on this specific case of resistance as he examines the inherent risks and objectives and recalls the tragic struggle for survival in what was referred to as the "model concentration camp."

Thursday, November 7

12:00 noon

Hillel (Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life)
& Alpha Epsilon Pi, University of Toronto
UC Union–U of T Campus
416-638-4103
79 St. George St., Toronto

"READING OF THE NAMES"

DR. ROBERT BIRGENEAU, President of the University of Toronto, will lead students in the 4th annual Reading. For 24 consecutive hours, they will recite the names of those mercilessly taken during the Holocaust, culminating at 12:00 noon on Friday, November 8. All are invited to submit names of loved ones or read names. WANDA LEREK, Holocaust survivor from Poland, will recount her personal experiences at 12 noon. DR. FRANK BIALYSTOK, author and Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Waterloo, will deliver a brief address at the conclusion of the program. *Recommended for university students.*

1:30 pm

Deer Park Library
416-393-7673
40 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto

"THE DUTCH AS RESCUERS"

GERALD VANDEZANDE, retired from the Committee for Public Justice, recently received the Order of Canada for his "relentless pursuit of justice." He will discuss Dutch rescue efforts during the War. In addition, a Holocaust survivor will reveal the secrets hidden children had to keep in order to stay alive. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

1:30 pm

Dufferin Clark Library
905-660-0374
1441 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

MOISHE KANTOROWITZ is a Polish Holocaust survivor. Fifty-two members of his family were deported to several ghettos and ultimately murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

2:00 pm

Miles Nadal JCC
416-924-6211
750 Spadina Ave., Toronto

"SILENT WITNESS"

Nearly 50 years after the liberation of Dachau and Auschwitz, director Harriet Wichin returned to capture the haunitng spirit of these sites. While she initially set out to explore the questions raised from the international controversy over the convent built by Carmelite nuns at Auschwitz, the film became a poetic exploration of the people who live and work on the sites today. *German with English subtitles.*

6:30 pm

Ryerson University, Olive Baker Lounge
416-979-5000 ext. 6198
35 Victoria St., Toronto

"THREE GENOCIDES OF THE 20TH CENTURY: THE ARMENIANS, THE JEWS & THE TUTSIS"

A panel discussion with GERALD KAPLAN, author of the *Organization of African Unity's Rwanda: A Preventable Genocide* and co-coordinator of Remembering Rwanda: The Rwanda Genocide 10th Anniversary Memorial Project; DR. FRANK BIALYSTOK, Adjunct Professor of History at the University of Waterloo and author of *Delayed Impact:The Holocaust and the Canadian Jewish Community;* LORNE SHIRINIAN, scholar on the Armenian genocide and author of *A Quest for Closure:The Armenian Genocide and the Search for Justice in Canada;* ANITA EKSTEIN, Holocaust survivor; and DADA GASIRABO, Tutsi survivor. Moderator will be DR. CAROLE ANN REED, former Director, The Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation.

7:00 pm

Centennial College
Centennial College Conference Centre
416-289-5000 ext. 2601
940 Progress Ave., Scarborough

"TEACHING THE HOLOCAUST AND GENOCIDE: HOW HATRED HAPPENS"

If you cannot see how hatred is taught, how can you understand how hatred happens? One of the cornerstones of the Pollock Collection, a wide array of Holocaust materials housed at Centennial College, is *The Poisonous Mushroom (Der Giftpilz)*. This virulent piece of anti-Semitic propaganda was taught in German schools in order to prepare students for genocide. Today, teachers realize that understanding the evolution of racial and ethnic hatred through the study of propaganda is one means of preparing students for genocide awareness. How, then, do good teachers effectively integrate such inherently offensive, yet deeply instructive, historical materials into their lessons? LEO KABALISA, a Tutsi survivor of the Rwandan genocide of 1994, will discuss how his experiences have shaped his teaching at Yorkhill Elementary School. His talk will be followed by an open discussion led by a panel of educators representing all levels. Selected materials from the Pollock Collection, including *Der Giftpilz*, will be displayed. *Recommended for educators at all levels.*

7:30 pm

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am
416-633-5500
55 Yeomans Rd., Toronto

"DEDICATION OF MEGILLAT HASHOAH: THE SCROLL OF THE HOLOCAUST"

A campaign, based at Beth David Congregation, and extending through the Toronto community and beyond, headed by Alex Eisen and Rabbi Philip Scheim, led to the creation of *Megillat HaShoah* in Jerusalem. *The Scroll of the Holocaust*, a liturgy for synagogues and communities for Yom HaShoah, was the result of a years-long vision and pursuit by Eisen. This coming Yom HaShoah, the *Megillah HaShoah* will be read in congregations world-wide.

In attendance at the dedication will be **RABBI REUVEN HAMMER** of Jerusalem, author of *Entering Jewish Prayer* and *Entering the High Holy Days*, and President, Rabbinical Assembly; **RABBI DAVID GOLINKIN** of Jerusalem, author of *The Status of Women in Jewish Law* and President, Schechter Institute; **RABBI PHILIP SCHEIM, CANTOR MARSHALL LOOMER** and members of the Toronto Rabbinic and Cantorial Community.

The program is free but tickets are required. Call 416-633-5500.

7:30 pm

Goethe Institut
416-593-5257
Kinowelt Hall, Toronto
(SW corner of King St. W. and University Ave. – St. Andrew Subway)

"JAKOB THE LIAR"

Trapped in a Polish ghetto with thousands of other Jews facing starvation or deportation, Jakob is detained one evening at Gestapo headquarters. Eavesdropping, he overhears a radio report about a nearby Russian victory. He passes on the information in the camp and then feigns access to a hidden radio. By keeping up the façade, he becomes a one-man bulwark against despair, a reluctant hero and a tragic figure, a man ultimately powerless to change the fate of his people. **FRANK BEYER** is the celebrated filmmaker from the former GDR and creator of the original film *Jakob the Liar (Jakob Der Luegner)*, a literary adaptation of Jurek Becker's famous novel. After the screening (with English subtitles), he will discuss his 1974 film, which served as a basis for the Hollywood version starring Robin Williams. *Admission: $5. Age: 18+. Seating capacity: 80.*

7:30 pm

Knox United Church
416-293-4424
2659 Midland Ave., Toronto

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

FANNY PILLERSDORF, born in Benin, Poland, is a survivor of seven camps: Ortmund, Blechamer, Klein Mengelsdorf, Wizau, Gross Rosen, Gross Maslowich, and Cillertal. Towards the end of the War, she escaped and was hidden by a farmer. She is the sole survivor of her family. *Co-sponsored by St. Giles Anglican and Christ Lutheran Churches, and Knox United Church.*

7:30 pm

Kolel, The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning
416-485-7007 ext. 222
151 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto

"AN INTER-GENERATIONAL EXPERIENCE"

A thought-provoking discussion that will explore the experiences of three generations. Participating will be a Holocaust survivor, a child of a survivor and a past participant of the March of the Living. *Sponsored by Reviving Eden, an initiative of Kolel. Recommended for Jewish adults in their 20s.*

Holocaust Education Week
Hotline 416-631-5689

7:30 pm

Manor Road United Church
416-483-0695
240 Manor Rd. E., Toronto

"ELIE WIESEL GOES HOME"

This compelling film follows the Nobel Prize-winner and author, whose voice speaks out for the victims of oppression all over the world, as he returns to Sigeth, the village of his birth, 50 years after World War II. He is also seen as he returns to Auschwitz-Birkenau, the camp from which he was liberated at the end of the War. *Co-sponsored by Leaside United Church.*

7:30 pm

Richmond Hill Public Library
905-884-9288 ext. 737
1 Atkinson Rd., Richmond Hill

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

ELISABETH DE JONG, a Jewish Holocaust survivor from Holland, will recall her War-time experiences. After being hidden by Dutch Christian families, she was betrayed by neighbours and arrested and deported to Auschwitz-Birkenau where, as special punishment, she was experimented on by Dr. Josef Mengele.

7:30 pm

St. Gabriel's Passionist Parish *(Rom. Cath.)*
416-221-8866
650 Sheppard Ave. E., Toronto

"HIDDEN HEROES"

This film, created for Vision TV, tells the story of Dutch Christians who rescued Jewish children during the Holocaust. VERA YEROS and ADA WYNSTON, two of the hidden children in the film, will speak following the screening.

Friday, November 8

12:00 noon

Art Gallery of Ontario
416-979-6608 ext. 215
317 Dundas St. W., Toronto

"JOURNEY OF THE BUTTERFLY"

The Journey of the Butterfly, a documentary directed by Robert Frye, is based on the children of Terezin. The film weaves together the music, art, poetry and history of the children imprisoned by the Nazis in the ghetto at Terezin in Czechoslovakia from 1941 to 1945. Highlighted is the American Boys Choir performing *I Never Saw Another Butterfly* with the Prague Symphony Orchestra. Following the presentation, two guided tours (1:30 pm & 2:45 pm) will feature Jewish art, lithographs by Chagall, anti-Nazi war illustrations, etc. *Admission is free but registration for either tour is required as space is limited. Call 416-979-6608.*

Programs highlighted in green are specially suitable for youth.

7:30 pm

Amnesty International Members for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Concerns 416-964-9095
Ryerson University
Rogers Theatre Room V204
80 Gould St., Toronto *(Church & Gould St.)*

"BUT I WAS A GIRL"

This 1998 documentary follows the life of Freide Belinfante, a Dutch woman, from her youth growing up in Europe to her death in the U.S. A talented musician and a lesbian of Jewish heritage, she was part of the Resistance Movement in Amsterdam. A discussion will follow the screening.

8:00 pm

Beaches Hebrew Institute
416-694-7942
109 Kenilworth Ave., Toronto

"HIDDEN HEROES"

This jointly-sponsored program by the Beaches Hebrew Institute and St. John's Norway Anglican Church will feature *Hidden Heroes*. Created for Vision TV, this film tells the story of Dutch Christians who rescued Jewish children during the Holocaust. ADA WYNSTON, one of the hidden children in the film, will answer questions following the screening.

8:30 pm

Solel Congregation
905-820-5915
2399 Folkway Dr., Mississauga

"HOLOCAUST MEMORY IN ISRAEL"

A lecture by PROFESSOR DEREK PENSLAR, an authority on the history of Zionism. He is the first Samuel J. Zacks Chair of Jewish History at the University of Toronto and a contributor to the celebrated *Illustrated History of the Jewish People.*

Visit our website
www.jewishtoronto.net
for information & any program changes

Saturday, November 9
8:00 pm
Beth Tikvah Synagogue 416-221-3433
3080 Bayview Ave., Toronto

COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION OF KRISTALLNACHT

"ECHOES OF KRISTALLNACHT IN OUR TIME"

PROFESSOR IRWIN COTLER, O.C. is a Member of Parliament for Mount Royal in Montreal. He is internationally renowned for his tireless efforts in promoting human rights, having represented such famous prisoners of conscience as Natan Scharansky, Nelson Mandela, Andrei Sakharov and Jacobo Timmerman. For many years, he has worked on behalf of peace in the Middle East. He is a long-time advocate in the world-wide struggle against racism and discrimination, and has chaired or served on many international Commissions of Inquiry.

Professor Cotler will review the events leading to Kristallnacht and compare these with what he observes around the world today.

This program will commemorate the 64th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, when, on November 9-10, 1938, a massive, coordinated attack was carried out against Jews throughout Germany and Austria. Hundreds were killed or injured, synagogues burned, businesses destroyed, cemeteries and schools vandalized and thousands of Jews arrested and sent to concentration camps.

This program is generously co-sponsored by The Sarah Pasht Holocaust Memorial Fund.

"In Berlin...fire engines stood by to protect the nearby main post office while the Oranienburgstrasse synagogue burned." Photo – *Kristallnacht: the Nazi night of terror* by Anthony Read and David Fisher. Published by Random House.

7:30 pm

Goethe Institut 416-593-5257
Kinowelt Hall, Toronto
(SW corner of King St. W. and University Ave. – St. Andrew Subway)

"NAKED AMONG WOLVES"

FRANK BEYER, celebrated filmmaker from the former German Democratic Republic, will discuss his film, a very early reflection on the horrors of the Holocaust. Set just prior to the liberation of the Buchenwald concentration camp, it is the true story of the male prisoners who risked their lives to hide a small Jewish boy from their Nazi captors. *Admission: $5. Age:18 +. Seating capacity: 80.*

7:30 pm

Miles Nadal JCC 416-924-6211
750 Spadina Rd., Toronto

"CULTURE AS RESISTANCE"

The theme of this year's annual program, *Culture as Resistance*, will explore the cultural life of the Vilna Ghetto. The source and inspiration is Shmerke Kascerginsky's three-volume memoir, *I Was a Partisan*. It tells stories from the Vilna Ghetto and the forests of Poland, depicting acts of incredible hope and courage. With THERESA TOVA, ALEX POCH GOLDIN, HINDI NOSSEK-ABELSON, KAEJA D'DANCE, MITCH SMOLKIN, LIZA BALKAN, SUSAN SPIER and the choirs of the MILES NADAL JCC and TRINITY ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH. Directed by Jennifer Herszman Capraru. *Presented by the Cultural Arts Group of the Miles Nadal JCC, with The Committee for Yiddish of UJA Federation and the Friends of Yiddish. Members: Free. Non-Members: $10.*

Sunday, November 10

9:30 am

United Congregational School
416-633-1338
100 Elder St., Toronto

"UNDERSTANDING THE HOLOCAUST"

KATHY KACER, author of the award-winning *The Secret of Gabi's Dresser* (ages 6-9) and *Clara's War* (ages 10+), will speak to young people about the importance of understanding the Holocaust. *Recommended for students grades 4&5.*

10:00 am

Temple Emanu-El 416-449-3880
120 Old Colony Rd., Toronto

"COME OUT FIGHTING, THE 761ST"

This documentary tells the story of a segregated tank battalion of African-American soldiers who fought in World War II under the command of General George Patton. They were responsible for helping the Allies defeat the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge and were credited with liberating several concentration camps in Austria. Because of their courage and determination, President Harry Truman desegregated the American military in 1948. Produced by Fern Levitt. MAX EISEN is a Slovakian Jew who was liberated by the 80th U.S. Infantry (also a segregated unit) in Ebensee on May 6, 1945. Following the screening, he will recount the details of his liberation.

10:00 am

Chabad Lubavitch 905-709-7770
770 Chabad Gate, Thornhill

"KILLING BY GAS – THE THREAT IN ISRAEL"

Gas was used during the Holocaust to kill millions of Jews. Decades later, the population of Israel faces this same potential deadly weapon. COL. (RET) YAEN VERED, an historian with a long and distinguished career in the military, will discuss this threat. He is the former Chief Instructor at the Israeli Defence Force's Command and Staff College. *Program in Hebrew following morning service.*

Co-sponsored by EL AL

10:15 am

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism
416-385-3910
Oraynu Children's School
St. Andrews Jr. High School
131 Fenn Ave., Toronto

"THE 1948 VOLUNTEER BRIGADE IN ISRAEL"

After the Holocaust, many survivors took refuge in the Jewish community in Palestine, which was struggling to emerge as the State of Israel. JOSEPH WARNER, Deputy Commander, Toronto Post, World Liaison of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, was a participant in a volunteer program (Machal) that played a significant role in the birth and defence of the new State. He will discuss his experiences during the first years of Israel's existence.

2:00 pm

Kehillat Shaarei Torah 416-229-2600
2640 Bayview Ave., Toronto

"THE INTERNET AS A VENUE FOR HATE"

ABBEE CORB, Internet specialist with Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies, researches and identifies hate and terror sites on the worldwide web. She was instrumental in developing *Digital Hate 2002*, a CD-ROM compilation of hate sites and will illustrate her talk with clips from some of these sites. NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12. *Co-sponsored by Young Leadership Cabinet of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.*

2:00 pm

Lodzer Centre Holocaust Congregation
416-636-6665 ext. 0
12 Heaton St., Toronto

"MY PERSONAL TESTIMONY"

SALLY WASSERMAN is a Holocaust survivor born in Katowice, Poland. She will recount the story of her survival as a hidden child rescued by Righteous Gentiles in Poland.

7:00 pm

The Bloor Cinema 416-516-2330
506 Bloor Street W., Toronto

"UNDYING LOVE"

Against the brutalized landscape of post-War Europe, this documentary focuses on how Holocaust survivors struggled to reconstruct personal identities and forge intimate relationships. Writer and director HELENE KLODAWSKY, producer INA FICHMAN and several people in the film will participate in a post-screening discussion. *Admission: $5.*

7:00 pm

B'nai Brith Canada 416-633-6224 ext. 112
15 Hove St., Toronto

"HATE ON THE INTERNET"

WARREN KINSELLA is the award-winning author of *Web of Hate: Canada's Far Right Network* and an advisor to governments and political parties in several provinces. A journalist and lawyer, he will offer insights into this timely topic.

7:00 pm

Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee
416-964-7698
Barbara Frum Library
20 Covington Rd., Toronto

"ETERNAL VIGILANCE"

The mass murder of our people and the evil perpetrated by many of their neighbours has traumatized the Jewish people, creating hesitancy within many to trust others. Yet it is important that we ask: "Were there any positive messages that we learned from the Holocaust? Have we, as a people and individuals, lived up to our own commitment of being eternally vigilant to the ills of others?" A panel including AVRUM ROSENZWEIG, Director of Ve'ahavta, DR. SEYMOUR EPSTEIN, Vice President, Education, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and WILLIAM RECANT, Assistant Executive Vice President of the American Joint Distribution Committee, will address these questions.

Holocaust Education Week
Hotline 416-631-5689

7:30 pm

Congregation Habonim
416-782-7125
5 Glen Park Rd., Toronto

"KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION"

Congregation Habonim, founded by European refugees from the Holocaust, many of whom were witnesses to Kristallnacht, will conduct a brief memorial. Following will be a screening of the documentary *The Night of the Reich's Pogrom* and a lecture by **PROFESSOR JEFFREY KOPSTEIN,** Director of the University of Toronto's Research Department on Jewish-Gentile Relations in Pre-War Europe. *A joint initiative with the U of T Department of German and European Studies.*

7:30 pm

Shaarei Tefillah Congregation
416-787-1631
3600 Bathurst St., Toronto

"ONE OUT OF TEN"

One and a half million Jewish children were murdered in Europe between 1939 and 1945. Only one out of ten children survived. In this documentary, child survivors from seven European countries recount their extraordinary experiences. The film will be followed by the personal story of **CLAIRE BAUM,** a child survivor from Holland who, along with her younger sister, survived in hiding from 1942-1945. *Recommended for students grade 7+.*

8:00 pm

Israel's, the Judaica Centre
416-256-1010
897 Eglinton Ave. W., Toronto

"TOO MANY MEN"

THE SHAAREI SHOMAYIM BOOK CLUB will discuss this Holocaust novel by Lilly Brett, centering around a daughter of survivors who feels compelled to visit Poland with her father. The author describes virulently anti-Semitic Poland today and the commercialization of the Holocaust. *Book Club non-members welcome.*

8:00 pm

Magen David Sephardic Congregation
416-633-1519
10 McCallister Ave., Toronto

"ANTI-SEMITISM IN MUSLIM COUNTRIES"

The upsurge in anti-Semitism that we have recently witnessed and that continues to proliferate in Muslim countries is not a new phenomenon. It was prevalent during the Holocaust. **COL. (RET) YAEN VERED,** an historian with a long and distinguished career in the Israeli military, will review this timely subject.

Closing Program

Monday, November 11
8:00 pm
Beth Sholom Synagogue 416-783-6103
1445 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto

COMMUNITY COMMEMORATION OF REMEMBRANCE DAY

"168 JUMP INTO HELL"

ED CARTER-EDWARDS was a young man from Hamilton who volunteered for the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. He and 168 of his colleagues were shot down over France, avoided execution by the Gestapo, and were sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp. The atrocities they witnessed there were so unimaginable that after Liberation, few believed their story.

Following a screening of the National Film Board documentary *The Lucky Ones: Allied Airmen and Buchenwald*, in which airmen share their personal stories of life before, during, and after Buchenwald, Carter-Edwards will discuss this remarkable and little-known story.

Jewish War Veterans will participate in the program, bringing in the colour guard and presenting the flags.

This program is generously co-sponsored by Allan and Hinda Silber in honour of Godel and Cilka Silber.

A series of highly acclaimed Holocaust-related films will be presented during Holocaust Education Week.

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For information call 416-591-7400 ext. 2802

Tuesday, November 5 – 1:00 am
"BACH AT AUSCHWITZ"

Concentration camp orchestra members discuss how their talents led to their survival. Includes interviews with survivors and a journey into the depths of the camps.

Friday, November 8 – 9:00 pm
"TRAIN OF LIFE"

A Jewish community, warned of the impending arrival of the Nazis, builds a fake deportation train to escape Russia and head towards safety in Palestine.

Sunday, November 10 – 7:30 pm
"A DAY IN THE WARSAW GHETTO"

Over half a century ago, a German soldier spent a day snapping photos inside the Warsaw Ghetto. These stark images and the stories behind them comprise this documentary.

Sunday, November 10 – 8:00 pm
"THE FEAR OF FELIX NUSSBAUM"

This program pieces together the quest for the forgotten and hidden art of Felix Nussbaum, a German Jewish artist who perished in the Holocaust. What is remarkable about the story is that the campaign to resurrect his works and build a museum to house them is spearheaded by the mayor of Osnabruck, Nussbaum's home town - the same town that ostracized him over fifty years ago and watched the Nazis transport Jews to their graves.

October 10 – December 15

Koffler Gallery 416-636-1880 ext. 270
4588 Bathurst Street, Toronto

"BLIND IMAGE"

Drawing from newspaper reports, court transcripts, diaries and letters, New York artist RUTH LIBERMAN recounts the sombre histories of political repression and violence - particularly Jewish history. Liberman will attend the EXHIBIT OPENING – THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10 AT 6 PM. The Gallery will be open Monday-Friday 10 am-4 pm and Sunday, noon to 4 pm. *Admission is free.*

November 2 – 10

Leah Posluns Theatre 416-636-1880 ext. 281
4588 Bathurst Street, Toronto

"26TH ANNUAL JEWISH BOOK FAIR"

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VISIONTV

Wednesday, October 30 – 10:00 pm
"THE FEAR OF FELIX NUSSBAUM"

This film pieces together the quest for the forgotten and hidden art of Felix Nussbaum, a German Jewish artist who perished in the Holocaust. *Closed captioned.*

Thursday, October 31 – 8:00 pm
"THE LONELINESS OF THE CANTOR"

Focusing on Jewish spiritual music, this unique documentary juxtaposes Europe's youngest cantor, 15-year-old Noam Brown from Amsterdam, with an elderly cantor from Vienna who survived the Holocaust.

Thursday, October 31 – 11:00 pm
"OUT OF THE FIRE: THE FAYE SCHULMAN STORY"

Faye Schulman, a Polish Jew now living in Toronto, survived the mass murder of her family in 1942 because, as a young photographer, she was useful to the Nazis. She later escaped and joined a group of partisans.

Thursday, November 7 – 8:00pm & 11:00pm
"LEO'S JOURNEY: STORY OF THE MENGELE TWINS"

This documentary centres on Dr. Josef Mengele's medical experiments performed on Jewish twins, and the dehumanization of life through the misapplication of science, as told through the journey of retired Canadian survivor Leo Lowry, who returns to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Interwoven are remembrances by fellow survivors of Mengele, Eva Kor and Jona Laks; original historical footage and powerful interviews with a surviving Jewish doctor; the world's leading expert on Nazi medicine, Dr. Benno Mueller-Hill; and the grandson of Mengele's sponsor and mentor, Dr. Otmar von Vershuer. *Closed captioned.*

November 1,2,8,9 – 8:00 pm
November 3,10 – 2:30 pm

The Friendly Spike Studio Theatre 416-516-4740
2466 Dundas St. W., Toronto – Studio 210

"FATHER & DAUGHTER"

This one-woman play focuses on the relationship between Father, a man who survived the Nazi concentration camps, and his rebellious, humorous, well-meaning Daughter. This bittersweet work explores the horrors of Auschwitz and the devastation it caused survivors and their children. Other relevant themes are the strength and resilience of the human spirit and love. Written by Marlene Charney, Ruth Ruth and Ken Innes, and directed by Innes, it stars MARLENE CHARNEY. *Limited seating. Phone 416-516-4740 for ticket information.*

During Holocaust Education Week, displays of Holocaust-related books will be mounted at the following bookstores:

- ALEPH BET JUDAICA
  3453 Bathurst St., Toronto
- ANOTHER STORY
  164 Danforth Ave., Toronto
- BATNER BOOKSTORE
  180 Steeles Ave. West,Thornhill
- BOOK CITY
  1950 Queen St. E., Toronto
- CANADIAN CHILDREN'S BOOK CTR.
  40 Orchard View Blvd., Toronto
- CAVERSHAM BOOKSELLERS
  98 Harbord St., Toronto
- CHAPTERS INC.
  2901 Bayview Ave., Toronto
  110 Bloor St. West, Toronto
  2225 Bloor St. West, Toronto
  142 John St., Toronto
  2400 Yonge St., Toronto
  7040 Yonge St., Thornhill
  17440 Yonge St., Newmarket
  3175 Hwy #7, Markham
  3900 Hwy #7 West #1, Woodbridge
  20 W. Kitchen Road, Scarborough
  1950 The Queensway, Etobicoke
  100 City Centre, Mississauga
  310 No. Service Road West, Oakville
- CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATIONS INC.
  3838 Midland Ave. #114, Scarborough
- COLES
  BCE Place, 181 Bay St. #116, Toronto
  Eglinton Square, Eglinton Ave. E & Victoria Park, Scarborough
  300 Borough Drive #82, Scarborough
- CONTACT EDITIONS
  759 Mount Pleasant Road, Toronto
- DAVID MIRVISH BOOKS ON ART
  596 Markham St., Toronto
- INDIGO BOOKS MUSIC & CAFÉ
  55 Bloor St. West, Toronto
  2300 Yonge St., Toronto
  8705 Yonge St., Richmond Hill
  Yorkdale Mall, 3401 Dufferin St., Toronto
  30 Great Lakes Drive #12, Brampton
- ISRAEL'S, THE JUDAICA CENTRE
  897 Eglinton Ave. West, Toronto
  441 Clark Ave. West, Thornhill
- JAMIE FRASER BOOKS
  427A Queen St. West, Toronto
- MABEL'S FABLES
  2939 Bloor St. West, Toronto
  662 Mt. Pleasant Road, Toronto
- NEGEV BOOK & GIFT STORE
  3509 Bathurst St., Toronto
- PAGES BOOKS & MAGAZINES
  256 Queen St. West, Toronto
- PARENTSBOOKS
  201 Harbord St., Toronto
- RYERSON BOOKSTORE
  17 Gould St., Toronto
- SECOND STORY READING CENTRE
  1000 Gerrard St. East, Toronto
- SMITH BOOKS
  1 First Canadian Place, Toronto
  Fairwiew Mall,1800 Sheppard Ave. East
- THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE
  888 Eglinton Ave. West, Toronto
- UNITED CHURCH BOOK ROOM
  3250 Bloor St. West, Toronto
- UNIV. OF TORONTO BOOKSTORE
  214 College St., Toronto
- WOMEN'S BOOK STORE
  73 Harbord St., Toronto
- WONDERWORKS
  79A Harbord St., Toronto
- WORLD'S LARGEST BOOKSTORE
  20 Edward St., Toronto
- YORK UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORE
  York Lanes - 4700 Keele St., Toronto

We regret any errors or omissions due to publication deadlines.

Visit our Web Site at: www.jewishtoronto.net
for the latest information and any program changes.

Admission to all programs is free unless otherwise noted. However, to ensure that the highest caliber of Holocaust programs may be perpetuated in future years, a voluntary donation of at least $3 per person would be appreciated. Donation boxes will be available at all events.
We thank you for your generosity.

The Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation gratefully acknowledges the generosity of those listed below:

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This Week

National

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Rabbi Plaut says his birthday is just another day. *Page 13*

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Filmmaker studies the human side of the intifadah. *Pages 40*

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www.cjnews.com

EU changing views on Arafat

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

The European Union (EU) is slowly moving closer to the American view of the Palestinian Authority and its president, Yasser Arafat, according to reports that have reached Jerusalem in advance of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's planned trip to Washington this week.

Comment

Last week, Arafat hosted the EU's foreign policy co-ordinator, Javier Solana, at his office in Ramallah. Solana reportedly used the meeting to deliver a stern warning and to urge Arafat to transfer the reins of power to someone else. Moreover, senior EU and United Nations officials have recently been saying in private conversations that Arafat is an obstacle to reforming the PA and must be replaced.

Javier Solana at a meeting last year with Benjamin Ben-Eliezer. *[Israel file photo]*

Solana's visit to Arafat initially elicited strong criticism from both Jerusalem and Washington. Sharon and Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer told Solana that his visit had hindered efforts to reform the PA. But once the contents of the conversation became known, the American administration changed its tune and praised the visit.

Continued on page 33

Pleading for help

Haim and Edna Avraham visited Parliament Hill last week on a trip sponsored by the Canada-Israel Committee. They were seeking the government's aid to obtain information about the fate of their son Benny, one of three Israeli soldiers kidnapped from northern Israel two years ago by Hezbollah. Shown from left are: Ronen Gil-Or of the Israeli Embassy; Linda Hendrie, national co-ordinator of Restoration of Family Links with the Canadian Red Cross; Eric Vernon of Canadian Jewish Congress; MP Carolyn Bennett, who presented a 10,000-signature petition in the House of Commons; the Avrahams; Ra'anana Goldhar, the organizer of the petition; Rivka Finkelstein; and Rabbi Howard Finkelstein. *Please see related story on page 3.* *[David Cooper photo]*

American Jewish population declining

By JOE BERKOFSKY
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — America's Jewish population declined by five per cent during the past 10 years, according to a new survey, a trend that is likely to continue given the community's aging population and low birth rates.

Down by five per cent over last 10 years

The number of Jews now stands at 5.2 million, down from 5.5 million in 1990, even as the total U.S. population is growing, according to the National Jewish Population Survey 2000-2001.

The picture of a declining, greying population was unveiled last Tuesday by the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella organization of local Jewish federations that sponsored what is believed to be the most comprehensive demographic survey of the Jewish community to date.

The NJPS study, which surveyed 4,500 Jews from every state and the District of Columbia, cost $6 million (US), compared to only $500,000 in 1990.

Continued on page 34

Shabbat: Lech Lecha
Candlelighting: 6:13
Havdallah: 7:18
Greater Toronto Area

Bus driver prevents disaster — please see page 33

The News in Brief

CANADA

Free Israel Trip

TORONTO — Ve'ehavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, along with Birthright Israel and trip organizer Canada-Israel Experience, is offering a free trip to Israel "with a tikkun olam twist." The 10-day trip at the end of December is open to Jews ages 18 to 26 who have never been on an organized tour to Israel. In addition to touring, it will include social action projects such as working at a Ramle coffee shop run by the social service group Elem, which provides free snacks and counselling for youth in distress. Apply online at israelforfree.com. Deadline is Oct. 30. For more information, visit www.veahavta.org, or call 1-877-582-5472.

ISRAEL

Ze'evi Convictions

JERUSALEM — A court here convicted two Palestinians last week in the murder of Israeli cabinet minister Rehavam Ze'evi one year ago. Mohammed Rimawi was sentenced to life in prison for helping to plan the murder and being a lookout when Ze'evi was shot in Jerusalem's Hyatt Hotel. East Jerusalem resident Salakh Alawi was also convicted for giving the killers food and shelter afterward. Alawi will be sentenced later. The convicts' families protested that the real murderers are going unpunished. The members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine accused by Israel of carrying out the killing are jailed in Jericho under U.S. and British supervision, as part of a deal to end Israel's siege of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's headquarters in May.

Mitzna Refused Funds

HAIFA — Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna has reportedly refused funds offered by the Palestinian Authority (PA) for his campaign for Labour party leader. Mitzna confirmed he was approached by PA officials but said he turned down the offer, Israel's Channel Two news reported.

Outposts Dismantled

JERUSALEM — Israeli soldiers last week dismantled three uninhabited West Bank settler outposts. Wednesday's move came after Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer pledged to remove all illegal enclaves, including populated ones. The head of the army's Central Command also gave settler leaders a list of 24 outposts due to be dismantled within a week, Israel Radio reported. Settlers asked to be allowed to appeal before steps are taken. They accused Ben-Eliezer of targeting the outposts to gain support from Labour party doves as he fights for re-election as party leader next month.

Western Wall Checked

JERUSALEM — A delegation of Jordanian experts took samples of the southern part of the Western Wall last week to determine the cause of a bulge. The Jordanians arrived after a compromise was reached between Israeli and Palestinian officials. Israel's Antiquities Authority has warned that all or part of the section of the wall could collapse. An Israeli watchdog group has blamed the bulge on mosque renovation work by the Wakf Islamic Trust. The wakf says the bulge was there before work began.

WORLD

Poet's Ouster Sought

NEW YORK — New Jersey Governor James McGreevey is seeking the power to fire the state's poet laureate, Amiri Baraka, who last month read a poem insinuating that Israel knew in advance about the Sept. 11 terror attacks. McGreevey said last week he has enlisted state legislators to introduce bipartisan legislation giving him authority to end Baraka's two-year term.

Israel a Threat: Poll

PARIS — Israel has been ranked second, just after Iraq, on a list of countries that threaten world peace, in a poll conducted jointly by five local newspapers in northwest France with a combined readership of 175,000. Following Iraq and Israel on the 15-country list are, in order, Afghanistan, the United States, Palestine, Iran, Pakistan, Algeria and Libya. Syria ranks 12th. Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Melchior attributed the results to distortions in the French media's Mideast coverage.

Ono Peace Prize

NEW YORK — An Israeli artist and a Palestinian artist were the first recipients of a peace prize that Yoko Ono created in memory of husband John Lennon. Last Wednesday, Ono presented $50,000 (US) each to Zvi Goldstein and Khalil Rabah and thanked them "for being so creative and inspirational despite the intense political situation we all live in." The event at the United Nations was held on what would have been Lennon's 62nd birthday.

Nobel Prize Winners

STOCKHOLM — A U.S-based Israeli academic, a Hungarian author and Holocaust survivor and an MIT professor last week won Nobel Prizes in economics, literature and medicine, respectively.

Daniel Kahneman, 68, a psychologist by training who teaches at Princeton University and is also a U.S. citizen, became the fifth Israeli to win a Nobel when the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences awarded him the prize in economic sciences for disproving commonly held assumptions that economic decision-making processes are rational.

Kahneman, who was born in Tel Aviv in 1934, will share the $1.1 million (US) prize with American Vernon Smith.

Kahneman, a fellow of Hebrew University's Centre for the Study of Rationality and Interactive Decision Theory, developed his theory 20 years ago with Prof. Amos Tversky, who died six years ago. He said he was accepting the prize for both himself and Tversky.

Imre Kertesz, a Budapest-born Jew whose fiction draws on his experience as a teen in Auschwitz, won the Nobel Prize for literature "for writing that upholds the fragile experience of the individual against the barbaric arbitrariness of history."

The academy singled out his debut 1975 novel *Sorstalanság* (*Fateless*), about a young man who is arrested and taken to a concentration camp, "but conforms and survives."

Kertesz, 72, is the first Hungarian to win the Nobel for literature, though Hungarians have won Nobel science awards.

Robert Horvitz, a Jewish professor at MIT, was one of three winners of the Nobel Prize in medicine, for discovering and characterizing key genes controlling cell death.

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Kidnapped soldier's father urges action

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

After IDF soldiers Adi Avitan, Benny Avraham and Omar Souad were kidnapped by Hezbollah terrorists along the Lebanese border on Oct. 7, 2000, Avraham's father Haim was haunted by a song that kept running through his head.

The tune, popular in Israel when Haim was a boy, was *Ema Mechakah Babayit* (Mom's Waiting at Home). Its title became the name of the charitable/activist organization he helped found to learn the fate of the soldiers and bring them home.

Avraham spoke at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation last week in an event co-sponsored by the Israel Now Consortium, Shaarei Shomayim, Holy Blossom Temple and Beth Tzedec Congregation. He also addressed members of the consortium at the Lipa Green Building, and visited Jewish schools and university campuses, along with his wife Edna, to talk to students. Their North American visit included stops in Montreal, Ottawa and Washington, D.C., to speak to lay audiences and government officials.

Although Israel has declared the soldiers dead, the Avrahams still hold out hope that they are alive. "We want to know what's happened to our children," Avraham said in an interview following his talk at the Lipa Green Building, his voice cracking with emotion and tears filling his eyes.

Haim and Edna Avraham show a photo of their son, Benny, during a visit to Toronto. [Nestor Ponce photo]

He maintains there is evidence that Benny is alive, and that there is no evidence to the contrary. There's a picture he said was taken in a Lebanese hospital six weeks after the kidnapping, an item that Benny threw from the car during the incident – as discussed earlier with his parents – to indicate that he was alive, and the picture showing bloodstains in the car that took the soldiers away.

"We saw the bloodstain. It's not so big," said Haim, delineating an area about an inch by an-inch-and-a-half. Even the Israel government says there is no evidence of the soldiers' deaths, according to Haim, who lost his brother Benny in the Yom Kippur War in 1973. Benny, his son, who was 20 when he was kidnapped, was named for the brother.

On the advice of a military rabbi, the Avrahams and the Avitan family sat shivah "conditionally" last November. (The third soldier, Omar Souad, is from a Bedouin family.) "If they come back healthy, it will mean good luck for many years," said Edna, a post-operative care nurse.

The Israeli government's top priority is "finishing the war, and we understand that [as citizens], but we can't accept it as parents," Haim said.

For the past two years, the Avrahams, who also have

Continued on page 24

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Greater Toronto Area

Anti-Semitism in academia (2)

Last week in this space, I recorded some of the highlights of the symposium sponsored by the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University the preceding Sunday on the subject of Anti-Semitism in Academia.

Professors Laurie Zoloth of San Francisco State University and Menachem Kellner of Haifa University delivered insightful and impassioned, though anguished, presentations about their own, personal encounters with anti-Semitism.

The presentations were chilling.

From the editor's desk

Zoloth spoke about the increasing intimidation on campuses, since the launching of the Palestinian campaign against Israel on Sept. 28, 2000 and especially after 9/11, of the Jewish and other professors, and, of course, the students, who attempt to identify with or speak out on behalf of Israel.

"Why has the American left turned so much against Israel even to the point of not defending free speech on campus when it comes to Jewish causes?" Zoloth wondered out loud.

Kellner recounted five troubling incidents specifically involving British academics, all of which entailed the singling out of Israel, Israelis or Jews.

One of the incidents revolved around the submission by two professors from Haifa University of an essay to a political geography journal.

The editor to whom the essay was sent was not willing "to deal with an article submitted by two Israeli scholars." Under the circumstances, he advised the authors, it was better for them to re-submit the article to the co-editor. The editor refused even to consider the essay because of the nationality of the authors.

"These are stories that we know about," Kellner told the audience. "How many such cases occur that we do not know about? It is a very frightening thought that there might be an informal conspiracy isolating Israeli academics."

It is indeed frightening — and infuriating — but not, alas, unlikely.

"Why do so many academics and intellectuals buy into the Palestinian narrative and eagerly vilify Israel? Why are Israeli errors placed in the foreground while Palestinian ones are placed in the background?" Kellner asked, echoing the thoughts, if not the words of his colleague.

In heartbreaking detail, both speakers described the odious rhetoric aimed at demonizing Israel that is so commonplace on campuses today.

Zoloth analyzed the components of that rhetoric as the reappearance, in modern uniform, of five medieval stereotypes.

Kellner suggested a number of possible explanations and concluded that Israel is seen as the avatar of all western values and thus is held in contempt by individuals who hold those values in contempt, including, ironically, by a great deal of the western intellectual left.

"How could this be happening again?" was the question that hung in the air, unasked, but likely coursing through the minds and hearts of most of the audience.

Then, an elderly gentleman stepped to the microphone and with humble, plaintive voice asked: "What are we to do? What do we tell our children? What do we tell our grandchildren when they ask me: 'Zaydie Max, why do they hate the Jews?'"

Neither Zoloth nor Kellner answered him directly, except to reiterate aspects of the remarks they had already delivered.

In truth, however, they had already answered him indirectly in the many bits and pieces of inspiration that sparked from their words like specks of fire flying from dark, hard pieces of flint striking rock.

Both Zoloth and Kellner emphasized to the audience that they considered themselves firmly in the camp of the "progressive" left. This, of course, explained one of the reasons for the extreme betrayal they felt at the hands of their fellow "progressive leftists." But it also explained one of the reasons that they were so determined not to surrender academia, the pre-eminent arena of public discourse, to the people who have betrayed them.

"Scholarship is not neutral," Zoloth asserted emphatically. "It is our duty to insist that the academy remain a place where there must be free speech and that the tyranny of the left will not be tolerated.

"Jews also have a liberation movement. We also have a history of fighting oppression." Jews, she urged, will not be deprived of our liberation movement nor of our history.

"Suicide bombing is impermissible, always," Zoloth said. "We *(by which, I believe, Zoloth meant we Jews generally, and people of the left, specifically)* must be the first to speak out on these matters… We must defend Israel's right to exist even in the very heart of the poisonous demonstrations against Israel. We must counter and challenge every false accusation levelled against Israel."

With equal resolve, Kellner reminded the audience that by defending Israel, we – Jews and people of good conscience throughout the West – are also defending the values that are precious to us as Jews and as people of the western, democratic world. That is our answer; that is our path.

We are now at a time, some 57 years after the end of World War II and 54 years after the creation of the State of Israel, when Jewish history calls upon us all to show our own courage, as Zoloth implored, to "counter and challenge every false accusation leveled against Israel."

Zaydie Max can tell his grandchildren that the reasons people may have for hating Jews say more about them than they do about the Jews. He can also tell them Judaism's beauty is as deep and eternal as heaven itself, that a small embattled people has proudly and miraculously carried its unique, life-affirming mission for more than 3,000 years and has returned, finally, sovereign, to its ancestral home, where it will remain forever. —*MBD*

SeeJN

ROSIE'S GANG: L'Chaim Cancer Support for Jewish Women again participated in the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation CIBC Run For The Cure on Oct 6. L'Chaim's Rosie Sherman helped organize this event, the 11th annual run, in which L'Chaim members, family and friends participated. More than $2.5 million was raised in Toronto.

Separation better than re-occupation: Labor MK

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Israel should separate from the Palestinians instead of re-occupying their main towns in the West Bank, says the new secretary-general of Israel's Labour party.

Calling for a fresh approach to the conflict with the Palestinians, Ophir Pines-Paz said that Israel's strategy should hinge on two interrelated elements: separation, which entails withdrawals from the territories, and a fortified fence along the West Bank, which is now being built.

"We are stuck with a situation in which we don't have a real answer to terrorism," he said in an interview during a brief stopover in Toronto recently.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon should have opted for separation rather than ordering the re-occupation of major towns in the Palestinian autonomous areas, said Pines-Paz, whose party is a key component of Sharon's national unity government.

The re-occupation took place last June, following a spate of Palestinian suicide bombings.

"We should try to find an alternative to re-occupation," added Pines-Paz, who was appointed secretary-general on July 7.

"We have to leave [the West Bank and Gaza Strip] step by step."

Pines-Paz, a Knesset member since 1996, urged Sharon to extend the Bethlehem-Gaza pilot withdrawal program to the rest of the territories.

The plan came into effect in mid-August on the recommendation of Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, the leader of the Labour party.

"We should have started separation a year ago. It can give us two advantages. Separation is a very important tool in fighting terrorism and in preserving Israel's Jewish character and democracy."

A member of the Knesset's pivotal foreign affairs and security committee, he voiced optimism that separation is achievable.

"There is an alternative to re-occupation," said Pines-Paz, who was here under the auspices of the New Israel Fund. During the course of a hectic day, he addressed several Canadian Friends of Peace Now parlour meetings.

He suggested that Israel's only hope of ending the current conflict is by simultaneously fighting terrorism and entering into political negotiations with the Palestinians.

"We haven't done that, and it's a big mistake."

Sooner or later, he noted, Israel will have to return to the Camp David-Taba peacemaking formula, the core of which is a two-state solution based on a massive Israeli pullout from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

"Seventy per cent to 80 per cent of Israelis support this," he claimed. "The question is, do we have a partner?"

Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority, no longer qualifies as a credible negotiating partner, Pines-Paz said.

"People like Abu Mazen are partners, and we should work with them."

Mahmoud Abbas, popularly known as Abu Mazen, is the secretary-general of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and was one of the architects of the Oslo peace process.

Now 66, Abu Mazen is a confidant of Arafat and is widely seen as a moderate.

Saying that Abu Mazen should replace Arafat as the Palestinians' top leader, Pines-Paz warned that Arafat's ouster from the West Bank would be counter-productive.

"Look what happened at the siege in Ramallah," he observed, referring to Israel's latest assault on Arafat's headquarters after back-to-back suicide bombings on Sept. 18 and 19.

"We made Arafat a hero."

Turning to another topical issue, Pines-Paz said the democratic free world should back an American attempt to disarm Iraq and unseat its president, Saddam Hussein.

"Saddam's regime is a model for others, like Libya. We have to learn from Afghanistan," he said in a reference to the toppling of the Taliban government by the United States and its allies.

Israel may be the victim of a preemptive Iraqi attack, he acknowledged.

But in the long run, Israel may gain a measure of security from Saddam's demise.

Praising Israel's policy of restraint in the 1991 Gulf War, he said,"On some occasions, restraint is power."

During the Gulf War, the Israeli government held its fire as Iraq hit Israel with 39 Scud missiles, causing widespread property damage and one death.

Asked if Israel should retaliate in the event of another Iraqi barrage, Pines-Paz said it would depend on the severity of the blow.

Israel will have no choice but to respond militarily if Iraq's attack is of a serious nature. But he also said he could see no circumstances under which Israel would resort to using its nuclear arsenal.

In general, Israel ought to co-ordinate its policy on Iraq with that of the United States, he said.

Pines-Paz, who is also a member of the Knesset's committee for immigration, absorption and the Diaspora, was asked whether the Law of Return should be modified in light of the fact that the majority of new immigrants from Russia over the past few years are said to be halachically non-Jewish.

The Law of Return, which encourages immigrants to settle in Israel, defines a Jew as someone with at least one Jewish grandparent.

"A Jew is a Jew by the Law of Return. We're totally against changing it."

Image © Peabody Essex Museum

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NEW ADDRESS

Holocaust Education Week marks its 22nd year

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Even though Holocaust Education Week is in its 22nd year, there has been no shortage of ideas for programs. "They're adding new programs right until the brochure goes to press," said Barbara Rusch, chair of this year's Holocaust Education Week.

The annual event, which is co-ordinated by the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation, will run from Oct. 30 to Nov. 11 at a variety of locations around the city.

The series of 110 lectures and presentations will kick off at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 30 at Beth Tzedec Congregation with *Hana's Suitcase*, a story that began when a Holocaust-era suitcase belonging to a young girl, Hana Brady, ended up at the Tokyo Holocaust Education Centre two years ago, prompting the centre's curator, Fumiko Ishioka, to investigate the girl's fate.

The story became a book by Karen Levine, who will speak at the program. She will also introduce her award-winning radio documentary on the same subject, and will be joined by moderator Michael Enright of CBC; and speakers George Brady (Hana's brother), and Ishioka.

This year, instead of the usual Kristallnacht closing program, Holocaust Education Week will end on Remembrance Day with a talk at Beth Sholom Synagogue by Ed Carter-Edwards, a World War II veteran from Hamilton who was shot down over France and sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp. Jewish war veterans will participate in the program.

To commemorate Kristallnacht on Nov. 9, Irwin Cotler, human rights crusader and MP for Mount Royal, Que., will discuss Echoes of Kristallnacht in our Time. The program will take place at Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

"There are many varied and really interesting programs," said Rusch. "There are so many researchers, artists and writers who every year are committed to taking the Holocaust and its commemoration to new heights and new levels that previously haven't even been thought of."

Along with personal testimonies of Holocaust survivors and a myriad of other events, some of the programs are The Ringelblum Archives (from the Warsaw Ghetto) with Warsaw curator Eleonora Bergman (Nov. 2, Holocaust Centre of Toronto); *A Place to Save Your Life*, a film on the Jews of Shanghai (Nov. 3, Stan Wadlow Seniors' Centre); the dedication of Megillat HaShoah, a new liturgy to be used in congregations worldwide on Yom Hashoah (Nov. 7, Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation); Eichmann in my Hands, with Peter Malkin who captured Nazi war criminal Adolph Eichmann in 1960 (Nov. 3, Shaar Shalom Synagogue); and Displaced Persons: Growing Up American after the Holocaust with Joseph Berger, author of the memoir *Displaced Persons* (Nov. 5, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue).

A complete schedule of Holocaust Education Week events can be found at www.jewishtoronto.net.

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Robert Fulford decries anti-Israel boycotts

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Veteran journalist Robert Fulford was corrected by a theatre director in Israel this summer when he assumed she was embarking on a delightful trip to recruit talent for a local arts festival.

"No, it's the opposite of delightful," Ofira Henig told Fulford. "Everywhere I go, I'll be accused of oppressing the Palestinians and I'll be asked how I can come to wherever it is representing the vicious government of Israel."

Fulford, a *National Post* columnist, recounted the story recently at a dinner for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto campaign canvassers held at the Capitol Theatre. The campaign, which began four months ahead of schedule this year due to the situation in Israel, has raised more than $56 million so far, nearly $20 million more than last year at the same time.

Fulford said that night in Jerusalem was the first time he had heard directly from victims of the academic and professional boycotts instituted by European intellectuals against Israel and Israelis.

"We discussed the peculiar fact that the boycotters were striking out not at the government of Israel but at individual Israelis, some of them opponents of the Sharon government, many of them lifelong supporters of various Palestinian causes and many of them friends and colleagues of Palestinian individuals," he said.

Fulford also told of novelist and poet Michal Govrin, whose invitation to read her work at a Tasmanian writers' festival was withdrawn as a protest against the killing of Palestinian children. A Tasmanian newspaper supported her, and she proceeded to attend after the festival backed down, said Fulford, but it was "a bitter victory."

To oppose the policies of the government of Israel is not anti-Semitic, said Fulford, but he's never heard of boycotting artists because of their citizenship.

The world has decided "not only that the Palestinians are oppressed – that's an opinion – but also that these oppressed people, the Palestinians, deserve about 100 times as much attention as all the other oppressed people in the world," said Fulford.

Liberal Israelis, he added, find "this attitude of the rest of the world infuriating."

As someone committed to western values, Fulford is "obviously" on the side of Israel with its free press and other characteristics of a democratic society. But, he noted, because many intellectuals regard such values and institutions as a "cover-up," they are inclined to look at the Palestinian cause with sympathy and at Jerusalem as a centre of oppression.

"Those committed to a western liberal democracy find it hard to understand why the values of the West can't be planted elsewhere, no matter how hard people try. Why, for instance, is there no democracy in all the Arab countries?" he asked. "There's a hint of democracy here and there, but no democracy."

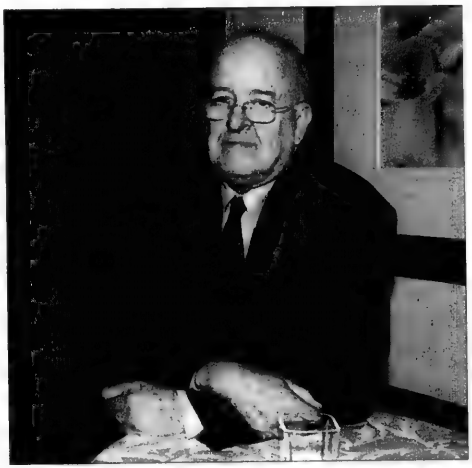
Shimon Peres, now Israel's foreign minister, exemplified the West's and Israel's "honest bafflement," having assumed that the Middle East "badly needed the values and practices of the west and that the [region,] given half a chance, would embrace them," said Fulford.

Peres imagined "prosperity blossoming across the whole region, following a workable peace treaty."

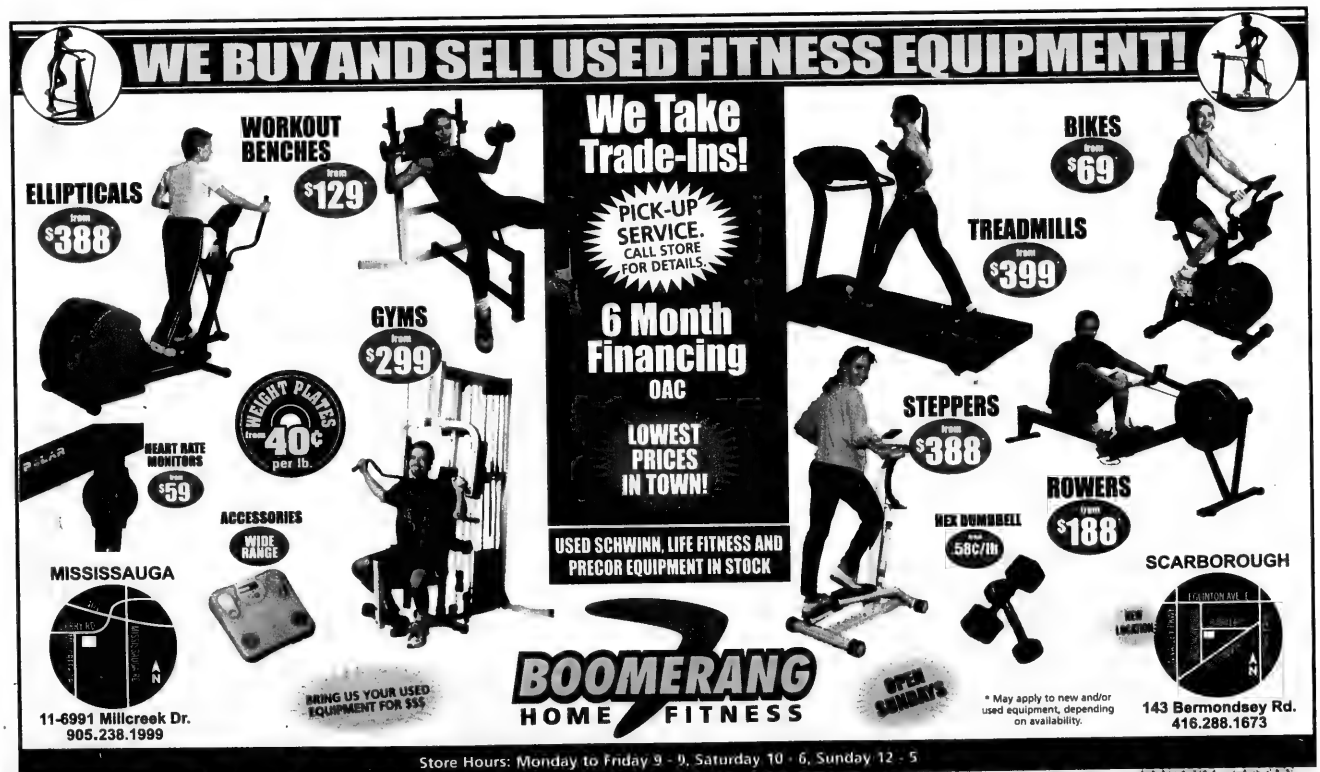
Having spoken to left-wing Israelis like Hirsh Goodman, founder of the *Jerusalem Report*, Fulford said the mix of emotions he heard accompanying their change in politics is unlike anything he's heard before: "melancholy mingled with anger mingled with self-disgust. Most of them tacitly or directly support the policies of Ariel Sharon, about whom few of them would have said one kind word two years ago."

While Fulford admitted this could be depressing news, he was impressed by the dynamism and commitment of the Israelis he met.

On a personal note, he added that although his wife, Geraldine Sherman, and their two daughters are Jewish, his interest in Jewish issues predates their relationship by many years. He described his perspective as "the critical sympathy of an admiring friend."



Robert Fulford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Advice freely given, but of little value

Last week, the outgoing leader of the NDP, Alexa McDonough, rose in the House of Commons to reproach the Canadian government for what she called its "shameful silence in the face of the spiralling death toll in Israel and in the occupied territories."

McDonough's statement was triggered by an Israel Defence Forces attack on a Hamas stronghold in Khan Yunis in the Gaza Strip, in which some 16 Palestinians died. Indeed, she was not alone in Canada or in other western countries to have expressed displeasure with the IDF's operation. U.S. President George W. Bush, for example, did so as well.

Israel acknowledged that four of the 16 people killed were civilians and expressed its profound remorse for the loss of innocent life. The Palestinians, of course, disputed Israel's figures. Along with its apology, however, Israel also said it had no reasonable option other than to attack where it did if it is to root out the leaders and gunmen of Hamas. And Israel must root them out if it is to defend itself and try to bring about the conditions for peaceful coexistence with the Palestinians. Hamas and Islamic Jihad have publicly sworn to oppose co-existence with Israel. Moreover, they are violently opposed to any Palestinian leadership that would try to bring about such coexistence. Indeed, last week, Hamas gunmen killed a high-ranking Palestinian Authority (PA) police official, sparking a day of bloody inter-Palestinian clashes.

But striking at Hamas and Islamic Jihad may unavoidably mean civilian casualties. As all western intelligence agencies know, Hamas and Islamic Jihad deliberately place their command posts, bases of operations, weapons and explosives in residential districts and public institutions such as schools and hospitals. That is their modus operandi. Their contempt for life extends also to the lives of their own people.

And what, precisely, did McDonough say in the Commons? She said, among other things, that "Canada must find the courage to speak the truth: that we need a renewed commitment to peace, achievable only upon the immediate end to the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories. Peace will come only when Israelis and Palestinians negotiate a means whereby each can live safely and securely within their respective borders."

But what did her statement mean? McDonough called for an "immediate end to the illegal occupation." Setting aside the use of the loaded and dubious phrase "illegal occupation," how does she propose that Israel immediately end the occupation? Does she mean simply, unilaterally, closing shop and handing the keys to PA President Yasser Arafat or to Hamas? If so, how can her call to immediately end the occupation be reconciled with her call to negotiate? Indeed, with whom should Israel negotiate? Should it negotiate with the man who rejected negotiations two years ago, then launched a war on the Jewish State that continues to this day, or should it negotiate with the leaders of Hamas, whose highest mission is the elimination of the Jewish State and its Jewish citizens?

Alas, in practical terms, the outgoing leader's statement meant nothing.

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CMDA needs help

In your article on Canadian Friends of Magen David Adom (*CJN*, Oct. 3) you report, according to counsel for the charity, "the operation was a success, but the patient died."

May I respectfully suggest that, where, as in this case, the patient died (or, more accurately, is now in mortal danger but not dead yet), the operation was perforce a failure. It certainly failed as far as the patient (client) is concerned – who is, after all, the only person that counts in a given case. Canadian Magen David Adom is a valuable organization whose survival is currently in jeopardy and needs help from any quarter possible.

David C. Nathanson
Toronto

* * *

Will still buy at women's bookstore

I am writing in response to the recent article about the Toronto Women's Bookstore ("Bookstore to keep selling pro-Palestinian buttons," *CJN*, Sept. 19). The women's bookstore has been and continues to be a resource for the Jewish community. It has had Jewish staff and board members. It carries books by and about Jewish women, books about the Holocaust and about other forms of anti-Semitism.

I believe that Zaretsky is confusing anti-Semitism with criticism of Israeli government policies. While criticism of Israel can sometimes be accompanied by expressions of anti-Jewish sentiment, this is not always the case. And it certainly isn't the case in this instance. There are many outstanding and loyal Jews around the world and in Israel who disagree with Israeli government policy.

While Zaretsky might have bought his last book from the bookstore, I certainly haven't. I believe we should continue to support this important resource for the downtown Jewish community. I also believe that we should respect the diversity of Jewish opinion on Israeli government actions. It is only when we speak to one another about our differences that we will build a strong and vibrant Jewish community.

Sheila Block
Toronto

* * *

Intermarriage and membership

As a Jew and as a Canadian, I am deeply saddened by Adath Israel's exclusionary policy denying membership to Jews with non-Jewish spouses. In fact, I would go so far as to say that it is a shameful policy. My father brought us out of the reprehensible apartheid era South Africa with the dream of raising a family in a just and moral sciety. It is ironic that we fled from a country where inter-racial marriages were abhorred and where "whites" who dared marry outside of their "race" were treated as outcasts. Jews are constantly proclaiming how anti-Semitic this world is, how unwelcoming and intolerant. With all the horrors that we have seen and all that we have suffered, Jews perhaps more than any other people should demonstrate tolerance and understanding and be a light unto the world.

Lance Soskin
Toronto

* * *

Ivri Anochi

During the past year the world has heard from the secular Jew, the left-wing Jew, the Peace Now Jew, the Reform Jew, the Conservative Jew, the Reconstructionist Jew, the Israeli Jew, the American Jew, the European Jew, the traditional Jew, the Orthodox Jew, the haredi Jew, the Sephardi Jew, the Ashkenazi Jew, the Agudah Jew, the Mizrachi Jew, etc.

No wonder everyone is totally confused!

The world is trying to figure out who we are, and for that matter, so are we.

What if we just stopped calling ourselves Jews, and start calling ourselves by the name *Ivri*? This is the name by which Avraham Avinu was referred to. Simply translated, Ivri means we are on one side with HaShem and the Torah as our guide, and everyone else is on the other side. The world now falls into two distinct entities. No more confusion or name calling. In order to be called an Ivri, one must accept and follow HaShem and the Torah as our father Avraham Avinu did.

We will have accomplished several important steps in our quest to bring true peace and the coming of Mashiach.

Ivri Anochi – Am Yisrael Chai!

Eli Wohlgemuth
Montreal

* * *

Responding to allegations

In the Aug. 22 issue of *The CJN*, David Goldberg and Tilly Shames comment on my *Counterpunch* article "What's so bad about Israel?" While their citations are accurate, some of their remarks or suggestions require a response.

First, I do not use my university as a platform for my political views. I have never discussed Israel on campus, let alone in class. Any mention of my position or affiliation was *Counterpunch*'s doing, not my own. The suggestion that I "skew the intellectual debate about Israel" in Canadian universities is therefore a non-starter.

Second, your readers ought to know that I am Jewish, from a family that lost many relatives in Hitler's camps. Though my articles may fairly be described as anti-Israel, what I advocate – unilateral, immediate withdrawal from the occupied territories – is not. Withdrawal will enhance both Jewish and Israeli security, to say nothing of countering the moral decay among Israelis. My views hardly put me outside the Jewish community, but well within a debate that now involves a rising tide of Jewish dissent.

Michael Neumann
Peterborough, Ont.

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

The story of my star

By MICHAEL GORDON

It has been many years since I wore the chain and Star of David. I found it again in the small purse in which I kept some other valuables, including a gold tie pin with my initials, which I received as a bar mitzvah gift. I wore the chain continuously until my marriage 20 years ago when I put it safely away. I now felt the desire to wear it again as I slipped it over my head, the six-pointed Magen David surrounded by the circle reaching down to my mid-chest.

Michael Gordon

The story of my chain and star is special to me. I had never worn such a symbol of my Judaism during my years of growing up in Brooklyn. Being Jewish in Brooklyn during those years was easy – many of my friends and neighbours were Jewish, and even though the public schools I attended were mixed, the recognition of the Jewish population resulted in most schools virtually, if not actually, closing on important Jewish holidays. Other than the fact that my maternal grandmother had visited Israel in the early 1950s with her Yiddish choir, I had little personal connection to that country. I knew of its recent post-war history, but did not have a special interest in its development.

That changed in 1965 during my first visit to the country as a Scottish medical student, soon after I had acquired my star. I had chosen to study medicine in Scotland rather than the United States so that I could travel and explore as much of the world as possible during my college years. My 1965 trip to Israel was part of that agenda.

Though I acquired the star that year, I already had the gold chain on which it was to hang – I had found it on a beach the previous year when I was vacationing in the Canary Islands with my favourite professor from pre-medical study years at Brooklyn College. I saw something glistening under the water one late afternoon near the uncrowded shore and found the gold chain with its attached St. Christopher's medal. I gave the latter to a young girl on the beach, as I had no reason to keep it, but kept the chain for myself. I wore it as such, an unadorned chain that brought back fond memories of the Las Palmas Beach.

Before my trip to Israel, where I was booked to do some obstetrics and gynecology in Haifa, I was in Vienna on my way to Greece for a month's work in an Athens hospital. At the student hostel, there was an advertisement for Erwin Leiser's 1960 film *Mein Kampf/Adolph Hitler*. Since I had a deep interest by this time in the history of the Holocaust, I decided to catch the afternoon show. The theatre was almost empty. In front of me sat two fellows in their late teens. During the scenes depicting the rise and triumphs of Hitler, they cheered with obvious joy. During the final concentration camp scenes where Jewish bodies were shown being buried in mass graves, they laughed loudly and jabbed each other with apparent glee.

In the knapsack at my feet, I had my eight-inch hunting knife that I used for cutting bread and cheese and for opening cans, a common practice for students who were travelling. Livid with anger as the film came to a close, I fingered my knife, wondering if I should brandish it.

I could not provide an adequate explanation, so I let the knife slip back into my knapsack.

As they disappeared around a corner, I decided to hang a Jewish Star on my chain.

I entered the first rather large jewelry store I saw, and in my broken German explained that I wanted to buy a *stern* (German for star). When showed a gold five-pointed star, I said, "No, a *Judisha stern*," and drew the Magen David on a sheet of paper. The saleswoman blanched and said in understandable English, "We have them no more." I went from jeweller to jeweller and had similar responses, which ranged from apparent dismissive ignorance to mildly sympathetic disbelief that I would even ask.

I was despondent. Suddenly I came upon a very small jewelry store on a narrow street. In the display case, along with a number of gold charms clearly intended for a bracelet, was a small Magen David surrounded by a circle of gold. I could not believe it. I entered the store and asked to see it. When I asked the price and showed the proprietor, a bespectacled man in his late forties, the chain that I wanted it attached to, he asked who the chain was for. I answered, "*Fur mir*." He said $2 as he strung the gold loop on to my chain. I thought I heard him wrong. I took out my Austrian schillings, from which he accepted only $2 worth. He smiled at me as I thanked him profusely. When he asked where I was from, I told him I was originally from New York. I left the store coveting my star.

In Israel, while working in obstetrics and gynecology, I had my first medical experience with Holocaust survivors. They were being treated for Holocaust-related diseases, including infertility. In New York, I had seen a few of my grandmother's eastern European friends with numbers on their arms, but this was my first professional encounter with survivors of Hitler's concentration camps. The Vienna experience and my star took on a new meaning for me. For the following 15 years, I was never without the star. During the year-and-a-half that I served in the Israeli Air Force, from 1969 until 1971, and during the entire four years that I lived in Israel, the chain and star constantly got tangled with the dog tags that I was required to wear at all times. In the early 1980s, after I had been back in Canada for about seven years, I chose to stop wearing the star for personal esthetic reasons.

The recent destructive actions directed against Jews and Israelis have affected me deeply. Irrespective of my views on the Middle East conflict, my Jewish identity has intensified. The Hebrew University bombing on July 31 left me reeling. I felt rage, profound sadness and vulnerability as a Jew and a Canadian university professor. This event compelled me to find my star and wear it once again as a symbolic affirmation of my identity and my determination to support the future existence of Jews and Israelis, wherever they may be.

Michael Gordon is a geriatrician, vice-president of medical services at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Toronto and professor of medicine at the University of Toronto.

> 'A symbolic affirmation of my identity and my determination to support the future existence of Jews and Israelis'

Washington – another look

Some weeks ago, I wrote about my visit to Washington, D.C., pointing out the various surprising and memorable aspects of that unique city.

Another visit has opened additional vistas and made me eager to comprehend the true nature of the American capital. It didn't take long to discover that this is a task I cannot master, for there are too many aspects to it, aside from the prejudice any visitor is bound to bring.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

This was my second visit in two months, and I must admit I have fallen in love with the city. Saying this does not in any way detract from my affection for Toronto, my home of more than 40 years.

I have asked myself just how these two important North American cities manage to hold a visitor's interest. Living in Toronto, I am invariably impressed with the multifarious composition of its population. We are host to natives of more than 120 nations, and we can be proud that our history shows how people from so many different backgrounds can live together peacefully and fruitfully.

What struck me on my second visit to Washington was that its natural environment seems to reflect its nature and destiny, its fruitful diversity, and its remarkable beauty. I had never known the city's physical attraction, and I have become its admirer and captive.

This has nothing to do with the politics that ordinarily define America's capital and its struggle for political supremacy. To me, that is comforting and familiar, since in that respect, it is similar to Canada's capital. For whenever I visit Ottawa, I am also struck by its physical attractiveness. It is not located in central Canada, yet it has managed to earn the pride and admiration of Canadians. I am always glad to visit and admire its memorable buildings and open spaces.

My latest visit to Washington has fortified a similar feeling. It, too, is located far from America's centre. Yet, it has managed to gain a place of great respect as the political representative of the United States (a position once filled by New York City), and I must admit I feel quite a thrill when I visit. For aside from its physical beauty, it has outstanding cultural treasures the public can enjoy.

My judgment of Washington may be somewhat partial. For I am not just a Canadian visitor, I am also an American citizen and I gratefully recall that the United States saved me from the Nazis. I fought the latter as a U.S. soldier in World War II, long before migrating to Canada, whose citizenship I also prize and cherish.

I hope to return to Washington from time to time to enjoy its many offerings.

Passing the plaques in Jerusalem

To live in Jerusalem these days is to be constantly reminded you are a target of Palestinian terrorists. Never mind the frequent threats from Hamas and the Islamic Jihad that more attacks are on the way. Evidence of their previous atrocities is everywhere.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

Just stroll through many of the city's neighborhoods and you'll pass the site of a past bombing or shooting rampage. Such is the predilection of terrorists for Jerusalem and the scope of their onslaught that few areas in the centre of the city have been spared their murderous acts.

It is a particularly sobering experience to walk downtown and confront – as one inevitably does – the sites of so many past slaughters. Within a two block radius, you see where 10 massacres were carried out since the Palestinians launched their current war against Israel two years ago.

The stone plaques and small memorials scattered throughout the city testify to the scale of tragedy that Jerusalem has suffered – scores of men, women and children killed and hundreds seriously wounded. And to think it would be far worse if not for the heroic efforts of Israeli security services, which have foiled countless other planned attacks.

Lately, when foreign dignitaries or Jewish solidarity missions visit Jerusalem, they invariably make a pilgrimage to the place where a major attack has occurred, in homage to the victims. The visitors have a gruesomely wide selection to choose from: Hebrew University, Café Moment, Sbarro Restaurant, Machane Yehuda Market, Ben Yehuda Pedestrian Mall, Jaffa Street, King George Street, French Hill intersection, the bus stop next to Beit Zafafa.

These places were already well-known before the violence. Palestinian mass murderers put them on the map for the most repulsive reason possible. As a result, these sites have become unofficial landmarks of terror and inhumanity, all carved into the collective memory of Jerusalemites.

These high profile acts of terror are well documented, but they do not tell the whole story. Police statistics show there have been nearly 150 terrorist attacks of varying severity in Jerusalem since the end of 2000. The list – and extent of premeditated killing – is chilling. Few if any other cities in the world have ever had to face such a sustained assault.

Looking back further, it is staggering to see what Jerusalemites have experienced in the way of Palestinian terror since the so-called peace process began in 1993. Those with the time and inclination – to say nothing of the stomach – could spend several days just visiting the places in Jerusalem where Palestinians have carried out suicide bombings – or as they call them, martyr operations – and other terrorist attacks. It would be a shocking tour of deliberate death and destruction.

When I first moved to Paris as a young man of 19, I was taken aback by the many plaques I saw on the facades of buildings that detailed how, during World War II, at a particular location on such a date, Jews were arrested and deported to Nazi death camps. Or that anti-Nazi Resistance members were killed fighting the Germans. These reminders of a loaded past gave each location an added dimension. The juxtaposition between the seemingly ordinary buildings and the terrible events that had occurred there was haunting.

Sadly, Jerusalem is now home to many such plaques. Of course, a simple plaque cannot even begin to describe the horror of what happened on a certain day – innocent people blown to smithereens, others horribly maimed and traumatized forever, and those whose lives have been shattered by the loss of loved ones.

For Jerusalem, a city so rich in history, so much of the latest chapter is, regrettably, being written in blood. No one can really say what the lasting impact of this nightmare on the city, and the country at large, will be. It is sure to be a long time before Jerusalemites forget what they have had to live through in recent years – and continue to face every day. If nothing else, the plaques will be there to remind them.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

Protest terror - ride Israel's buses

The thousands of self-proclaimed "peace activists" and "human rights monitors," including many Canadians, that pass through Israel's Ben-Gurion Airport generally head in one direction – straight for the Palestinian territories.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

For this group, as well as the journalists and many of the diplomats that follow the same route, the Palestinians still have an ideological monopoly on suffering.

With no knowledge of Middle Eastern history or Jewish links to Israel, they flock to Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat's compound to demonstrate solidarity when he is under siege following a Palestinian terror attack. In contrast, the hundreds of Israelis – children, women and men – who have been brutally killed and the thousands who have been injured in a campaign initiated and directed by Arafat and his associates have generally been ignored.

However, a slow change is taking place among some of the more sincere and serious members of groups that advocate international peace and human rights. The Palestinian strategy, based on bus-bombings, attacks on restaurants and other forms of terrorism, is gradually being recognized as fundamentally immoral.

After ignoring this inhuman brutality for more than a year, human rights groups now issue carefully balanced reports that also condemn Palestinian support for terrorism and the incitement to hate. (In general, political correctness still produces at least equal criticism directed at "Israeli occupation" for causing economic suffering and "humiliation," but these myths can eventually be exposed.)

To go further and demonstrate a serious commitment to the principles of non-violence and opposition to terror, these activists also have to become visible on the Israeli side.

One of the best ways to gain credibility among Israelis and influence Palestinian actions would be to ride Israeli buses.

Media images of "peace campaigners" getting on and off the buses in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and other places, taking the same risks that Israelis take every day, will send a powerful message to the bombers and their supporters on the Palestinian side that even their strongest supporters will not tolerate attacks. This experience will also give them some understanding of the fears and terror that we live with all the time.

By visibly riding the buses, international peace advocates may also contribute directly to deterrence and the prevention of attacks, thereby saving innocent lives.

A growing number of Palestinians have begun to openly criticize their leadership, including Arafat and the heads of Hamas and other terror groups, for conducting and encouraging suicide/homicide bombings over the past two years. Continuing with this murderous strategy with the knowledge that victims could include international observers might persuade Arafat and PA officials to end their double game and finally take action to end these attacks.

Beyond the very powerful message that would be sent by such actions, riding the buses to protest terror should only be one step in a broader campaign against hatred and violence.

A Washington, D.C.-based group known as Search for Common Ground has already started a movement aimed at inculcating the principle of non-violence, particularly among Palestinians. Recent polls indicate that these concepts are making some headway among Palestinians, although their definition of "non-violence" remains too flexible and is often interpreted to include rock-throwing and other similar acts.

Even where it is accepted, non-violence is often viewed as a tactic to advance the Palestinian goal of eliminating Israel as a Jewish state. As a result, education toward tolerance and the acceptance of compromise based on recognition of Jewish rights is an extremely important goal for any peace group. On this basis, the principle of non-violent resolution of disputes has a chance of eventually becoming a reality.

By riding the Israeli buses, eating and drinking coffee with Israelis in corner cafes and restaurants and generally living the life that Israelis live, individuals and government officials, including Canadians, can also lay the foundations for non-violence.

The question is whether any of these groups and individuals will take up this challenge.

Jewish-interest movies graced Toronto festival

Last month's Toronto International Film Festival offered viewers a wide selection of Jewish-interest movies, some of which are expected to open shortly.

Does the name Sabina Spielrein strike a responsive chord? Probably not. Although she was a charter member of the new field of psychoanalysis, she has been all but forgotten since her death at the hands of the Nazis 60 years ago.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Spielrein, the granddaughter of a rabbi, published the first psychoanalytical work on children and was a pioneer in child psychology. A patient and confidante of Carl Gustav Jung, she was the second woman to be inducted into the Vienna Psychoanalytical Society, a brainchild of the redoubtable Sigmund Freud.

In 1977, Spielrein's diaries and letters, including her correspondence with Jung and Freud, were discovered in the basement of a building in Geneva, Switzerland. Her papers were deemed important, as they cast light on the history of psychoanalysis.

Elisabeth Marton's earnest film, *My Name Was Sabina Spielrein*, probes her place in psychoanalysis as well as her relationship with Jung and Freud, the founding fathers of that discipline.

The scion of a prosperous family, she arrived in the Swiss city of Zurich in 1904, not as a visitor but as Jung's first patient in the Bergholzli clinic. Using Freud's novel methods, Jung, then 29 and married, treated the Russian teenager with hypnosis and electro-therapy and diagnosed her with hysteria. A gifted student, Spielrein was drawn to pain, which apparently stimulated her sexuality.

Jung, who formed a close attachment to Spielrein, discharged her in 1905, at which point she began her medical studies at the University of Zurich. During this interval, while she was under his care, she fell in love with him, expressing a desire to have a child with him. Fearing that his strong emotions for Spielrein might compromise his professional integrity and ruin his marriage, Jung, now the father of three children, asked Freud for advice. Freud, essentially, urged Jung to submit to psychoanalysis. Their correspondence was a landmark in psychoanalysis.

Through re-enactments and readings, Marton fleshes out these events in low-key dramatic fashion. The actors, Eva Osterberg and Lasse Almeback, sensitively portray Spielrein and Jung.

Spielrein decided not to return to Russia after graduating. Spurned by Jung, she wed a Russian Jewish doctor. Freud complimented Spielrein for having weaned herself off a "neurotic dependence" on Jung. But this was cold comfort. Spielrein's marriage was not a happy one. In 1923, at the age of 37, she returned to the Soviet Union to work in child psychology. Much to her disappointment, Stalin, like Hitler, banned psychoanalysis as "a bourgeois perversion." Given the opportunity to leave the Soviet Union, Spielrein demurred. It was her undoing. In August 1942, in Rostov, the Germans murdered Spielrein and her two daughters. Thanks to *My Name Was Sabina Spielrein*, a serious and empathetic film, she has finally been memorialized.

Another great woman honoured at the festival was Frida Kahlo, the eccentric Mexican artist whose tortured, stylized paintings were once described by her husband, the astonishing muralist Diego Rivera, as "agonized poetry on canvas."

In her first-rate feature film, *Frida*, Julie Taymor depicts Kahlo – whose father was a German Jew – as a bohemian with a taste for embroidered Mexican blouses and dresses, arresting avant garde art, bisexuality and revolutionary politics. Kahlo, played by the underrated Mexican actress Salma Hayek, whose mesmerizing performance should be the talk of Hollywood, was a liberated, flighty and outspoken person, a ball of fire who stoically endured physical pain for the rest of her life after a bus accident. Convalescing at home, Kahlo passed the time by painting from her bed. In a poignant scene, she throws away her crutches, raises her arms in triumph and walks again. The stuff of genuine drama.

Kahlo's relationship with Rivera, portrayed with panache by Alfred Molina, was a turning point. A womanizer, he promised to be loyal, but not faithful, and he was true to his word. Kahlo grudgingly accepted the bargain, but never reconciled herself to his infidelities.

Frida, which brilliantly evokes the colours, the music, the architecture and the ambience of Mexico, deftly recreates the arc of Kahlo's development: her foray into Mexico City's radical scene, her tumultuous fights with Rivera, her eye-opening trip to Manhattan, her miscarriage, her brief affair with Leon Trotsky (played by Geoffrey Rush) shortly before his assassination and her belated recognition as an artist of originality and aplomb.

Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state and national security advisor to several presidents, is the subject of *The Trials of Henry Kissinger*, a muckraking film based on Christopher Hitchens' polemical book.

In this alternately angry and sardonic documentary, produced by Eugene Jarecki and Alex Gibney, Kissinger is condemned as a war criminal who tolerated Indonesia's savage invasion of East Timor, the U.S. secret bombing campaign in Cambodia and the illegal overthrow of Salvador Allende's democratically elected government in Chile. Claiming that he needlessly sacrificed the lives of tens of thousands of people in the quest of grand strategic goals, they boldly call for his arrest and the convening of a formal inquiry. As might be expected, Kissinger did not respond to their requests for an interview, and so the film is based on archival footage.

Henry Kissinger

Kissinger's formative years, from his birthplace in Germany to his boyhood in New York City's Washington Heights neighbourhood, are quickly dispensed with as the movie segues into more pertinent topics.

His route to power, the ultimate aphrodisiac, was through the futile war in Vietnam. They describe his 1973 Nobel Prize for peace as "a terrible travesty." Kissinger, they argue with some merit, did not bring peace to Vietnam. Indeed, the war lingered on for two more years.

They also claim that the bombing of Cambodia, deliberately concealed from the U.S. Congress, facilitated the rise to power of the murderous Khmer Rouge regime. Their plausible-sounding claims are by turns substantiated and contradicted by Kissinger's detractors and admirers.

Two films about the Arab-Israeli conflict, as seen through the eyes of a Palestinian and an Israeli Arab, were also at the festival.

Ticket to Jerusalem, by Rashid Masharawi, is about an itinerant film projectionist, a Palestinian refugee who travels the West Bank showing vintage cartoons to children.

Jaber's self-respect is challenged by friends, who feel his activities are trivial in light of the Palestinian uprising, and by his father, who advises him to get a "real job" and join his brother, the proprietor of a supermarket, in Canada.

Masharawi depicts Israel's occupation in fairly neutral hues. We see soldiers manning endless checkpoints, tanks and armoured personnel carriers and the white outline of a Jewish settlement on a hill. We also hear about food shortages. Yet the violence of the intifadah is invisible. Masharawi wins points for the Palestinian cause by subtle means. The only instance in which partisan politics intrudes is when Jaber's wife, Sanah, a Red Crescent Society ambulance attendant, talks about her family's desire to go back to their ancestral home in Jaffa.

The pace picks up when a spunky school teacher convinces Jaber to screen his films at her mother's outdoor patio in eastern Jerusalem. Trouble is, Jaber cannot enter Jerusalem without obtaining an Israeli pass. What will he do? *Ticket to Jerusalem* is modest in scope but clever in execution.

Divine Intervention, which Elia Suleiman describes as "a chronicle of love and pain," is anything but subtle. The film, which takes place in and around Nazareth and is all but bereft of dialogue, consists of a series of random, disconnected tableaux. A man dressed as Santa Claus scurries up a slope, the gifts spilling from his basket. A man in a car curses under his breath. A man waits for a bus that never arrives. A boy kicks a football. An apricot pit causes an Israeli tank to blow up in a fireball. As a car passes a house, it explodes. A beautiful woman turns into a Ninja warrior, downing Israeli helicopters and vanquishing a group of Israeli sharpshooters.

What does it all mean? Suleiman, in this subversive satire, is raising an alarm. The Palestinians, weary of being under the thumb of an occupying army, are reaching their boiling point, like a pressure cooker.

SHORT TAKES: *Julie Walking Home*, directed by Agnieszka Holland and starring the luminous Miranda Otto, turns on a family crisis during which an intermarried couple try to save their cancer-stricken son. *Folk*, a quirky short by Canadian Ryan Feldman, is a personal video diary of his parents and grandmother. Jennifer Alleyn's charming *Les Rossy* is about a canny Montreal Lebanese merchant in the autumn of his long, successful career.

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BJCC's Family Place promotes fun, participation

Programs, classes and fun are part of the package the Family Place plans to deliver at the Jewish Discovery Museum.

The family oriented centre, located in the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, intends "to promote family participation in a meaningful Jewish context," Bathurst Jewish Community Centre executive director Sherry Kulman said at the opening last week.

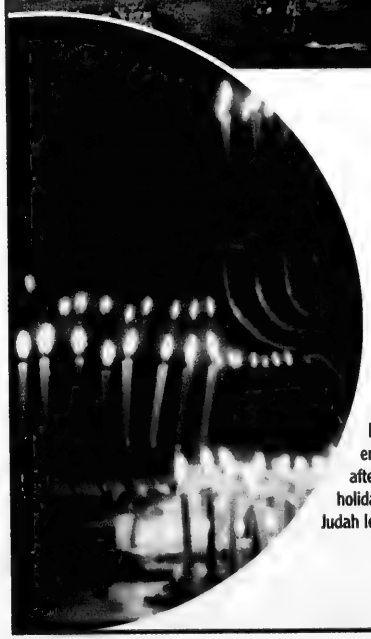
In addition to celebrating the holidays and having a Shabbat circle, the Family Place will host a variety of activities, including a staffed drop-in program with informal learning/play centres, outreach to new immigrant families, courses and opportunities for new parents to meet and support each other, pre- and post-natal courses and parent education classes.

In one of its programs, Sarah Chanah Radcliffe will present a lecture on Parenting Tips To Start the New Year off Right on Oct. 22 at 7.30 p.m.

For further information, call 416-636-1880, ext. 390.

Parents and children took part in the launching of Family Place.

[Anna Morgan photos]



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Torch Run, December 1
Beginning with a Chanukah torch lighting ceremony at the Western Wall, this one day trek takes participants from Jerusalem to the natural landscapes of the Jordan Valley. Theatre performances, an arts and crafts fair and a fireworks display top off the day at the final destination, the Jordan Valley amphitheatre.

Sounds in the Desert, Southern Negev – Celebrate Chanukah with music and sightseeing in Israel's scenic Negev desert region, December 1-5 and check out musical performances in Sde Boker, the home of Israel's first Prime Minister David Ben Gurion.

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Rabbi Plaut sees age as just another number

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Turning 90 is just another birthday for Rabbi Gunther Plaut, senior scholar at Holy Blossom Temple

His mother, Selma, graduated from University of Toronto with a bachelor's degree at age 100.

"She had barely begun her university studies at my age. I still have a long way to go," he said from his spacious, midtown apartment, several weeks prior to his Nov. 1 birthday.

Rabbi Plaut, author of about 25 books including a commentary on the Torah, is a Companion of the Order of Canada, has a doctorate in international law and holds honorary degrees from University of Toronto and York University.

Age, he says, is a relative matter. "If you continue to work and absorb the beauty of the world around you, you find that age does not necessarily mean getting old."

His home, which he shared with his wife Elizabeth – with whom he has two children, two grandchildren and a great-grandchild on the way – until she was hospitalized with a stroke 2½ years ago, is brimming with antiques that she had collected.

"Nothing in this apartment, except me, is under 150 years old."

He was married for 61 "wonderful" years, he says, "and then the stroke just took the wind right out of her. She is still as beautiful as ever, though."

He visits her daily, "and I like to think she knows I'm there, but we just can't get into her brain. I would give my last penny to have my wife come home and live with me again."

As senior rabbi at Holy Blossom until he retired about 25 years ago, he did a lot of marriage counselling, and "I saw a lot of different marriages.

"In a happy marriage, two people gladly adjust their habits. You can't turn up the music if your partner wants to sleep. Someone always has to give up something. They must learn to adjust their lives; they're not living alone anymore."

He found counselling very demanding, he says."It's definitely not a time-filler. I was responsible for someone's life. I took it as a great responsibility."

Giving sermons was a highlight of his years as a pulpit rabbi. "I'm a preacher. When I get up there, I start from scratch. I know what I want to say, but I never have a written script. Stage fright is just not part of me."

When he gave this year's Rosh Hashanah sermon at Holy Blossom, "there were 1,100 people, yet there was dead silence when I started to speak. Half of my success is the anticipation of the congregation. I can be brilliant, but if they don't want to listen…"

Rabbi Gunther Plaut receiving an award in March 1999 from Lieutenant Governor Hilary Weston.

[John Smee photo]

Rabbi Plaut, who has spoken to audiences from Australia to South Africa, still gets asked to speak, but says he's stopped accepting invitations because travel has become "too much of a hassle."

He was last in Israel on the day of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, "but not by plan. I was on a tour with past chairs of UJA Federation, and we were stuck at the King David Hotel.

"The King David is beautiful, but when you cannot leave a country for you don't know how long, you truly feel stuck. I was never nervous, however; I am too old to get nervous."

Life for him now is full, he says. "I get up at 5 or 5:30 a.m., I still go to my office at the temple, I attend services as a congregant and I've written the first couple of chapters of a novel."

During the winter months, he regularly attends Holy Blossom's Out of the Cold program because "I enjoy eating dinner with the street people.

"Many of these people who sleep on the streets have fascinating stories. Some are highly educated but for some reason, life has let them down. They have stumbled someplace. We have to learn to appreciate our life and remember that we could be close to stumbling."

He offers his dinner companions no advice, he says. "That's not up to me. We just talk – maybe about politics, maybe about art, maybe about themselves. Whatever we talk about, they have taught me how they have stood up against misfortune."

legacy of life

Alan Brown 1947 – 2001

Growing up Jewish in small-town Ontario would be enough to turn many kids away from their roots. But for **Alan Brown**, being different made him a stronger Jew.

Alan was born in 1947 in Kitchener, Ont., into a family that was dedicated to preserving Jewish life in a city with so few Jews. His grandfather **Max** was a founding member of the local shul and his **Uncle Burke** served as president. Both his grandmother **Bertha** and his mother **Violet** were pillars of the shul sisterhood and the local Hadassah chapter. His father **Sholom** was a strong supporter of the Jewish world, and Alan and his two sisters **Sharon** and **Janice** belonged to local Jewish youth groups.

"Giving to the community is a natural extension of who we are," says Sharon, who has held numerous executive positions with National Council of Jewish Women – Toronto Section, as has Janice. "Alan felt that connection, too."

With such devotion to his heritage, it wasn't surprising that Alan clung to community work long after he left his hometown. He built a solid reputation as a top-notch Toronto-based architect, designer and planner, later flourishing as a developer of industrial and commercial projects.

In the 1970s, Alan took the first of many trips to Israel and in the mid-'80s found a way to merge his many passions – design, travel, and a deep pride in being Jewish. He immersed himself in the Jack Posluns Cultural Centre, a United Israel Appeal project in Ness Ziona named for the late uncle of his wife, **Wendy Posluns**.

So intrigued was Alan by the notion of Israelis and Canadians working together for the benefit of Israeli society that he became completely invigorated. He soon found himself involved with Project Renewal, a unique urban revitalization program sponsored by the Jewish Agency and UJA Federation that twins Israeli development towns with Diaspora communities for financial backing and expertise. Over the years, Toronto has provided a community centre, sports centre and scholarships for the people of Beit Dagan, and a daycare centre for Kfar Gvirol, both near Tel Aviv.

Alan Brown, shown here second from top left, in '97 with the Posluns Family in Israel.

"When Alan thought of his own kids and then saw how the kids in Israel were benefiting from the work we were doing there, he recognized that we're all part of a larger Jewish world and we have to make life better for everyone," says UIA Federations Canada president-elect **Shoel Silver**, who went to Israel with Alan many times to consult with their Israeli counterparts on UJA Federation's Project Renewal Committee.

Before long, Alan was traveling to Israel several times a year to discuss ongoing social programs and physical projects, and to check their progress. He eventually became co-chair of the Project Renewal Committee. He was also on the board of trustees and a major fundraiser for the Tourette Syndrome Foundation and a supporter of many worthy charitable institutions including Princess Margaret Hospital.

"So many people go on missions and see things and meet people in a superficial way," says Wendy. "What struck me was that Alan made so many friends on his trips. He inspired people to do better, to think about what they were trying to achieve.

Even when Israeli and Canadian personalities clashed in the boardroom, Alan was the one who managed to keep tensions at bay with his charm and quick wit. Shoel recalls the "creative tension" that existed between the two groups given the cultural differences and egos involved. But rather than submit to the views of Israeli committee members simply because he didn't live in the country he was helping to build, Alan always managed to get his point across without intimidating his Israeli colleagues. That's because he understood the responsibility of putting donors' money to good use, says Sheol.

"Alan had strong views but his style was such that he was able to get them across without appearing hard-nosed," he says. "Consequently, he made very close friendships that lasted a long time."

Even as Alan's health began to falter in 1998, he continued to inspire his three young children – **Matthew**, **Evan** and **Leah** – to love life and embrace their heritage. He spent his last few months keeping a journal, a living will to his family and friends detailing his ethics, his insights and his hopes. It's a treasured memento of a man who made a tremendous difference for so many in such a short time.

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Greater Toronto Area

Judaism more open to dissent than ever before, prof claims

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Judaism has moved from exclusivism to inclusivism, a Hebrew University philosopher told a recent two-day University of Toronto conference on Israel and the Diaspora.

"For the first time in Jewish history, all options are open," said Aviezer Ravitzky, a renowned authority on Jewish thought and a winner of the Israel Prize.

He described the transformation as "Judaism by dissent," a development from "determinism to voluntarism" that has occurred only in the past three generations.

In a departure from tradition, contemporary Judaism now tolerates all forms of Jewish expression, from Chassidism to Reform Judaism, he claimed.

Even secularism and assimilation are tolerated by the new Judaism, said Ravitzky, whose books run the gamut from *Religious and Secular in Israel: A Cultural War?* to *Messianism, Zionism and Jewish Religious Radicalism.*

In today's climate, he added, secular Jews and atheists are also part of what he called Klal Yisrael.

Nonetheless, he acknowledged, Judaism is beset by cleavages.

As an example, he cited the biblical King David. For secular Zionists, he is a hero writ large. But for haredim, he is merely a mythical figure.

"We're still quarrelling about our past," Ravitzky observed.

Speaking about the looming clash of civilizations between radical Islam and the West, he said that Israel and Jews have essentially cast their lot with the Christian camp, as led by the United States.

For 3,000 years, Jews were careful not to identify themselves with either side during such historical upheavals.

But now, in an unprecedented event, Jews have aligned themselves with the Western, Christian side, he said.

Expressing concern about these budding alliances, Ravitzky suggested they may yet backfire on the Jewish world.

"We may have a billion potential enemies," he declared, referring to Islamic countries like Indonesia, whose Muslim population exceeds that of the Arab world.

The conference Ravitzky and other scholars participated in took place at the Munk Centre for International Studies, and was sponsored by its Halbert Exchange Program.

Among the academics who took part were Israel Bartal and Dan Avnon of Hebrew University and David Novak and Derek Penslar of the University of Toronto.

A night of Yiddish songs, humour

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

It is the language that in many ways encapsulates European Jewish culture.

To celebrate it and contribute to its continuity, the 36th Yiddishland Café event was held last Sunday evening, Oct. 6, as more than 100 people came to the Toronto Workmen's Circle to listen to hilarious Yiddish stories and treasured songs.

"What we want is for people to experience the beauty of Yiddish through songs and stories," said Henia Reinhartz, who, along with husband Nochem, helped organize the latest incarnation of the Yiddishland Café, which is now in its seventh season.

"We hope this will inspire people to want to learn more."

Under the theme "let us laugh, let us sing," the audience was delighted by poetic Yiddish tunes performed by singer-guitarist Yeva and pianist Nina Shapilsky, as well as by classic Yiddish stories about the Wise Men of Chelm, as told by stage actor and director Nathan Garnick.

Garnick had the crowd in stitches as he recounted how Chelm's inhabitants planned the construction of a cemetery by having every man, woman and child lie down on the ground to be measured, to determine the cemetery's size.

"If you take it as a joke, it's fun," said Garnick of the ribbing that Chelm has taken since Jews settled there about 500 years ago.

The community once boasted 7,615 Jewish residents and can be likened to Canada's Newfoundland, the reluctant butt of others' jokes.

Toronto-born Garnick, 82, has been performing in Yiddish for more than 40 years and revels in his audience's pleasure.

"These are the stories the people of my generation are nostalgic about," said Garnick.

"I do this to keep the language of Yiddish alive."

Garnick said when he first started performing, his act was exclusively in Yiddish. Today, he sprinkles his shtick with English to make it "intelligible for today's audiences."

While Yiddish was once the mother tongue of millions of Jews, its speakers are declining rapidly.

But Reinhartz said the café is one small part of a Yiddish revival that has swept North America and Europe.

"There is a tremendous comeback to Yiddish," said Reinhartz, noting that the University of Toronto, Oxford University in England and New York's Columbia University all have Yiddish classes.

Reinhartz said she does her part to keep Yiddish fresh by speaking to her six grandchildren in a language that encompasses "1,000 years of our creativity."

Sylvia Kerman said she came with her husband Frank to the Yiddishland Café out of a desire to rekindle a Yiddish flame in her family. "We're the last people in our family to speak Yiddish," Kerman said. "Hopefully, we'll speak to our grandkids in Yiddish. We'll do everything we can to help it flourish."

The next Yiddishland Café is scheduled for Dec. 15 and will include a performance by Klezmer band Beyond the Pale.

For information, contact the Reinhartzes at her.nor@symatico.ca.

Torontonian wins Israel's Olympics of the Mind

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

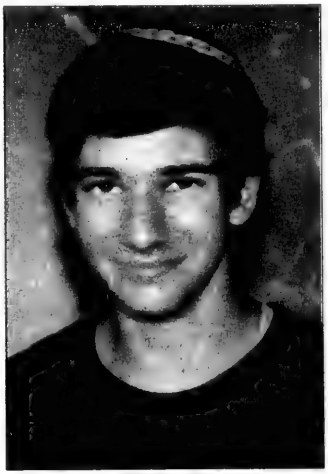
Raphael Rush was in his element this summer at the 14th annual OlympiYeda science contest held annually in Haifa. "I enjoy science a lot," said the 15-year-old winner of the prestigious competition for students entering Grades 9 and 10, sponsored by Israel's National Museum of Science.

The Grade 10 student at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto won top honours in the contest, including a cash prize plus a full scholarship for his first year of studies at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology.

One of 25 North American teens and 25 Israelis to reach the semi-finals after two rounds of testing locally, Rush also plays the flute, is on student council and has an interest in electronics and cryptography (the science of codes).

Semi-finalists won a 20-day trip to Israel, which was split between touring and a science component that culminated in a nationally televised competition for eight finalists. Because this year's theme (and the topic for the projects) was Science in the Service of Police Investigations, students spent a day at the Israel Police Academy learning about crime-solving methods from forensic experts.

Rush's project explored whether it is possible to falsify fingerprints. He concluded that some day fingerprints may not be accepted as valid biometric evidence. "Today, they're generally accepted as extremely valid."



Raphael Rush

Canada was well-represented at the OlympiYeda, with 10 students who made it to the semi-finals in Israel.

Toronto-area participants included David Zvi Epstein, the only other Canadian finalist, and Sam Chippin and Hillel Nadler, both of whom earned certificates of distinction. Other Toronto-area participants were Rafi Frydman-Kohl, Jonathan Goldfarb, Eric Kaplovitch, Brahm Klar and Avi Libman. Peleg Bartfield of Vancouver also earned a certificate of distinction.

Rush, a second-time entrant who wrote the qualifying tests for the 2001 OlympiYeda when he was a student at Netivot Hatorah, had been in Israel twice before and said he was excited to have the opportunity to return.

His mother, Andrea, who travelled to Israel for the competition as part of a contingent of North American parents, noted that her grandmother had been an early volunteer fund-raiser for the Canadian Technion Society.

The Israel National Museum of Science is housed in the original Technion building. Rush said he was impressed by the university, especially its robotics lab.

In a statement, organizers said they were pleased to have enough interest from parents of North American participants to organize a parent mission to Israel. Zvi Jankelowitz, executive director of the American Friends of the Israel National Museum of Science, based in Newton, Mass., said in the release that the "interest and participation by a record number of parents and teens was most gratifying… It was a dramatic demonstration of our solidarity with the people of Israel during these trying times, when they are trying to carry on their lives as normally as possible."

For information about next year's OlympiYeda, e-mail israelscience@attbi.com.

Elsewhere in *The CJN*

Filmmaker studies human side of intifadah

please see page 40

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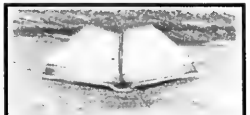
Jewish Life

A lesson in equal treatment

By RABBI MARK FRIEDMAN


Rabbinic Reflections

Rabbi Israel Kagan, commonly known by the title of his famous work *Chafetz Chaim*, was a Polish rabbi and scholar of the late 19th and early 20th centuries who was universally revered for his piety and concern for his fellow human beings.

The Chafetz Chaim was once travelling on a train studying a religious text. Alongside him sat three Jews playing cards. They had also, it seems, been drinking schnapps. The three men wanted a fourth hand for their game and asked the stranger sitting next to them to join them. The Chafetz Chaim politely refused, explaining that he preferred to continue studying. But the frustrated card players refused to take no for an answer. They beat the poor rabbi and left him bleeding on the floor.

Hours later, the train pulled into the station. Hundreds of people swarmed the platform waiting to greet the great sage. Many in the crowd held signs welcoming the Chafetz Chaim.

The three Jews who had not long before attacked the man sitting in their coach – now revealed as one of the rabbinical giants of their time – watched in horror. Profoundly ashamed, they managed to wade through the people and find the rabbi. They begged for forgiveness and poured out their feelings of shame and remorse. But the Chafetz Chaim refused to forgive them. Although it seemed incomprehensible, the three Jews assumed it was too soon for the rabbi to forgive them. He probably needed more time to get over the hurt. They would try again at a more opportune moment.

Several weeks passed and the three wangled an appointment to see the Chafetz Chaim. Once again, they pleaded their case and begged for forgiveness. But Rabbi Kagan was adamant. He would not accept their apology.

Rabbi Kagan's son, who was present as this strange scene played itself out, was taken aback by his father's behaviour. It was unlike anything he had seen his father do before. Why would his father act with such cruelty and persist in tormenting these people?

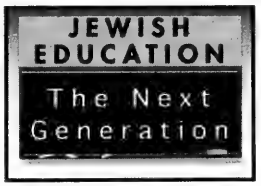
The son decided to ask his father to explain his actions. The Chafetz Chaim explained that, of course, he wanted to forgive the three men and he would have done so at the railroad station if it were in his power to do so. He did forgive them for their assault. When they learned the true identity of their victim, they were mortified at what they had done. But the man they beat up was the one they presumed to be a simple, unassuming poor person with no crowd of well-wishers waiting to greet him. The Chafetz Chaim told his son that this man was the victim and only he could grant them forgiveness. Let them go find that person. He would be the only one capable of releasing them from their guilt.

In this, the Chafetz Chaim teaches us a great lesson. We rush to give *kavod* to the esteemed and the powerful; we are quick to seek forgiveness from the great and the renowned. Yet these are not authentic examples of granting forgiveness or praise. These are not true reflections of a *yiddishe neshamah*. A yiddishe neshamah can only manifest themselves in the way we treat other people who are not famous, important or wealthy. It can only be seen in the way we interact with that simple, unassuming poor person, for he, too, possesses the dignity and honour of having been created in the image of God.

Rabbi Friedman is a hospital chaplain affiliated with the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors in Montreal.

Are you listening to yourself, Dad?

By ELLIOTT MALAMET


JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

Judaism is the world's longest running revolution. A well known rabbinic tale about Judaism's first hero – the patriarch Abraham – sharply illustrates the ancient perception that belief in God was the original form of cultural resistance.

In the story, Abraham is assigned by his father, Terach, to tend to the family store for a day. The business, as many a contemporary PR firms might appreciate, is that of selling idols – gods of all shapes and sizes. Indeed, in the midrash, Terach is called an *oved tzelamim*, literally an "image worshipper," an exemplary model of Plato's warning about confusing shadow with reality. Terach is the quintessential postmodern, manufacturing idols that he then has the culturally approved audacity to pawn off as being worthy of worship.

It turns out that Abraham is not cut out for daddy's trade, practically badgering customers regarding their myopic investment in his father's creation of figures of wood and stone. In the story's conclusion, Abraham destroys all the idols save the biggest one, and places a stick into its hands. The implication – that one idol decimated the rest – is so ludicrous as to strain even Terach's sense of credulity.

Employing an ancient version of "No Way!" Terach exclaims, "Do you think me a fool? I just made this idol yesterday."

Abraham's rejoinder checkmates not just his father, but the whole pagan negation of the rational: "Do my father's ears hear my father's words?"

I have always been intrigued by Abraham's final question to his father. Jewish sources convey that Abraham was well into adulthood at the time of his encounter, but something about his actions seem quintessentially adolescent in a contemporary sense. Forced to work by his father in an environment he hates, Abraham finally rebels aggressively. But the final question is still a plea, still an attempt to get his dad's attention.

Freud argues that we spend our lives trying to fix the past, sometimes hoping against hope that if we try hard enough that Mom will change, or that Dad can be redeemed. Don't you hear what you stand for, Dad? Don't you see how groundless your worldview is? And this is what you want me to inherit? Amid the smashed fragments of idolatrous wood and clay lie the son's enormous disappointment and the eternal drive to reclaim the past.

We talk about this in my class. But my students have dibs on the final irony, because today it is Judaism that is the unchosen inheritance, the ideology forcibly bequeathed on a restless next generation. Can a religion be loved if it is imposed? Conversely, will it be embraced if it is optional? This paradox has a Zen flavour – the more you squeeze it, the more it vanishes – but its poignancy is felt by parents of all faiths trying to pass on some of their essential religious beliefs and practices.

I wonder what bothers Abraham more – to believe his father is enraptured by idols or to discover that dad is totally aware of the bankruptcy of such a position? Is it better if his father is a naive fool or a cynical opportunist? Are the idols for business or belief? And with more questions than answers, another lesson concludes.

Jewish Life

Telling the story of a language

***Yiddish: A Nation of Words*, by Miriam Weinstein, Random House, 2002, $22.95.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

The changes I have witnessed in the world of Yiddish during my lifetime have been disheartening. My parents, immigrants to the United States from Eastern Europe, spoke Yiddish as well as Russian, and eventually learned English.

At the yeshiva I attended 70 years ago, the Chumash we studied was translated into Yiddish. One of my bar mitzvah speeches was in Yiddish, a fairly obscure and learned discourse written by my father that I memorized. Members of the congregation, if not edified, were impressed. The other speech, in English, more conventional in nature, raised few eyebrows.

My children know Hebrew, but apart from a few popular words and phrases, almost no Yiddish. As far as my grandchildren are concerned – forget it.

Isaac Bashevis Singer, winner of the Nobel Prize for literature (1978), put Yiddish on the world's cultural map and made it respectable. But even he, who once said "in Jewish life, [Yiddish is] a long way between being sick and dead," saw the ominous handwriting on the wall.

History, of course, played a series of ugly tricks on the language. The Holocaust wiped out half of the world's Yiddish speakers, and Stalin expunged another large segment – including a galaxy of brilliant Yiddish writers. Perhaps the most crushing blow was the inevitable Jewish cultural and linguistic assimilation to English in North America.

Between the two great wars, Yiddish struggled valiantly for its existence. In America, the Yiddish press and periodicals had a combined circulation of 800,000. More than 1,000 books in Yiddish were published annually. In New York, there were 12 full-time Yiddish theatres.

Miriam Weinstein, once a documentary filmmaker and now a freelance journalist, wrote this book, she says, "to strengthen the golden chain of continuity." She tells her readers: "I have written history-as-story, filling the tale with flesh-and-blood people with obsessive humour, visionary courage, brilliant desperate causes, and glorious flaws. As will immediately be obvious, I am a journalist, not a historian, linguist, or any kind of scholar. I did my research – meeting mavens, experts; working my way through lights-on-timers library stacks – as a yederer, an everyman."

The author is enthusiastic and warmly sentimental, addicted to comforting jokes and apt epigrams. Each of the book's 20 chapters offers a snapshot of the language in a given historical framework.

She provides a "cast of characters" from the 11th century to our own time who have been involved in decisive turning points in the evolution of Yiddish.

By the end of the 19th century, Yiddish had become the language that Jews in Eastern Europe learned first. It was during this period that Yiddish literature enjoyed its first great flowering, when such luminaries as Shalom Aleichem and Yitzhak Leib Peretz produced masterworks drawing on the renowned descriptive nuances of Yiddish, particularly when it came to assessments of human character.

Weinstein's book, written in a popular style, is warmly recommended to readers who want a loving, serious, readable chronicle of a 1,000-year-old saga. It's ironic, however, as a recent critic pointed out, that it's not likely to be published in Yiddish translation.

4,000 Israelis & the Internet

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The World Wide Web has always been a breeding ground for conspiracy theories. One of those biggest theories has been reverberating throughout the Internet since last year's Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The claim: that 4,000 Israelis did not show up for work on that Tuesday in September because they had been warned that Israel was planning an attack on the World Trade Center. Today, a look at the source of the rumour, the damage it continues to cause and the efforts being made to set the record straight.

The story first surfaced on the Internet one week after the attacks and quoted a report from Lebanon's Al-Manar television. There were actually three claims: that 4,000 Israelis didn't show up for work; that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was prevented from travelling to New York by an unnamed "Zionist organization"; and that the FBI arrested five Israelis four hours after the World Trade Center attacks. *Slate Magazine* was one of the first sites to report and debunk the story under the headline, "4,000 Jews, 1 Lie: Tracking an Internet hoax" **[http://slate.msn.com/?id= 116813]**.

Two of the most comprehensive examinations of the allegation were conducted by the Anti-Defamation League **[http://www.adl. org/911/israel. asp]** and by a site called Nocturne Research **[http://www.nocturne.org/~terry/wtc_4000_Israeli.ht ml]**.

Nocturne explains how early news reports were seized upon as the basis for these rumours. For example, the day after Sept. 11, the *Jerusalem Post* reported that "Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has so far received the names of 4,000 Israelis believed to have been in the areas of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon at the time of the attack" **[http://www.jpost.com/Editions/2001/09/12/News/News.34692.html]**.

The CBS News Web site continues the story. "Then on Sept. 17 in Beirut, al Manar, a television station controlled by the radical Islamic group Hezbollah, aired the full fantasy for the first time. Billed as a special investigative report, al Manar claimed that 4,000 Israelis employed at the World Trade Center had not shown up for work on Sept. 11... In just a matter of days, one falsehood piled on top of another and passed on to audiences around the globe had produced 'the big lie' – a lie now accepted as fact throughout the Muslim world" **[http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2002/09/04/60II/main5207 68.shtml]**.

The TruthOrFiction site examines all kinds of urban myths, from The Neiman-Marcus Cookie that Cost a Bundle (Fiction) to the Sea Creature Found on the Shores of Nova Scotia (Truth) **[http://www.truthorfiction.com]**. About the 4,000 Israelis theory, the site says, "Nothing in this report fits with any of the facts that are known about the terrorist attacks" **[http://www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/wtcisraelis.htm]**.

But despite the debunking, the allegations are still out there. The ShiaNews site carries a report about an anonymous U.S. military source's memo "that points to the Israeli Mossad intelligence service having links to the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks" **[http://www.shianews.com/hl/americas/news_id/000016 6.php]**.

What impact have these reports had? Just weeks after the attacks, a Gallup International poll revealed that 48 per cent of Pakistanis believed Israel was responsible **[http://www.msnbc.com/news/644738.asp?cp1=1]**. And last February, a larger poll conducted in several Muslim countries, including Indonesia, Iran, Kuwait, Lebanon, Pakistan and Turkey, revealed that 18 per cent believe the Arabs are responsible for the attacks while 61 per cent do not **[http://www.usatoday.com/news/attack/2002/02/27/usat-pollresults.htm]**.

But the story of the 4,000 Israelis isn't only having an effect in the Middle East. New Jersey's state poet laureate Amiri Baraka **[http://www.poets.org/poets/poets.cfm?prmID=458]** recently stirred controversy with his poem "Somebody Blew Up America." It reads, in part: "Who knew the World Trade Center was gonna get bombed/ Who told 4000 Israeli workers at the Twin Towers/ To stay home that day/ Why did Sharon stay away?" **[http://diversity.uoregon.edu/SomebodyBlewUpAmerica.htm]**.

When the *New York Times* asked Baraka to explain his allegations, he responded: "Everything said about Israel in the poem is easily researched" **[http://shlk.com/190]**.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based website producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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Jewish Toronto

Dershowitz defends Israel

Recently, Harvard University President Lawrence Summers spoke out forcefully against increasingly loud calls at the university to cut off all ties with Israel. Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz, in the open letter below, responded strongly on behalf of both Israel and Summers.

By Alan M. Dershowitz

In my 38 years of teaching at Harvard Law School, I don't recall ever writing in praise of any action by a Harvard president, but this time I must congratulate President Lawrence H. Summers for his willingness to say out loud what many of us in the Harvard community have long believed: namely, that singling out Israel, among all the countries in the world for divestment is an action which is anti-Semitic in effect, if not in intent. A recent open letter by one of the signatories made it clear that he regards Israel as the "pariah" state, a word historically used by anti-Semites to characterize the Jewish people.

"...To single out the Jewish State of Israel...is bigotry, pure and simple..."

As an advocate and practitioner of human rights throughout the world, I can confidently assert that Israel's record on human rights is among the best, especially among nations that have confronted comparable threats. Though far from perfect, Israel has shown extraordinary concern for avoiding civilian casualties in its half-century effort to protect its civilians from terrorism. Jordan killed more Palestinians in a single month than Israel has between 1948 and the present.

Israel has the only independent judiciary in the entire Middle East. Its Supreme Court, one of the most highly regarded in the world, is the only court in the Middle East from which an Arab or a Muslim can expect justice, as many have found in winning dozens of victories against the Israeli government, the Israeli military and individual Israeli citizens.

There is no more important component in the protection of human rights and civil liberties than an independent judiciary willing to stand up to its own government. Let the proponents of divestment name a court in any Arab or Muslim country that is comparable to the Israeli Supreme Court.

"Israel's record on human rights is among the best..."

Israel is the only country in the region that has virtually unlimited freedom of speech. Any person in Israel whether Jewish, Muslim or Christian can criticize the Israeli government and its leaders. No citizen of any other Middle Eastern or Muslim state can do that without fear of imprisonment or death.

Israel is the only country that has openly confronted the difficult issue of protecting the civil liberties of the ticking bomb terrorist. The Israeli Supreme Court recently ruled that despite the potential benefits of employing non-lethal torture to extract information, the tactic is illegal. Brutal torture, including lethal torture, is commonplace in nearly every other Middle Eastern and Muslim country. Indeed, American authorities sometimes send suspects to Egypt, Jordan and the Philippines precisely because they know that they will be tortured in those countries.

There are, of course, difficult issues to be resolved in the Middle East. These include the future of the settlements, the establishment of Palestinian self-governance and the prevention of terrorism. These issues will require compromise on all sides. Members of the Harvard community must be free to criticize Israel when they disagree with its policies or actions, as they criticize any other country in the world whose record is not perfect. But to single out the Jewish State of Israel, as if it were the worst human rights offender, is bigotry pure and simple.

Let me propose an alternative to singling out Israel for divestment: let Harvard choose nations for investment in the order of their human rights records. If that were done, investment in Israel would increase dramatically, while investments in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, Philippines, Indonesia, the Palestinian Authority and most other countries of the world would decrease markedly.

Alan M. Dershowitz is Felix Frankfurter Professor of Law at Harvard Law School.

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Jewish Toronto

Frum Toronto to Washington

Former U.S. presidential speech writer, Toronto's David Frum, returned to his hometown last week for a keynote address to UJA Federation's leading supporters. Frum made a special appearance in Toronto on Sunday, October 6 at the UJA Federation Major Gifts Dinner.

From January 2001 to February 2002, Frum served as assistant to George Bush for economic speechwriting.

Here's a sampling of his colourful views on a variety of topics.

Canada's relationship with Israel

• "This Canadian government has condemned both Palestinian murder and Israel's response to murder. It calls itself a friend of Israel and then joins the UN lynch mob. Canada has made contributions to the war on terrorism – I won't deny that. But, its contributions, for the most part, have been grudging, tardy, and inadequate. This government has not been much of a friend to the United States or to Israel, not much of a friend to the endangered Jewish community."

The U.S. relationship with Israel

• "If best friends show their friendship when friendship is most needed, then we can justly say that George W. Bush has been the best friend to Israel in the presidency since Harry Truman."

• "From the beginning of his administration, Bush refused to meet with Arafat, or talk to him on the telephone. Arafat was so stunned by the shutout that when Bush came to speak at the UN last November, he actually tried to physically shove his way into Bush's presence to shake hands for the cameras. He had to actually be physically blocked from doing so by the Secret Service."

David Frum

The White House: Post 9-11

• "When President Bush decided on September 11 to define the war on terrorism as a war, and defined the enemy as all terrorism of global reach, he committed himself to a policy that left no room for Arafat, the man who invented terrorism of global reach."

• "On June 24, 2002, President Bush gave a speech in the White House rose garden that threw two decades of American foreign policy out the window and a speech that the Middle East never thought they'd hear. Bush announced that the United States would have nothing to do with the Palestinian Authority until, and unless, the Palestinians elected democratic leaders untainted by terror."

David Frum (c) is flanked by Ronnie Appleby (l) and Howard Sokolowski, chairs of UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003.

Doctors, dentists call on Israel

More than 30 medical and dental professionals from Toronto are now in Israel to make a unique house call.

Members of the week-long **UJA Federation Medical-Dental Israel Solidarity Mission**, who left on October 13th are not only showing their support for Israel, but are also learning about how medical experts handle trauma.

"Israel's hospitals and her standards of medical care are first class," says **Dr. Howard Price**, Chair of the mission along with **Drs. Irv Gottesman, Zion Sasson**, and **Bradley Strauss**.

The seven-day sojourn to Israel includes a meeting with Israel's surgeon general and workshops at Laniado Hospital in Netanya on, among other topics, disaster medicine, and the West Nile virus.

Enjoying the October 2001 UJA Federation Medical-Dental Mission are (bottom left) Drs. Bradley Strauss, (bottom center) Irv Gottesman and (back row, second from left) Howard Price, three of the chairs of this year's Medical-Dental Mission.

UJA Federation recently donated **$125,000** for Laniado's trauma unit in addition to funding similar trauma units across Israel, especially in those areas hard hit by terrorism.

"We're not just going to study trauma, but everyday medicine as well, be it obstetrics or heart surgery," adds Price. "Remember, it is still a solidarity mission and I personally feel that we – now more than ever – should be going to Israel."

Beverley and Elliott Lyons

In what promises to be an emotional afternoon, the group will have lunch with the relatives and friends of the victims who were killed in the Pesach massacre by a suicide bomber at the Park Hotel.

Another mission heading to Israel this year is the **UJA Federation Family Mission** which takes place between **December 22** and **January 2.**

Participants, who will spend three days in Jerusalem and six in Eilat, will take part in a memorial service for the victims of June's bombing at the Hebrew University.

The Chairs of this mission, **Beverley** and **Elliott Lyons**, devised an itinerary that makes the mission a trip with a purpose. There is something for everyone, including a jeep ride through the Negev, snorkeling in Eilat, and a visit to the Dead Sea. Participants will also hear a variety of expert speakers to gain a unique perspective on Israel's current situation.

"This is the perfect family trip," adds Lyons. "Remember, Florida and Mexico can wait. Israel can't."

For more information about the Family Mission, contact **Debby Kassoy** at **416.631.5737** or at **dkassoy@ujafed.org**

Advocacy group marks its 30th anniversary

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In the ultra-competitive world of Jewish organizational advocacy, Bert Raphael runs a small shop.

While many are familiar with Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai Brith Canada – the heavy hitters in the field – fewer have heard of the Jewish Civil Rights Educational Foundation of Canada or its sister organization, Canadian Lawyers & Jurists for World Jewry (CLJWJ), of which Raphael serves as president and chair, respectively.

Headquartered in Raphael's downtown law office, CLJWJ is marking its 30th anniversary this year. At its inception in 1972, it was called Canadian Lawyers & Jurists for Soviet Jewry, reflecting its primary focus at the time. The Educational Foundation was created seven years later as the organization's charitable arm.

While the CLJWJ's mandate has shifted in the intervening years from advocacy for Soviet Jews to the broader constituency of "world Jewry," it retains its educational function and it provides what assistance it can – largely on the strength of its reputation – to Jews experiencing discrimination, Raphael said.

Helps Jews experiencing discrimination

Most of the organization's efforts are focused on letter-writing to various media outlets and arranging for high profile speakers to address a sophisticated audience of business leaders and professionals, most often during lunches in office boardrooms.

It's a modest profile but one that has seen Raphael tackle some of the most vexing issues besetting the Jewish community and one which promises further years of new challenges for Raphael and his small group of partners in the two organizations.

As a keen observer of the political scene, Raphael was quick off the mark recently with letters to the *Star* and the *Globe and Mail* to voice concerns over the "Concordia issue," which saw Arab protesters prevent former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from speaking at the Montreal university.

A human rights advocate for years, Raphael bristles at the strong-arm tactics employed by the anti-Israel protesters, which included smashing a plate glass window and assaulting elderly Jews trying to enter the lecture hall.

"If it was foreign students who did that, they should be out," he said. "If they're Canadian students, I see them being a real dangerous threat to becoming terrorist cells... If they can attack a rabbi and his wife, they're dangerous people."

Raphael believes Canadian politicians must take a stand in ensuring Canadians can enjoy their constitutional right to free expression.

Much of his energy is now directed at "the Israel issue," which he said "won't go away."

A litigator with specialities in insurance and medical malpractice claims, Raphael said he has written to organizations that represent Arab lawyers and jurists in Ramallah, attempting to establish cordial relations and "get a better understanding of the two nations, living side by side."

He has also e-mailed an Islamic Centre in Toronto, hoping to find a domestic Arab lawyer's group similar to his own. Raphael said he was disappointed in not receiving replies to either inquiry.

Bert Raphael

Arranging for speakers is a main function of the Educational Foundation, and the list of those who have addressed the group is impressive.

In the early years, Emmett Hall spoke about his experiences in the Soviet Union, as did Willard Estey, both of whom went on to serve on the Supreme Court of Canada. Beverley McLaughlin, now Chief Justice of the SCC, discussed a more recent visit to Israel and her encounters with that country's legal establishment. Other prominent jurists to speak were Justices Alvin Rosenberg, Ted Matlow and Roy McMurtry, now chief justice of Ontario. Former Attorney General Ian Scott and law professor and MP Irwin Cotler also addressed the group's luncheon meetings.

The list goes on: Refusenik Nathan Sharansky, American war crimes prosecutors Neal Sher and Eli Rosenbaum, the late Justice Jules

Continued on page 21

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CLJWJ started in 1972

Continued from page 20

Deschenes, and Israeli lawyer Avraham Tory, who described the horrors of concentration camps in Kovno, Lithuania.

Raphael asserts the speaking engagements, though tiny by community standards, are important in that the listeners include important figures in the legal and business communities. "We want to inform people of influence," he said.

Sam Filer [CJN File photo]

The CLJWJ got its start when Raphael and Sam Filer, later to become a judge, visited the Soviet Union during Simchat Torah, 1972. They were startled when dozens of Jews surrounded them, asking for news about conditions in Canada and saying, "'you're from Canada. Help us leave, don't forget us.'"

"If we needed any inspiration, that was it," Raphael said.

Moved by what they had seen, and not deterred by the KGB men who dogged them during their stay, they created the Soviet Jewry advocacy group on their return.

Assisted by the late Arthur Maloney and McMurtry, they recruited 700 lawyers and judges to provide the organization with critical mass and some credibility. With the names of all 700 on the back of their stationery, their letters demanded immediate respect. Ambassadors, newspaper editors and politicians were targeted by the letter-writers as the group joined a massive effort to keep the plight of Soviet Jews at the top of the international diplomatic agenda.

As time passed and Soviet Jews were allowed to emigrate and practice their faith, the group expanded its focus to other issues.

At 68 and with a thriving legal practice, Raphael has no plans to slow down. "I love what I do," he said, adding he has served as campaign chair of the JNF-Negev Dinner and as co-chair of the Reena Foundation's recent Answering the Challenge gala dinner.

Raphael has turned down offers to merge the CLJWJ with B'nai Brith, opting to maintain close control (along with several others) over the group's future.

And there are no shortage of neglected issues he feels need airing.

Jews have served as Chief Justices in five provinces – British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia – and many others sit on their province's Courts of Appeal. Yet only one, Bora Laskin, has been appointed to the Supreme Court of Canada. "Why are there not more on the Supreme Court?" he asks. No doubt a letter on that point will be in the mail sometime soon.

Marathon runner to aid Laniado Hospital

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

The Canadian International Marathon, to be held in Toronto Oct. 20, will benefit others in addition to improving the health and fitness of its participants.

Mark Benson, a journalist and production manager for Eric Cohen Books, a publisher of English-language school text books, who now lives in Netanya, is coming to Toronto to take part in the 42-km run. He has chosen to donate sponsorship money he raises to buy equipment for the pediatric trauma unit at Laniado Hospital's new children's hospital.

The only hospital in the Netanya area, Laniado serves more than a quarter of a million people. It has the only emergency department open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Because of its location in the centre of the country, it is part of the Israel Defence Force's strategic arrangements for the multi-injured and chemical warfare victims.

Benson told *The CJN* that while he has had no personal contact with Laniado, he felt that as it was his local hospital, it would be an appropriate focus for his fund-raising efforts. He has set a personal target of $10,000 to purchase a premature baby incubator.

Benson, who was born in London, England, made aliyah with his wife Jackie in 1989. His three children were born in Israel, the oldest, he said, on the eve of the Gulf War.

Although he had not been exercising very much for a few years, the death of a friend four years ago of colon cancer at the young age of 36 gave Benson the impetus he needed to return to a fixed exercise regime, he said.

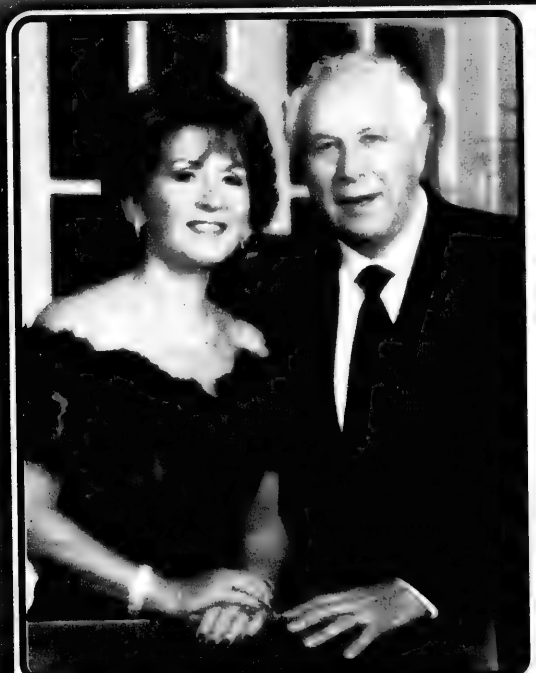
His training has been "standard for a marathon – many many months in all weather conditions, including temperatures of 90 degrees celsius and 80 per cent humidity during the Israeli summer."

At the peak of his training, he was covering 50 km a week.

This will be his fourth marathon, he said. The others were in London and Glasgow in 1985, both for charity, and in Tiberias in 1997.

Impressed by Benson's determination and generosity, orthopedic surgeon Reuven Lexier, a member of the board of directors of Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital, has put together a relay team to join Benson on his run. The team will also contribute their sponsorship money to the incubator.

For more information, call Noreen Azoulay, executive director, Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital, Ontario Region, at 416-785-8946.



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Proceeds from the 2002 JNF Toronto Negev Dinner will benefit ***Halochem Park in the Haruvit Forest*** in central Israel. This project for physically challenged veterans of the Israel Defence Forces and for disabled civilians will permit these individuals and their families to enjoy picnic and recreation areas in the forests. For those seeking to spend a quiet day in the realm of nature, ***Halochem Park*** will be a welcome respite.

A SPECIAL PRIZE — A random draw at the Negev Dinner will provide two *FREE* return economy tickets to Israel, compliments of El Al Israel Airlines, to a lucky donor who makes a minimum gift to this year's Negev Dinner of at least $360 and purchases at least one ticket to the event itself.

For ticket information & reservations: Jewish National Fund of Toronto, 4600 Bathurst Street, #238 Toronto, ON M2R 3V3. Tel: 416-638-7200, Fax: 416-638-7345, Email: tor@jnf-canada.org

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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

Monday, Oct. 21, is deadline for Oct. 31 issue and Monday, Oct. 28, is deadline for Nov. 7. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

Thursday, Oct. 17

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE

Dr. John Trachtenberg discusses molecular surgery for prostate cancer at the Canadian Society for the Weizmann Institute of Science's annual general meeting, Oakdale Golf and Country Club, 7:30 p.m. RSVP, **Sheri Federman**, 416-733-9220.

Saturday, Oct. 19

ARGENTINE JEWS

Temple Kol Ami is hosting a presentation on the Jewish Argentinian community and the current situation, 8 p.m., 36 Atkinson Ave. Call 905-731-4316.

Sunday, Oct. 20

MIDRASH AND RASHI

Prof. Rachael Turkienicz will speak on the midrash and Rashi, 8 p.m., Kehillat Shaarei Torah, 2640 Bayview Ave. No charge.

TRANSNISTRIA SURVIVORS

The Transnistria Survivors Association holds a remembrance program at Shaarei Shomayim, 2 p.m. Speaker **Paula David**, music by **Lenka Lichtenberg**. For details, call 905-707-7053.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Books & Bagels reading series at the Miles Nadal JCC begins Oct. 20, 11 a.m. **Ted Schmidt** will discuss *Shabbes Goy: A Catholic Boyhood on a Jewish Street in Protestant Toronto.* Members free, non-members $5, includes coffee and bagels. Call 416-924-6211.

JEWS FOR JUDAISM

Dr. Michael Skobac will speak about combating missionary challenges to Judaism at a breakfast sponsored by Adath Sholom Sisterhood, 9:30 a.m., 864 Sheppard Ave. W. $3 cover. Call 416-635-0131.

Monday, Oct. 21

BOOK CLUB

Prof. Andrea Most of the University of Toronto leads a discussion on *Everything is Illuminated* by **Jonathan Foer**, at the Holy Blossom Temple Book Club, 10 a.m. Call **Anne**, 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

LEARNING DISABILITIES

An educational consultant discusses the challenges of living with a child with a learning disability or ADHD, 7-8:30 p.m., Griffin Centre, 24 Silverview. To register, call 416-229-1680.

Tuesday, Oct. 22

FAMILY LEGACY

Learn about planning your estate at a seminar on Creating a Family Legacy, Lipa Green Building, room 421. No charge. To register call **Janice Benatar**, 416-635-2883, ext. 154 or jbenatar@ujafed.org.

MOVIE REVIEW

Adath Israel Sisterhood book and film review series continues with a a review of *Divided We Fall*, 8 p.m., $10 members, $15 non-members. Films not viewed at sessions.

SAFETY FOR WOMEN

A representative of York Regional Police will speak on home and personal safety at a program sponsored by Club Dafna of Na'amat, for women 40-45, 8 p.m. in Thornhill. Call **Sharon**, 905-889-9785 to RSVP.

FLORAL DESIGN

Shaar Shalom Sisterhood presents a hands-on program on the secrets of floral design by Periwinkle Florists. 8 p.m. Call **Sharon Rattner**, 905-881-3056.

Continued on page 23

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Continued from page 22

CLONING

Rabbi Moshe Stern will discuss Jewish law and human cloning, 8 p.m. Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. Everyone invited, no charge. 416-785-9919.

THE MEDIA

Paul Michaels of the Canada-Israel Committee lectures on the Media: Does it Report or Make the News? at a talk sponsored by National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section, 8 p.m. Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. Members $8, non-members $10. RSVP 416-633-5100 or info@ncjw-ts.org.

PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

The fine arts committee of Holy Blossom Temple is holding an opening reception of the works of Israeli photographer **Rolfe Kneller**, 7-9:30 p.m. at the temple's Cecile and Harry Pearl Gallery. Call **Beryl Chemin**, 416-924-6030.

Wednesday, Oct. 23

JEWISH JOKERS

For information on the monthly meeting of the Jewish Jokers and Humour Club, call **Irv Helpert**, 416-661-2541.

HADASSAH-WIZO BAZAAR

The 78th annual Toronto Hadassah-WIZO bazaar takes place at the Better Living Centre, Exhibition Place, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. $2 admission, children under five free.

ROLES OF MEN & WOMEN

Prof. Rachael Turkienicz gives a talk titled My Beloved Shepherds Among the Lilies: The Roles of Jewish Men and Women, part of the annual Joseph Kerzner lectures series. Beth Tzedec Congregation. Call 416-781-3511.

CURRENT EVENTS

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, presents a discussion of current events with Doug Haddow, 1:30-3 p.m., at Council House. $3 for members, $4 non-members. RSVP, 416-633-5100 or info@ncjw-ts.org.

Thursday, Oct. 24

BEST FROM THE FEST

Shlomo Schwartzberg, director of the Jewish Film Festival, will speak about the festival at National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section's board of directors and opening general meeting, 7 p.m., Council House. RSVP, 416-633-5100 or info@ncjw-ts.org.

And What Else Is New

DYNAMIC SINGLES

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel presents the following programs: an afternoon of jazz, ragtime, boogie, blues and popular tunes at a Sunday brunch for singles 35+, Oct. 20, 11:30 a.m., $10 if prepaid by noon Oct. 18, or $15 at the door; bowling and pizza for singles 25-40, Thursday, Oct. 17. Meet at Adath Israel for pizza then to Newtonbrook Bowlerama, 9 p.m. for bowling. Pizza & drink $5, bowling $1.50 per game. Call **Nilly**, 416-635-5340 or nilly@adathisrael.com.

ISRAELI DANCING

Shaar Shalom Synagogue presents Mother-Daughter Israeli Dancing for adults with children in grades 1-6, Sundays 6:30 p.m. Cost per session $5 per person, max. $10 per family. Call 905-889-4975 or mailyouth@shaarshalom.ca.

JEWISH LIVING SERIES

Learn the basics of Shabbat with **Rabbi Chaim Hildeshaim**, JRCC Institute of Torah, 18 Rockford Rd., Oct. 20-Nov. 17, 8-9:30 p.m. To register, **Chana Weisberg**, 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

JACS

Jewish Alcoholics, Drug Addicts and Families teen outreach program, for ages 10+, Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Information night, Thursdays, 8 p.m. Call the confidential phone line, 416-410-JACS.

TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Shomer Israel Congregation traditional heimish minyan welcomes all non-affiliated. No dues. Shabbat 9 a.m. Shabbat Minchah study class with **Rabbi Sheldon Schwartz**. Sunday minyan, 8:30 a.m., 60 Rockford Rd. (behind Rockford Road Public School). **David**, 416-256-1600.

ART WITH A CONSCIENCE

The Morris Winchevsky Centre is sponsoring an art exhibition featuring the works of social activist **Abe Peters**. Open to the public, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2:30-5 p.m. and until Nov. 10 by appointment, Monday-Thursday during office hours and Sundays 10:30-12:30 p.m. Call 416-789-5502.

BOOK SALE

The annual University College Alumni book sale, Oct. 18 to 22, at University College, U of T. Call 416-978-0372.

FOR SENIORS

New Horizon Hungarian Seniors Day Centre is open Sunday-Thursday, new members welcome. Homemade meals, bingo on Mondays. Call **Edith Lazar** 416-256-1892.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays, 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Oct. 17 is a sing-along. Call **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

Young at Heart Seniors' Florida trip to glatt kosher Saxony Hotel in Miami Beach, with meals or efficiency. Free full breakfast. Call **Helen** 416-635-6343.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama Oct. 23, Nov. 6, 20; Saturday dances 7:30 p.m. Oct. 26 Nov. 9, 30; Sunday dances Oct. 29, Nov., 3, 17; trip to Atlantic City Nov. 3-6 $50 (US) in casino bonuses; fitness, ballroom and line dancing Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. Call 416-395-7881.

National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section, presents the Fay Mosoff Lunch and Learn program Dor V'Dor, with **Rosalie Nepom**. Tuesday, Oct. 22, noon, Council House. Lunch $3. RSVP, 416-633-5100.

Association for Jewish Seniors, general meeting, Thursday, Oct. 24, 9:30 a.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Topic: Non-profit housing, past, present and future, with speaker **Lisa Lypsowitz**. For information, call **Tammi Parker**, 416-635-2860.

Cranbrooke Friendship Club, United Jewish People's Order presents a program on the Jews of Iran, Monday, Oct. 21, 12:30 p.m. at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Call **Maxine Hermolin**, 416-789-5502.

L.Z.A. Seniors Cultural Club meets Tuesdays, 10 a.m. in the boardroom of the Borochov Cultural Cenre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call the office at 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Cenre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W., 416-225-2112

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays.. **Anna**, ext. 10.

Have Fun with Yiddish, 1 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 24 in the synagogue.

Brain Aerobics enhance memory and improve concentration, Oct. 24, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. in library.

Osteoporosis interest group, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Lifelong Learning presents Elm Winds classical and modern music in partnership with the Russian Club, Monday, Oct. 21. $1 members, $2 non-members.

Learn how to speak effectively in front of people, Tuesday, Oct. 22, 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Members $1.50, non-members $3.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211.

Tom's Place Fall Warehouse Sale runs from Oct. 23-27 and features top quality merchandise at drastically reduced prices. Portion of sales goes to the JCC.

Between Stages playwright's workshop series presents a public reading of *Shiksas Sit Shiva*, Oct. 24, 8 p.m. Pay what you can at the door, suggested donation $5.

Call for information on Hebrew classes: two-day Hebrew marathon, Sunday, Oct. 20 and 27, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.; Hebrew for beginners, Tuesdays, 8-9:30 p.m. beginning Nov. 5; Hebrew for intermediate/advanced, Thursdays, 8-9:30 p.m. beginning Oct. 24.

Beginning Jewish Meditation is a six-week program starting Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m. Call for registration and information.

BLAST FROM THE PAST: Na'amat's annual fund-raising event, Blast from the Past, supports Na'amat Canada's Shelter & Counselling Centre in Tel Aviv. Seen at left is Orit Nusbaum, vice-president fund-raising, and Vivian Silverberg, Toronto president. [Mollie Rothman photo]

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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SINGLES EVENTS
DEADLINE:
Wednesday 4 p.m.
8 days preceding issue date
For rates or to place an ad call 416-391-1836
The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries on events to the event's organizers

COFFEE, TEA & FILM. Singles - Join us for a night at the movies. *Road to Perdition* with Tom Hanks & Paul Newman. Sat. Oct. 26, 8:30 pm, 1700 Bathurst, $7 at door. Refreshments. For more info 416-781-3514, ext. 34. Beth Tzedec & Intersynagogue Singles.

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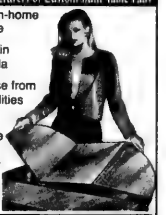


On Campus

Mideast crisis presented using theories of objectivism

By LARA RABINOVITCH
Special to The CJN

Israel is essentially the only moral country in the Middle East, says Yaron Brook, executive director of the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine, Calif.

In a recent lecture at the University of Toronto, Brook discussed the Middle East crisis using the theories of objectivism or the supremacy of reason – the school of philosophical thought founded by novelist and essayist Ayn Rand.

"Israel represents a triumph of freedom in the Middle East. Israel stands for the principle of progress. This is what makes Israel a moral country: it's pro-life, pro-freedom, pro-reason," Brook said.

"[Israel's] founders created a free country in a region dominated by totalitarian, corrupt, despotic regimes," said Brook, who presented what he described as a moral argument for supporting Israel.

Born and raised in Israel, and educated at the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology – and at the University of Texas (Austin), Brook has appeared on university campuses across North America, as well as on CNN, Fox, and MSNBC, promoting his pro-Israel campaign.

Speaking for over an hour, Brook presented strong, if controversial, arguments about the West, America's role in the Middle East conflict, Israel and the Palestinians.

Brook used Ayn Rand's theories to support his claims throughout his lecture, as well as during a two-hour question and answer session. For example, Brook said what he referred to as "Arab aggression" was typical of Rand's theory of "the hatred of the good for being the good."

"They hate the Israelis," he argued, "not because of their vices, but because of their virtues – their ability to better their lives by embracing reason, science, technology and individual rights."

Brook also challenged the West's attitude toward Israel: "Europe and much of the rest of the world have, at least since 1967, become increasingly hostile to Israel, and increasingly sympathetic to its enemies. The West is in the process of abandoning its one bastion in the Middle East."

From the perspective of objectivism, according to which everyone should act in his own best interest, Brook said that America should be more supportive of Israel. "America has not done enough to support Israel. America has been half-hearted in its support of Israel… It is in America's and in the West's own self-interest to support Israel unequivocally against its Arab and Palestinian enemies… America's self-defence is intimately connected with that of Israel."

Some of Brook's more contentious arguments included his views on the creation of a Palestinian state. In his opinion, objectivism insists that only countries founded upon western notions, where the state, for example, recognizes every individual's right to freedom in all senses, have a right to exist. Because the Palestinians do not follow these ideas, Brook argued, they are not entitled to their own nation at this point in time.

Brook concluded by offering a solution to the Middle East conflict, rooted in the objectivist philosophy: "Uncompromising commitment to freedom and to western values is the most powerful weapon we possess. Ultimately, peace will come to the Arab world, to the Middle East, only when they adopt western values.

"Until the Arab populace is free, free of political enslavement by their own governments and free of the mysticism of Islamic fundamentalism, no peace is possible. Only when the Arab world experiences the equivalent of the Renaissance, the rediscovery of reason, will it rise above its Middle Ages culture."

Kidnapped soldier's father urges action

Continued from page 3

two daughters in their twenties, have travelled through Europe and North America, including to the U.S. Congress and State Department, in their quest to learn the soldiers' fate and press for action. They also speak to groups in Israel, including schoolchildren and new olim.

On behalf of all three families, they urge people to write to Kofi Annan, secretary general of the United Nations, to U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, to the European Parliament in Brussels, and to their governments in other countries.

Avraham, an Israeli air force veteran who served more than 24 years before retiring, said his current employer at a municipal union has given him as much time off as he needs.

Despite his personal tribulations, Avraham still believes the route to peace lies in talking to the Palestinians. At the same time, he noted, "we need to fight against the terror and the Islamic world that won't accept us."

Until the kidnapping, he took part in Friday afternoon pro-peace events as a founding member of Mishmarot HaShalom (Guardians of the Peace), whose members gathered weekly near the site of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination to read and sing songs before Shabbat began. The movement was established following Rabin's 1995 assassination.

In his speech, Avraham criticized the UN, which he said has withheld information about the kidnappings that took place in sight of a UN checkpoint. He also criticized Amnesty International and other non-governmental organizations for their critical attitudes toward Israel.

His message for the Jewish community here, he told *The CJN*, was the importance of being united, both as a community and in support of Israel.

Edna, who leaves the public speaking to Haim because he has a better command of English, said she dislikes politics.

Sometimes, she and the Arab nurses with whom she works speculate on how the situation might be different. "They ask me, and I ask them, if we had no government, no Palestinian Authority, no politicians, [just] the people in the street… we would live very well."

Hamilton rabbi being honoured for 45 years of service

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Special to The CJN

HAMILTON — Reflecting on his 45-year involvement with Adas Israel Synagogue in Hamilton, Rabbi Mordechai Green attributes his accomplishments to the freedom he was given.

"I never tried to curtail my imagination or my dreams," Rabbi Green said in an interview. "If I wanted to undertake a project, there was nothing stopping me.

"I had complete freedom to do fund-raising. I did not have to get approval from the congregation. However, I did not ask the congregation or the board to underwrite the projects. I took it upon myself to get contributions."

Rabbi Green, who became rabbi emeritus of Adas Israel in February when his son, Rabbi Daniel Green, assumed the position of spiritual leader, noted that he established two principles regarding fund-raising.

"The first is that we should not establish a type of finance committee that approaches the shul as a business. Secondly, charity must be voluntary and must emerge from a person's commitment.

"My philosophy was that everyone could join the shul, no matter what they could afford to pay, or what they wanted to pay in dues… I would establish a relationship with the family, and eventually they would want to lend their support to a particular project."

Adas Israel Synagogue has grown and flourished since 1958, when Rabbi Green became the spiritual leader of the small Cannon Street shul in downtown Hamilton. It was his focus and determination that ensured financial backing for the construction of the current building on Cline Avenue South in 1962.

Rabbi Green is also credited with the establishment of a Jewish day school, the Hamilton Hebrew Academy, located on the site of the synagogue. He was instrumental in the construction of the mikvah in Hamilton, and it was through his vision that Yeshiva Beit Yitzchak was established.

Sylvia and Rabbi Mordechai Green

Adas Israel is honouring Rabbi Mordechai and Sylvia Green at a tribute dinner on Oct. 20 in recognition of their dedicated leadership. The proceeds will go to the Adas Israel Jewish Education Fund.

"Every child has a right to a Jewish education," Rabbi Green said. "It's a right, not a privilege."

The Hamilton Hebrew Academy ensures that no child in the Hamilton area is denied admission to the school because of lack of funds.

"What I've tried to maintain, in the shul and through education, is the continuity of Jewish tradition. We have to develop a personality that can go out into the world and still maintain his or her personal identity. That requires knowledge, commitment and spirituality… A strong sense of Jewish identity will help guard against the risk of intermarriage and assimilation."

Rabbi Green said the synagogue is a place for every Jew. "I define Orthodoxy in a very inclusive way. An Orthodox Jew is one who commits himself to an ideal."

In the *Tribute Journal* to be distributed at the dinner, Rabbi Green wrote that when he applied for the position of spiritual leader of Adas Israel, he was asked if he would allow mixed seating at services. (The Conservative Movement was very popular in the 1950s, and except for mixed seating, there were few differences between Orthodox and Conservative services.)

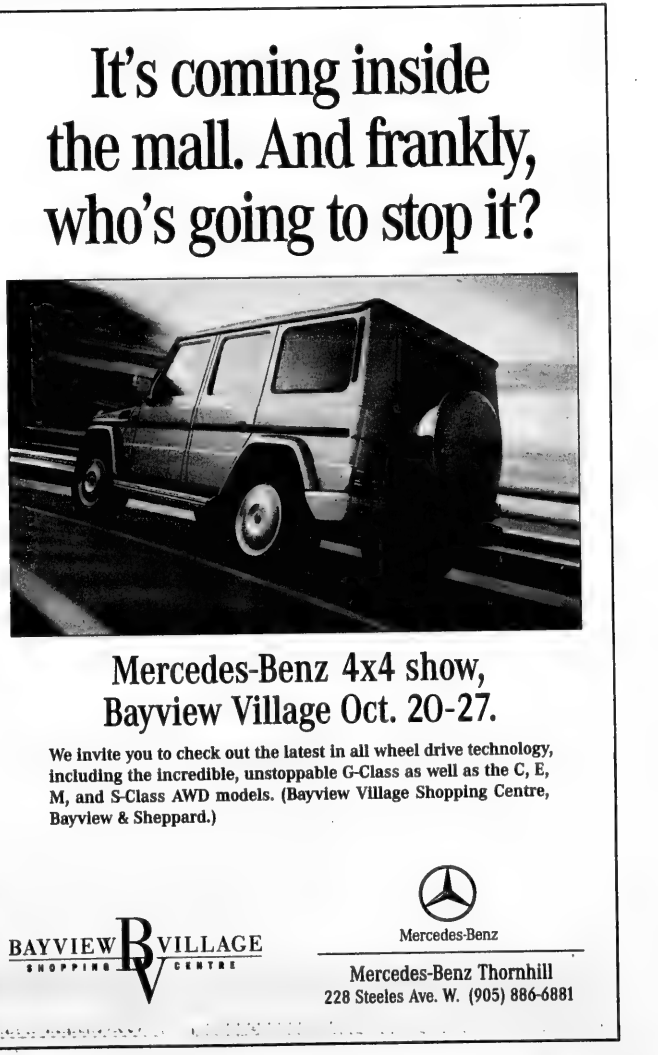
Rabbi Green answered the question with a question: "Now that the mechitzah has been eliminated and mixed seating instituted, are the Jews flocking to Shabbat services each and every week in the Conservative synagogue and Reform temple?"

Told that there was no Shabbat morning service at the temple and attendance at the Conservative synagogue was small, he replied: "It is vital to educate and raise a generation that will understand and feel the true *neshamah*, the soul of our prayers, in their most pristine sense. In fact, mixed seating is a distraction rather than an attraction."

Rabbi Green graduated from Yeshiva University in 1955 and was recipient of the school's Talmud Award. He then studied at the Bernard Revel Graduate School of Yeshiva University and at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Rabbinic School of Yeshiva University, and was ordained in 1958. During his student years he served as chazzan and rabbi at Stern College in New York.

Sylvia Green attended the Yeshiva of Hartford and was a member of the first class of Stern College for Women of Yeshiva University. Mordechai and Sylvia met at Stern College and married in 1957.

The Greens have five children and 22 grandchildren.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Societies Maintain Proud Tradition

Societies Co-Chairs
Michael Rosenberg (left) and Morris Flicht

Giving and caring have been the hallmarks of Jewish Toronto for more than 100 years. And no network of organizations better symbolizes these attributes than the Landsmanshaften or Societies that established themselves in our city during the early decades of the 20th century.

These mutual benefit Societies - usually made up of members from the same Eastern European communities, who settled in Toronto to escape anti-Semitism - ensured that everyone was looked after from the cradle to the grave.

The Ladies Auxiliaries were especially prolific fundraisers. Nothing was too much for them. They baked, they sold, they knocked on doors. Book sales, bazaars, teas, fashion shows, quilting bees, whatever it took.

According to Michael Rosenberg, who chairs the UJA Federation Societies Division with Morris Flicht, the extraordinary commitment of Societies to tzedakah is vitally alive today, especially for urgent projects in Israel. The generosity of Toronto's Societies has helped to build Israeli daycares, dental clinics, community centres, a therapeutic riding facility for children with special needs and many more facilities.

UJA Federation salutes Toronto's Societies for their compassion, commitment and proud attachment to Jewish values.

Ostrovtzer Independent Society
Harry Fisher (left) and Albert Speisman

Kielcer Sick Benefit Society
Philip Platt

Pultusker Society
left to right: Fay Gold, Pinchos Rywiec and Jack Taksa

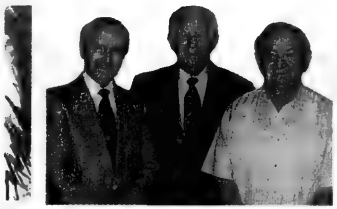
Toronto Jewish Association of Hungarian Descent
left to right: Edith Lazar, Zoltan Fridman and Magda Schullerer

A Century of Commitment

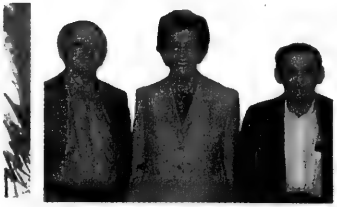
UJA Federation pays tribute to the following Landsmanshaften and Societies

Farband of Lithuanian Jews and Masada Chapter
left to right: Samuel Pupko, Fay Druck and Harry Kaplan

Chmielnick Society and Ladies Auxiliary
left to right: Renee Frydman, Sarah Goldlist, Abraham Goldlist, Fay Goldlist and Louise Steinfeld



Wierzbniker Friendly Society
left to right: Abe Zukerman, Howard Kleinberg and Howard Chandler



Stashiver Young Men and Ladies Auxiliary
left to right: Shalom Hershkop, Yetta Sternberg and Henry Jaskolka

Zaglembier Society
left to right: Peter Ferens, Mark Felzen and Simon Slivka

Zaglembier Ladies Auxiliary
left to right: Frances Iskov, Rose Pilc, Regina Einstein, Rose Besser and Regina Goldfinger

All-For-One Mutual Sick Benefit Society
Apter Friendly Society
Blue Star Lodge
B'nai Radom
Canadian Hebrew Benevolent Society
Chenstechover Society
Chmielnick Society and Ladies Auxiliary
Driltzer Young Men Society
Farband of Lithuanian Jews
Farband Labour Zionist Alliance
Ivansker Mutual Benefit Society
Judea Brotherhood Temple
Judean Benevolent & Friendly Society
Kielcer Sick Benefit Society
Labour Zionist Alliance of Canada
Lagover Mutual Sick Benefit Society
Linitzer Benefit Society
Lipsker Young Men Society
Lodzer Centre Holocaust Congregation
Lublin & Vicinity Society of Toronto
Maramarosher Society
Masada Chapter
New Fraternal Jewish Association
Ostrovtzer Independent Benefit Society
Ozrower Mutual Benefit Society
Piotrkov Tomashov Belcsha
Pultusker Society
Radomer Mutual Sick Benefit Society
Shedlover Young Men Society
Sons of Abraham Mutual Benefit Society
Stashiver Young Men and Ladies Society
Stopnitzer Young Men Benefit Society
Toronto Jewish Association of Hungarian Descent
Tzosmerer Friendly Society
Warshaver Lodzer Mutual Benefit Society
Wierzbniker Friendly Mutual Benefit Society
Workmen's Circle
Zaglembier Ladies Auxiliary
Zaglembier Society of Toronto
Zion Benevolent Society

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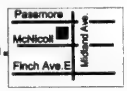

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- Payment may be made in person by cash or cheque at the B.J.C.C. Information Desk or at The Family Resource Centre.
- Tickets will be sold at the door for $8 per lecture if space remains available.

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חחלל שבאמצע

אמרו לי שאם אני נוסע לניו יורק אסור לי לוותר את התרוכתה של מיכל רובנר במוזיאון ויטני. או באמת לא ותחמצנו. מיכל רובנר, ילידת 1957 חיה בעשרים שנה בניו יורק ונחשבת לאחד האמנים המובילים שם. היא עוסקת בצילום וידיאו ולתערוכה שלה נתנו את השם "החלל שבאמצע". התערוכה מוצגת על ידי מפעל הפיס הישראלי ומשרד התוץ וטוב שעשו כך, כי האמנות הזאת מביאה תרבה נחת ומזכירה לאנשים שישראלים יכולים לעשות עוד דברים מלבד להחמה בטרור. בשורות הפתיחה של התערוכה סיגנו ככה: "כמו אמנים זרים אחרים שהגיעו לניו יורק, גם מיכל רובנר משקפת באמנות שלה את שורשיה מצד אחד, ומצד שני את האוניברסלי- את מה שמשותף לכל בני האדם. נשאי אמנותה איבדו משהו מן השורשים והפכו לפחות מחמקור אך גם ליותר ממנו".

התיאור הזה, חשבתי, נכון באישהו מקום לכל מי שחי רחוק משורשיו- הוא תופך לפחות אבל גם ליותר ממה שהיה.

רובנר, מלאה בקציץ ישראלי, צילמה סרט על הגבול הלבנוני, על תפחד ועל האמנה של הגבול. ובפס תקול אומר תקציץ: "אני לא מבין איך את יכולה להפוך את הזיעט הזה לאמנות". התרגשנו ועשה לנו טוב בלב. עשר בסולם קוזן.

צ'אפלין

השנה היא 1939, והאיש התחק בעולם פולש לפולין. שבועיים לאחר מכן מתחיל האמן התחק והמשפיע ביותר בעולם, צ'אפלין, לעבוד על סרטו "הדיקטאטור הגדול"- סרט מתאה עמק על הערימות הנאציות. השלטון הנאצי משמיץ את צ'אפלין ואפילו קוראה לו יהודי, ונשקפת סכנה לחייו. והמדהים מכל- אחד"ב ניישראלית בשלב זה ויקחו עוד שנתים עד שתנטורף למלחמת, ובעלי האולפנים הגדולים, יהודים ממוזרח אירופה, מתנגדים להפקת הסרט ש"עלול להרגיז את הגרמנים".

על רקע זה מועלית בניאגרה-און דה-ליק התצגה המדהימה *צ'אפלין*- שמראה את אחורי הקלעים של הכנת הסרט. התהלבטויות של צ'אפלין, הלחצים עליו, ומבחן התוצאה. התצגה משלבת בצורה מדהימה שימוש בוידיאו בתצגת יחיד וחוו ללא ספק המפגש המשכגע בין, אם תירצו, שני התאגשים התזקים בעולם. התצגה תרוץ עד סוף אוקטובר- ושווה לעוב את הכל ולרוץ. עשר בסולם קוזן.

מודעות

מודעה שהתפרסמה ב"ידיעות אמריקה" מטקסס:
"דרושים ישראלים צעירים יצאי צבא, עדיפות ליוצאי יחידות מובחרות- לעבודה ביקוי העלות אייר קונדישן".
תודה לצה"ל על שהכין בחורים נפלאים שיחרפו את נפשם בתעלות האייר קונדישן של טקסס. ותודה לישראלי גס הרוח שמציע לחם הזדמנות נדירה כל כך לראות את הצד היפה של טקסס.

לשנה הבאה בירושלים

האמינו או לא, זו כותרתו של מאמר מערכת ב"ג'ואיש פוסט", שמברך את החלטתו של בוש לחכיר בחוק בכך שירושלים היא בירת ישראל. אני חוזר ומזמין את כולכם לקרוא את הנשיזול פוסט ולהרגיש בביתי. התמיכה שלנו בעיתנן חשובה מאוד, כי מצבה הפיננסי של מערכת קן ניסט רחוק מלחיות שפיר, האם נפסיד את העיתנן, זה יזיה לטובת עיתנן שעניין את ישראל לאורך כל השנה. מדהים שחמישים וחמש שנה אחרי הקמת המדינה עדיין צריכים לחתוכה על כך שירושלים היא בירת ישראל. ווחי שוב תזכורת לכמה עניין האוויר שעוטף את ישראל, וכמה סוריאליסטית היא שטאת היחזורים.

לכל אחד יש שם

כדברי המשוררת זלדה- לכל אחד מאיתנו יש חרבה שמות שיצרנו לנו ושיצרו לנו אנשים אחרים- מהחזרים ועד חשוחים- ואנחנו סותבים על הגב ק'קלאה רציפת לכל מקום שאליו נלך. או היזה סיפור חשוב: יש בקלגרי איש צעיר ומוכשר ממחאב מוסלמי שחוא נשיא חברת שעוסקת בנושא המסובך של אבטחת מסדזיות של מחשבים ואינטרנט. שמו של האיש חוא, לא פחות ולא יותר, אוקמה עראפת. האיר לעצמכם ילד יחודי טוב מאיפה שמקרא אדולף היטלר. חוא היזה רק ומשמה את השם שלו פעמיים, כדי שאם ישאלו אותו מה היזה שמו הקודם חוא לא יזיה בבעיות. לדבריו של אוסמה עראפת מקלגרי- השם שלו לא משפיע על העסקים, חוא מלא ותשוחות לאוירה חקנדית שמאפשרת לאנשים לחיות חפשי ומבן. אבל שישאר בינינו.

Solve Iraq crisis through UN, says Graham

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham spoke out against a preemptive strike on Iraq during a visit to Montreal, saying such an intervention would give a green light to other countries such as China and Russia to start wars with their enemies.

"We are under no illusions about Iraq... but we also recognize that we live in world with many unattractive leaders – Zimbabwe comes to mind. We can't just go out and remove the regimes we don't like," Graham said at a press conference Oct. 4.

The minister was in town to speak to a luncheon organized by the Conseil des Relations Internationale de Montréal (CORIM), a private, nonpartisan group.

The only solution to the Iraq stand-off is a multilateral one, through the United Nations, and within the framework of international law, Graham insisted. He congratulated U.S. President George W. Bush for making his case in an address to the UN, but would not comment on the specifics of the proposed American resolution.

Canada favours the UN Security Council adopting a resolution that clearly calls for Iraq to allow UN inspectors immediate, unlimited and unconditional access to its weaponry and arms-producing facilities, he said.

"Iraq must show complete compliance anytime, anywhere. There can be no more closing of the palaces or excuses that the date is inconvenient. If not, unfortunately, the presumption will be that Iraq has something to hide."

The resolution should spell out what the consequences will be if Iraq does not comply, he added. That may include "intervention," but it does not include toppling Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein because that is not within the UN's capacity, Graham said.

Graham said the resolution should not be worded in such a way as to "make it impossible for Iraq to accept."

"I'm confident the UN Security Council will work out [such a resolution] and the inspectors will have complete access," he said.

If inspection does not discover weapons of mass destruction, then Iraq should be allowed to "rejoin the community of nations," Graham said.

Graham reiterated that the Canadian government is "not in any way naive" about Saddam, given his past, and the evidence British Prime Minister Tony Blair has made known.

"We want to exercise a positive role... Our job is to lay out the big lines of principle," he said.

Asked what Canada's reaction would be in the event of a preemptive U.S. attack on Iraq, Graham said it would depend on whether the United States had reason to believe Iraq was about to strike it or some other target with a chemical weapon or another weapon of mass destruction.

At the CORIM luncheon, Graham said the mounting tensions in the world have their origin in Iraq's refusal over the past 11 years to meet its obligations under the UN Security Council resolutions.

Graham acknowledged that the UN and other international institutions are not perfect, but that is no reason to doubt the necessity of an effective international system founded on rules that have been commonly adopted.

While the main burden is on Iraq at the moment, the international community must also make sure that its institutions come out of this crisis strengthened, he said.

Musician Sam Taylor was 'a rock' in Hamilton's Jewish community

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Special to The CJN

Obituary

HAMILTON — When Samuel Taylor died on Sept. 13, age 86, Hamilton lost one of its finest citizens whose commitment to business, music and the Jewish community was unparalleled.

A co-founder of the chartered accountancy firm Taylor Leibow, he was a businessman whose first love was music. He became a professional musician at age 15, playing in jazz bands and the Royal Canadian Air Force Band.

Taylor was also a bassist with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra (HPO) for 35 years and served as president of the Hamilton Musician's Guild for 23 years, beginning in 1970.

When the HPO faced closure in 1996 after losing money on a fund-raising lottery, Taylor immediately stepped in and was credited as a major force in its resurrection.

The city of Hamilton recognized Taylor's many contributions to the community by inducting him into its Gallery of Distinction in 2000.

As an accountant, Taylor served as president of the Ontario chapter of the Canadian Insolvency Association. He also spent 25 years as administrator of the Hamilton Free Loan Society and sat on the board of the Good Shepherds Hostel.

In the Jewish community, he served on the Jewish National Fund's national board of directors and was president of the Hamilton chapter. He also served as president of the United Jewish Welfare Fund, president of Temple Anshe Sholom and president of the Hamilton Jewish Federation. In addition, he served on the board of the United Hebrew Chapel and was general chairman, State of Israel Bonds.

In 1977, Taylor was named the Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner honoree. In 1991, B'nai Brith of Hamilton in conjunction with State of Israel Bonds named him Man of the Year.

In a eulogy delivered by his children, Robin and Michael, he was described as "street smart, funny, a lover of people with a deep need to connect... He chose his friends wisely – people of character and depth. We often thought he did so to show us by example whom to emulate."

Even with his full schedule, Taylor devoted himself to his children, they said.

He was sure to attend all his son's high school basketball games and "he came to every recital, every play, kept every news clipping... Being a husband and father was his life's work and there was never a time when we didn't know that we were monumentally important to him," they said.

"To our family, he was unconditional love. To the community, he was a rock."

Taylor is survived by his wife Anna, their children Robin and Michael, daughter-in-law Pam, and his sister Dorothy.

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Denial of a living reality

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

"What is Israel's capital? Sorry, there's no prize for guessing 'Jerusalem.' Not yet, anyway. True, it's been sacred to Jews for 3,000 years or so. And yes, the modern State of Israel has claimed it as its capital for more than a half-century... But the world doesn't want to know. Not United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan. Not U.S. President [George W.] Bush, not Prime Minister Jean Chrétien. Not the Pope. Not any international heavyweight. They live in a state of official denial that borders on the delusional."

So begins Gordon Barthos' highly informative column on a key subject prompted by the passage of a foreign affairs appropriations bill in the U.S. Congress last month ("Deny Jerusalem, deny reality," *Toronto Star*, Oct. 4). One section of the bill obliges the State Department to treat Jerusalem as Israel's capital and calls for the U.S. embassy to be moved from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. While Bush signed the bill into law, he treated the special Jerusalem section as a non-binding "advisory," due to the current, inhospitable political climate. Still, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat predictably denounced the bill as a "catastrophe."

Barthos effectively contrasts the living reality of Jerusalem as Israel's capital (even claiming that Palestinians "no longer deny" Israel's claim to west Jerusalem as its capital) with the denial of such recognition by the international community. He accurately points out that while Israel proclaimed Jerusalem as its capital in 1950, virtually no countries recognized the move, establishing their embassies in Tel Aviv instead.

In a separate article, Ruth Lapidoth, Hebrew University professor of international law, writes that in the 1948 War of Independence, as Israel fought in self-defence against invading Arab armies and gained control over the western parts of Jersualem, Israel argued that it was entitled to fill the legal limbo created by the end of the British mandate. The same claim was applied to its control of the eastern section taken in another war of self-defence in 1967, although this is rejected internationally.

Lapidoth also explains that while the world has not recognized Israel's *de jure* sovereignty in Jerusalem, in practice, its control over the western sections has *de facto* been accepted.

Nonetheless, the international community insists that the legal status of the city can only be decided by negotiations between the parties involved.

During the final status talks at Taba in January 2001, former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak reportedly agreed to former U.S. president Bill Clinton's idea of granting sovereignty to the Palestinians in the Arab areas of the eastern part of the city, and even to allowing shared sovereignty on the Temple Mount. However, both proposals came to naught when Arafat, prodded by Egypt and Saudi Arabia, refused to recognize any Jewish attachment to the Old City, arguing absurdly that the Western Wall is actually in Nablus.

Many analysts believe that, at the end of the day, the two sides will have to arrive at some sort of compromise. But this will depend on the Palestinians finally recognizing the legitimacy of Jewish claims in the city – which is, after all, a symbol of the Jewish people's rightful place in the land.

In this tortured atmosphere, Barthos' concluding lines provide an unusual, calming reassurance: "Modern Israel's claim is unshakable. Jerusalem is its legitimate, lawful capital, and always has been. The day the Mideast is finally at peace, the world will no longer need to live in denial."

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Bus driver and passenger save lives on the Geha road

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — At first, bus driver Baruch Neuman thought the burly passenger he saw in his rearview mirror trying to sneak onto his bus though the back door had fallen down and hurt himself.

It wasn't until Neuman got off the bus with a woman passenger who said she was a paramedic and another man, and began giving first aid to the erstwhile freeloading passenger who had fallen down, that they discovered they were face-to-face with a suicide bomber.

Israeli bus driver Baruch Neuman, who prevented a suicide bomber from entering his bus, leaves the scene after the bomber blew himself up at a highway south of Tel Aviv. [RNS/Reuters photo]

Neuman's actions in the next few seconds almost certainly saved many lives.

While the bomber did eventually blow himself up under the bridge to Bar-Ilan University, killing one person and wounding 29 more, if he had managed to blow up the bus from inside, many more would have died and been wounded.

Just before 8 a.m. last Thursday, the Dan Bus No. 87 line from Petach Tikvah to Tel Hashomer had pulled up at the busy Bar-Ilan University junction bus station and Neuman opened the doors for passengers.

"I opened the door to let people on and off, and before I closed the back door, I noticed a burly man trying to sneak onto the bus," said Neuman.

"I shut the door on him, and he apparently fell backward onto the road and hurt himself," said the 50-year-old driver, a 24-year veteran of the Dan bus company. Neuman got off the bus to see if he could help the man. He was joined by a woman passenger who said she was a paramedic and by a male passenger.

"The man was lying on the ground and we could see he had a slight head wound and was bleeding, apparently from the fall. We tore open his shirt, to give him air, and just like you see on television, we saw an explosives belt strapped onto his body with wires and everything."

At that point, Neuman and the male passenger looked at each other. "The passenger who was helping me shouted that we should each grab one of the bomber's hands and not let him move so he couldn't detonate himself," Neuman said. "Meanwhile, the bomber, who was conscious, began fighting us and we yelled for everyone to run away and clear the area."

According to Neuman, the passenger helping him to pin down the bomber looked at him and said they should let go together and flee. "We let go of his hands and ran away. When we looked back we saw the bomber get up, start running, and blow himself up."

The bomber ran for about 30 metres toward the people at the bus stop. "I saw the terrorist run after us, and then I heard the explosion," said 45-year-old supermarket cashier Miri Salam.

Vered Zohar, 35, was in one of the cars behind the bus, "listening to music" when she saw a woman get out of a car in front of her and begin running.

Zohar rolled down the window and heard the woman shout "get away, run for your life... so I got out and started to run. At first I thought it was a controlled explosion, like the sappers do when they find a bomb, but then I saw the terrorist's body flying in the air."

As a result of the rush-hour bombing, the police closed the Geha road around Tel Aviv for more than an hour, snarling traffic as they scoured the area for possible accomplices and more bombers.

But by mid-morning, after the slightly damaged bus had been towed away, and a clutch of protesters who tried to block traffic with demands for "revenge" and "death to terrorists" had been dispersed by the police, traffic was back to normal.

There was nothing left at the bus station to show that a little while earlier, a major tragedy was averted because of the quick thinking and bravery of Neuman and his passengers.

Sa'ada Aharon, 71, was killed and 29 others were injured when the bomber blew himself up.

EU changing views on Arafat

Continued from page 1

U.S. State Department officials are now working on a "road map" for calming the Israeli-Palestinian violence and restarting negotiations. They have been exchanging drafts of a detailed three-stage plan with European colleagues based on an outline released last month by the Quartet (the United States, EU, UN and Russia). The plan calls for a cooling-off period, followed by the establishment of a Palestinian state with temporary borders, and finally a permanent-status agreement. According to the Quartet's outline, the process will be completed in 2005.

Data reaching Israel indicate that the U.S. draft makes tough demands on both sides. During the first stage, Israel will be required to withdraw to the positions it held before the intifadah broke out two years ago and to freeze settlement construction. The Palestinians will have to rebuild their security services under a unified command and implement comprehensive financial and administrative reforms.

The plan also calls for the temporary Palestinian state to be established on more than 50 per cent of the West Bank. This means an additional Israeli withdrawal would be necessary, as well as the likely evacuation of some isolated settlements. However, this is still only a draft, and it is not clear the White House will approve it as is. The administration has already promised Israel that it will not take a stance on the final borders, leaving this to direct negotiations between the two parties.

For Sharon, the most problematic part of the plan is the strict timetable. Sharon opposes all timetables, arguing that they merely serve to increase pressure on Israel and absolve the Palestinians of responsibility. Instead, he would like every new stage of the process to be contingent on each side meeting specified benchmarks.

Assistant Secretary of State William Burns will visit the region in the next two weeks with the twofold task of obtaining Arab support for an American attack on Iraq and discussing the "road map" with Israel and the Palestinians so that it can be implemented once the Iraqi issue is settled.

During his meeting with U.S. President George W. Bush this week, Sharon will be devoting considerable attention to "the day after Iraq" in an effort to obtain a pledge that the United States will not force an agreement with the Palestinians on Israel. He will also try to determine how much freedom of action the Americans are willing to give him with regard to military operations against the Palestinians, both in the period leading up to an American war on Iraq and during such a war.

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American Jewish population declining

Continued from page 1

The statistics released last week – including the fact that Jews now represent two per cent of the American population – represent only the survey's demographic findings.

Other parts of the study, which will address issues of Jewish identity and affiliation, will be released at the group's annual gathering in Philadelphia at the end of November.

The median age of American Jews climbed from 37 in 1990 to 41 in 2000, with 19 per cent age 65 and older, compared with 15 per cent in 1990.

At the same time, Jewish women approaching the end of their childbearing years, ages 40-44, have an average of 1.8 children, which is below the replacement level of 2.1.

Stephen Hoffman, chief executive officer of the UJC, said the study's conclusions of an aging population coupled with low birth rates "raise policy questions" about how Jewish agencies should spend money.

For example, with fewer Jewish children, agencies might examine policy questions about Jewish camp fees and Jewish school costs.

And with an increasingly aging population, agencies need to focus on caring for the elderly, Hoffman said.

"Unless there are some significant changes" in Jewish demographic patterns, Jews ultimately "are not going to replace themselves," said Frank Mott, a professor of sociology at Ohio State University who co-chaired the National Technical Advisory Committee, which helped steer the 2000-01 NJPS.

America's 5.2 million Jews live in what the NJPS identified as 2.9 million Jewish households.

But the study also found 6.7 million people in those households, which means that 1.5 million people in these households are not Jewish. NJPS officials are not saying yet how those non-Jews are related to the identified Jews.

The NJPS relied on four questions to determine Jewishness. They were: What is your religion, if any; do you consider yourself Jewish for any reason; if your religion is not Judaism, do you have a Jewish mother or father; and if your religion is not Jewish, were you raised Jewish?

Those questions remain virtually unchanged from the last time the NJPS was conducted in 1990, when it threw American Jewry into upheaval by showing that 52 per cent of Jews who married in the previous five years had chosen non-Jewish spouses.

One critic of the NJPS who issued his own report last month identifying 6.7 million Jews blasted the initial results as a "methodological disaster."

Gary Tobin, president of the San Francisco-based Institute for Jewish & Community Research, said the NJPS scared away some Jews by asking screening questions about their religion immediately.

Unlike his own study, which located 250 Jewish households by asking a series of general questions first, the NJPS "waded way too quickly" into the Jewish survey, he said.

Ira Sheskin, a member of the NJPS advisory panel and a geography professor at the University of Miami, said he could not explain why Tobin came up with different figures from NJPS.

But Sheskin, who has criticized Tobin's study for casting too wide a net in determining Jews, said the dueling studies differ only in "how you go about defining who is a Jew."

Calvin Goldscheider, a professor of Judaic studies at Brown University, said a key challenge now will be to study the 1.5 million non-Jews living in the 2.9 million Jewish households that the study identified.

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Buenos Aires attack indictments planned

By FLORENCIA ARBISER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BUENOS AIRES — Argentine judicial officials say they are planning to issue indictments against members of Hezbollah for carrying out a deadly car bombing of the Jewish community centre here in 1994.

Armed with information provided by the Argentine intelligence service Secretaria de Inteligencia del Estado, the officials have announced that they have crucial evidence linking Hezbollah leaders to the attack.

Marta Nercellas, lawyer for the Jewish umbrella organization DAIA, said the evidence provided by the intelligence service agrees with the judiciary reconstruction of the attack and other information provided by international intelligence services.

Prosecutors have also announced that they now have crucial details about the attack, including the identity of the suicide bomber who drove a van carrying some 600 pounds of explosives and destroyed the AMIA community centre on July 18, 1994.

The bombing killed 85 people and wounded hundreds.

Last month, the local media reported that the driver was a Lebanese member of Hezbollah. The CIA, working with the intelligence service in the case, reportedly confirmed the driver's identity.

After the AMIA attack, a park in Lebanon was named in honour of the driver, according to judicial officials here.

Argentine officials also maintain that Iranian diplomats travelling in and out of Argentina before the attack served as a support team for the terrorist squad that carried out the bombing.

According to legal observers, Argentine officials may seek international arrest warrants for members of the hit squad, former Iranian intelligence minister Ali Fallahian and Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah.

As a result of diplomatic concerns and a possible lack of evidence, however, warrants are unlikely to be issued against top Iranian leaders who allegedly ordered the attack, the observers said.

The documents issued by the Argentine judiciary will also indicate that the terrorist squad included Lebanese who had trained in the Middle East and entered Argentina illegally through the lawless borders between Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay.

More than eight years after the AMIA attack, none of those who masterminded the deadly bombing have been brought to trial.

Last year, a trial began against 20 people accused of playing a supporting role in the attack.

Jewish leaders here and abroad have blamed Argentina's inability to find the culprits on incompetence, corruption and anti-Semitism among security and government officials.

The investigative judge handling the case, Juan Jose Galeano, had asked in 1994 for indictments to be handed down against a group of Iranian suspects. The Argentine Supreme Court denied his demand at that time, saying he lacked sufficient evidence.

Since then, Galeano has been trying to gather enough evidence to secure international arrest warrants.

Galeano, who just returned from a three-week trip to the United States, has now gotten what he needs, said Alberto Nisman, the prosecutor in the trial of the 20 accomplices.

"The elements are already in place to ask for some Hezbollah members' arrest," Nisman said.

Word about the new round of indictments was met with skepticism by some Jewish officials here.

The Latin American representative of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Sergio Widder, said the latest announcements from the judiciary are "an immoral use of the AMIA attack more than serious investigations."

Widder noted that the announcements came just months after former Argentine president Carlos Menem was accused of getting a $10-million bribe to cover up Iran's responsibility for the 1994 bombing – an allegation Menem denied.

The announcements, Widder added, may have more to do with politics than with any real breakthrough in the case.

October 7

• Security officials announced they arrested three Israeli Arabs in Ramla, central Israel, who are suspected of planning to carry out terrorist attacks for Hamas.

October 8

• Four Israelis were ambushed in their car near Hebron. *Oded Volak, 51, of Modi'in, died of his wounds a day later.*

October 9

• Israel transferred nearly $15 million (US) in tax money to the Palestinian Authority. The money was the third and final payment of Israel's promised transfer of some $42 million (US) in tax revenue that Israel had refused to turn over.

October 10

• Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan personally directed the transfer of funds to families of suicide bombers, according to documents seized during and since Operation Defensive Shield. The documents include handwritten cheques signed by Ramadan and some documents signed by Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat that show he was complicit in helping the Palestinian Liberation Front, headed by its Baghdad-based founder, Mohammed Zaidan (Abu Abbas) and his local representative, Rakad Salam, secretary of the Arab Liberation Front and the Iraqi Ba'ath party in the territories.

October 11

• A reconciliatory meeting between the Palestinian Authority (PA) and the Islamic militant Hamas organization was "very positive," PA official Ziad Abu Amr said. A committee to reconcile Hamas and PA factions was established after riots broke out in Gaza on Monday and Tuesday between Hamas supporters and the Palestinian police, in which five people, most of them Hamas members, were killed.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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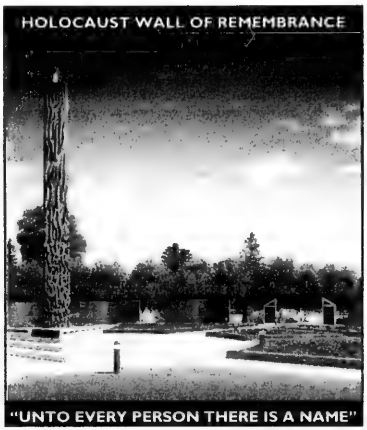

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A vow was made by those who survived to those who perished.

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After 500 years, Jews leaving North African Spanish enclaves

By HILLEL LANDES
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MADRID — Growing anti-Semitism and poor economic prospects are threatening to extinguish two Jewish communities on the North African coast.

After the expulsion from Spain in 1492, a small number of Jews escaped across the Strait of Gibraltar to two fortress cities that Spanish kings were establishing as beachheads in North Africa.

Despite the Inquisition on the Iberian mainland, the Jewish inhabitants of Ceuta and Melilla were largely left alone for the next five centuries. They were joined by other Sephardi Jews over the centuries.

But their descendants are now leaving the enclaves, which are surrounded by Moroccan territory, and returning to Spain.

"In 10 years, perhaps there will be no one here," said Mesod Bengio, a Jewish perfume merchant in Ceuta.

Ceuta and slightly smaller Melilla are unlike any other part of Spain, where no Jews lived – at least not openly – until religious freedom was reinstated in the 19th century.

Jews in Ceuta and Melilla, which measure about eight and five square miles, respectively, have lived cheek by jowl, but largely in peace, with Christians, Muslims and a small minority of Hindus.

Historical evidence shows Jews living in Ceuta as far back as the 12th century. The Jewish presence in Melilla is said to have started several years after the expulsion with a Spanish aristocrat who had Jewish ancestors.

Ceuta's total population is around 70,000; Melilla is slightly smaller. Though their Jewish communities today are small – some 300 in Ceuta and around 800 in Melilla – they still have functioning Sephardi synagogues, schools and butcher shops. That's down from their peak in the late 1960s, when there were about 600 Jews in Ceuta and 1,000 in Melilla.

However, the communities' future has grown uncertain since the Sept. 11 attacks and Moroccan King Mohamed's renewed claims of sovereignty over the cities fired up young Muslim inhabitants.

In the past year, eggs, rocks and bottles have been thrown at Ceuta's Sephardi synagogue while Jews were at prayer, Palestinian flags and graffiti glorifying Osama bin Laden have been painted on synagogues and churches, and graves in Melilla's Jewish cemetery have been desecrated.

Meanwhile, Moroccan claims over the enclaves have become more vociferous since last summer's crisis with Spain over Perejil Island, an uninhabited island 1½ miles from Ceuta. Moroccan troops occupied the island, but were swiftly kicked off by Spanish soldiers.

Morocco argues that if Spain wants Gibraltar back from Britain – which has held it since the early 18th century – then, by the same logic, it should be prepared to give Ceuta and Melilla to Morocco.

"Now they're Spanish," said another Ceuti Jew, Jose Benchimol. "Who knows what could happen in 10 years?"

Some commentators sketch worst-case scenarios.

"If anyone doesn't think that within a year or two we"ll be at war over Ceuta and Melilla – be it terrorism or open war" – then he "doesn't want to see the obvious," one columnist wrote in Spain's *El Mundo* newspaper.

What might Moroccan rule be like for Jews in the enclaves?

"Morocco has always accepted Jews," said Benchimol, who spent 12 years as vice-president of Ceuta's Jewish community. He noted that there are still Jews in Rabat, Morocco's capital, who "live peacefully and have endured the intifadah without repercussions."

However, many Jews who today live in Ceuta and Melilla fled there from Morocco after the 1967 Six-Day War, when Morocco was swept up in the Arab world's outrage over Israel's victory.

Benchimol echoed Spanish leaders' frequent assertions that Ceuta and Melilla are paragons of interfaith harmony. The leaders of the different faith communities "always wish each other happy holidays," he noted.

Still, he conceded that inter-ethnic harmony doesn't always filter down to the population at large – particularly to Muslim youths who have become radicalized since Sept. 11.

> ***'Who knows what could happen in 10 years?'***

Madrid's chief rabbi, Moshe Ben Dahan, is a former Ceuta resident. He moved there from Morocco with his family after the 1967 Six Day War, when he was 12 years old, and later moved to Madrid after yeshiva studies in Israel.

Ben Dahan downplayed the impact of anti-Semitism in Ceuta and Melilla. Yet he acknowledged that the communities are dwindling – primarily, he said, because there is little future for young Jews in the enclaves, whose economies are dependent on tourism, trade and government subsidies.

"The Jews are going to big cities like Madrid, Malaga and Barcelona where there are more possibilities for educated people to work," the rabbi said. "The young people are leaving and the old are dying."

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Health & Lifestyles

JF&CS takes part in Child Abuse Prevention Month

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Toronto commuters may see volunteers from Jewish Family and Child Service (JF&CS) or other children's aid societies handing out purple ribbons at selected subway stations this month.

The Purple Ribbon Campaign was designed to raise awareness for Child Abuse Prevention Month, which is marking its 10th anniversary in Ontario. On Oct. 1, JF&CS joined the Children's Aid Society of Toronto and the Catholic Children's Aid Society of Toronto at the kick-off event for Child Abuse Prevention Month at Toronto City Hall.

"We want people to be aware that child abuse is very much an issue within all of society," said Howard Hurwitz, JF&CS' director of children's services, in a recent phone interview. "I think there's a tendency to think that as a Jewish community we're immune and somewhat protected from the issue of child abuse, and that's not true."

In fact, JF&CS has about 120 cases of child abuse investigations open at any one time, said Hurwitz. Over the year that ended March 31, 2002, JF&CS completed 474 child protection investigations, of which 81 (17 per cent) were confirmed to have a valid basis for concern about a child being physically, sexually or emotionally harmed.

Although the number of investigations has remained steady for the last several years, said Hurwitz, JF&CS has seen a growing incidence of children experiencing emotional harm.

"We see a lot of families in distress, experiencing stress due to unemployment or being low income. A lot of families are on the verge of separation and divorce, and children are being caught in the crossfire." In some cases, he said, the level of animosity is so high that parents – without realizing it – cause damage to their children.

In those cases JF&CS may become involved in providing counselling or other support services.

The agency has parenting groups, funding for recreational activities for children of low-income families, volunteers who provide respite care for parents, and staff assistance with "child management difficulties" including getting children to bed and dealing with fussy eaters.

"[Parents] resort to desperate things when they're frustrated and don't know what to do," said Hurwitz, commenting on situations that precipitate abuse.

He also noted that, although Canada's criminal code allows parents and teachers to use "reasonable force" without fear of prosecution, JF&CS has taken the position that any kind of hitting is not acceptable. Hitting often escalates, leaves emotional scars, and is not an effective way of correcting behaviour, Hurwitz said. "It teaches a child to be fearful, rather than helping them problem-solve."

People who suspect that a child has been abused can call JF&CS to request an investigation. "They don't have to identify themselves," said Hurwitz. Professionals such as doctors and teachers have a legal obligation to report suspected abuse.

DVI concert dedicated to late founder

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

In tribute to the late Trudi Birger, a Holocaust survivor who founded and directed a dental clinic for underprivileged children in Jerusalem called Dental Volunteers for Israel, this year's DVI Canada's 18th Annual Musical Soirée will be dedicated in her honour.

Birger, who died July 19, pledged during the Holocaust that if she survived, she would do something to better the lot of needy children.

More than 20 years ago, Birger, a microbiologist by training, founded DVI, which offers free dental and preventive care for Jerusalem's underprivileged children. The clinic serves the dental needs of youngsters under 18, regardless of race, colour or religion. Many are new olim who would otherwise not be able to afford dental care.

In honour of her memory, the clinic itself has been renamed "The Trudi Birger Dental Clinic."

Birger, who emigrated to Israel with her husband and mother after the war, was very active at the clinic with patients, their families and staff, as well as the hundreds of volunteer dentists from all over the world who contribute their professional expertise.

The concert which, will be held at the Royal Conservatory of Music, Ettore Mazzoleni Concert Hall, at 273 Bloor St. West on Sunday, Oct. 20 at 7:30 p.m., will feature pianist Shaya Petroff and renowned violinist Moshe Hammer.

Petroff is a well-known pianist who has performed in recital with many outstanding artists, including Ofra Harnoy, Martin Beaver, Catherine Manoukian and Senia Trubashnik.

Hammer, whose unique interpretations and vibrant tones, is a sought-after violinist for solo, concerto and chamber appearances and has performed throughout North America, Europe and Israel.

He has been the music director of the Amadeus Ensemble since 1985.

For more information on the concert or DVI Canada, call the chairman, Stanley Jacobson, 416-781-8607 or e-mail stanleymjacobson@rogers.com.

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Film depicts the struggle between good and evil

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

German director Werner Herzog ventures into unchartered terrain in *Invincible*, now playing at the Carlton Cinemas.

Herzog's previous films, *Aguirre: The Wrath of God* and *Fitzcarraldo,* were set in the steamy jungles of South America, and pitted mere men against the implacable wrath of nature.

But in *Invincible*, based on the all too brief life of a Jewish strongman from eastern Poland, the locale shifts to Weimar Germany on the eve of Adolf Hitler's accession to power.

The movie unfolds over a seven-month period, and essentially deals with the sharply divergent way in which two totally different individuals define themselves.

Zishe Beitbart (Jouko Ahola), a traditional Jew living in a remote village far from the hustle and bustle of a city, is a blacksmith whose tightly ordered world is circumscribed and whose destiny seems preordained.

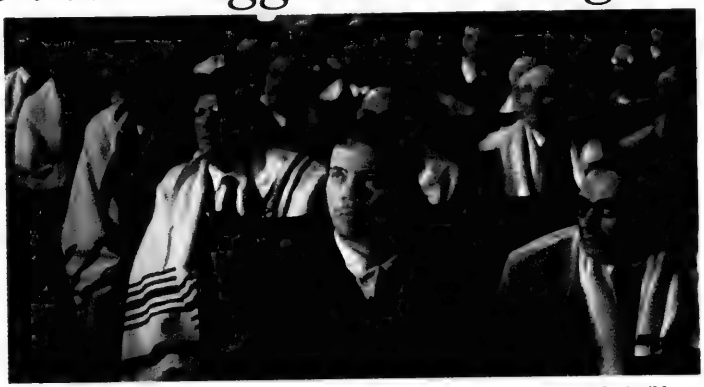
The only anomaly in his otherwise bland persona is his rare, incredible physical strength. In an early scene that establishes the film's story line, Zishe blithely manhandles several bigots who have poked malicious fun at Jews.

Zishe, clearly, is a force to be reckoned with, someone with whom one trifles only at one's peril.

When he handily defeats an unbeaten brute at a circus contest, word travels swiftly about his prowess. A talent agent from a vaudeville house arrives in the shtetl and offers Zishe a chance for employment, maybe even fame, in glittering Berlin.

"For a Jew, this is not the right thing," Zishe's father says. But as he ponders the matter, his father decides that the offer must be a divine sign that Zishe should be more than a humble blacksmith.

"You will go out into the world," he advises his son "But do not forget who you are."



Jouko Ahola (left) is mostly a blank slate as Zishe in Werner Herzog's film Invincible.

Zishe's employer, Erik Jan Hanussen (Tim Roth), supposedly a Danish aristocrat, is a slick, sleazy hypnotist, clairvoyant and mind reader whose entertainment palace caters largely to Nazi storm troopers and and their sympathizers.

"The Jewish name must go at once," Hanussen declares after meeting Zishe. "We will Aryanize you."

Bedecked as a Roman gladiator in a blonde wig, Zishe is renamed Siegfried, a hero of German mythology. The rowdy brownshirts are impressed by his feats of strength, but Zishe is none too comfortable in this overtly racist milieu.

An anti-Semitic routine about a stereotypical Jewish banker making off with war profits leaves him offended, as does Hanussen's public proclamation that Hitler will soon lead Germany to great heights.

As portrayed by Ahola, a Finnish athlete with bulging muscles and an impish appearance, Zishe is a person whose apparent guilelessness conceals a fairly shrewd mind.

And although Zishe is basically unworldly, his eyes fall lovingly upon Marta (Anna Gourari), Hanussen's demure pianist and sex slave. Her dream is to play Beethoven's *Third Piano Concerto* accompanied by a full orchestra and to flee her cruel master's grasp.

Invincible, whose implicit sub-theme is the struggle between good and evil, takes on added poignancy when Zishe, fed up with his disguise as an Aryan and brimming with Jewish pride, startles the audience by disclosing his Jewish background and describing himself as a "new Samson."

The Nazis are disgusted as Siegfried suddenly morphs into Samson. But to the Jewish customers in Hanussen's establishment, Zishe is a godsend.

One can empathize with Herzog's depiction of Nazis as ruffians, but his attempt to paint them also as buffoons is simply overdrawn.

The inevitable clash between Zishe and Hanussen, whose goal is to be Hitler's minister of the occult, surfaces when Zishe, on stage, accuses him of being a fraud.

That accusation leads to a trial – during which Marta scandalizes onlookers by revealing that Hanussen is actually a Czech Jew by the name of Herschel Steinschneider – and to unforseen consequences.

As a drama and a parable, *Invincible* usually works reasonably well. But at times, it inhabits the space of a cold, airless universe devoid of humanity. And while Roth is scintillatingly sinister and Gourari is innocently fetching, Ahola is mostly a blank slate, a mild presence rather than a supernatural force.

The film hints at the dire dangers awaiting European Jews. But in 1933, the Holocaust seems like a faraway catastrophe as *Invincible* heads toward its climax.

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TRAVEL TALK

By BILL GLADSTONE

THE ISRAELI SUPREME COURT

"Justice, justice, shall you pursue." – Deut. 16:20.

Ten years after it opened, Israel's magnificent Supreme Court building still embodies the ideals of a just and humanitarian democratic society, and still remains what my guide, Amir Orly, calls "the pearl of Israeli architecture."

The structure sits in an exclusive and stately setting in central Jerusalem, on the Israeli equivalent to America's Capitol Hill. In a straight line to the south, there's a clear view of the box-like Knesset: the brother-and-sister team of architects, Ram Karmi and Ada Karmi-Melamede, were intent on highlighting the direct connection between the place where legislation is enacted and the place where it is carried out.

Other buildings in the vicinity include the Prime Minister's Office, a new Foreign Affairs building and offices for the environment, health, treasury, social affairs and other ministries. Also close by is the Bank of Israel, which Amir compares to America's Federal Reserve.

"It's built like the Israeli economy," he jokes. "It's an inverted pyramid with too many managers and not enough workers." Yet another impressive neighbour is the Israel Museum, which he considers a smallish counterpart to Washington's Smithsonian Institute.

Despite its bureaucratic function, the Supreme Court building seems refreshingly light, spare and pleasing. We approach along a promenade through an exotic garden featuring olive, cyprus and pomegranate trees as well as lavender, rosemary, hadas and other herbs that are representative of King Solomon's *Song of Songs*.

The sidewalk narrows – as do, supposedly, the paths of justice. Amir points out the building's contrast of shapes, straight and round: justice is circular, to be forever pursued and never fully attained, he explains, whereas the law is supposedly straight and strict. The architecture alludes to a line from the Psalms, "He leads me in the circles of justice."

Other contrasts abound. There are two kinds of stone, the pure, smooth, white stone associated with Tel Aviv and the rough-hewn, old, creamy limestone associated with Jerusalem and known as Jerusalem stone. There is also a lively dialogue between old and new that you sense everywhere in Israel.

"This is a young country, but the Jewish people is a very old people with roots deep in the ground," is how Amir puts it.

The promenade continues indoors, lined by streetlights as though we were still outdoors; the brilliant interplay of outer and inner elements is a symbolic attempt to integrate the court with the society that built it. Likewise, the five courtrooms are usually flooded with daylight "so you feel you are partly outside even when you are inside." No dark, obscure, oppressively heavy Kafkaesque halls of justice here.

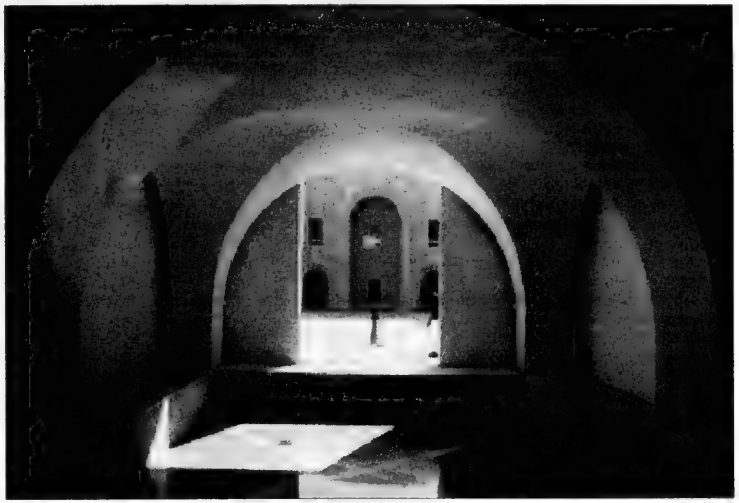
There are cloistered courtyards, elegant domes and familiar references to ancients tombs, temples, gates, archways, towers and walls. Yet despite its complexity, the architecture seems transparently pure and spiritually uplifting. It's poetry in stone.

The building has three levels: the criminals come from below, the judges from above, the public via the promenade on the middle level.

"The idea is that everyone meets in the centre," Amir says. The middle level also features a glorious panoramic view of Jerusalem, in part so the judges never lose sight of the city and its populace.

Nothing quite like the Israeli Supreme Court building could exist in Baghdad, Beijing, Havana, Moscow or any other capital of a repressive regime. For that matter, the building, with its playful homage to a range of regional architectural styles from the Herodian era to the period of the British Mandate, could not have been built in any place except Jerusalem.

Arguably as unique and contextually appropriate as the Temple of olden times, the Israeli Supreme Court is a triumphant architectural embrace of the ideals of democratic humanism by an ancient-modern people whose reverence for justice and jurisprudence is but one of many gifts it has given to mankind.



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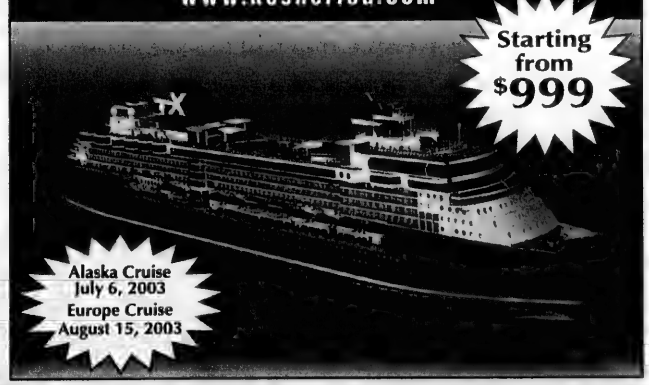

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Filmmaker studies the human side of the intifadah

By JEFF BERCUSON
Special to The CJN

In 2000, when award-winning documentary filmmaker Elad Winkler sat down to watch a home movie he had made eight years earlier, he was shocked by what he saw.

The video, self-recorded in a Much Music *Speaker's Corner* style, shows Winkler, then 12, acting as both an Israeli and a Palestinian. In it, he presents both views of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, conveying the opinions and hardships endured by each side without any bias or partiality.

"I couldn't believe how little had changed since the first intifadah in 1992 [when I made the video]," says Winkler. "Israelis and Palestinians are still fighting and there are no signs of peace in sight. Even more, George Bush is still the president."

It was this lack of progress and his disappointment in the failed peace negotiations that inspired Winkler to tackle the same subject in a new way for his final project as a student in the Ryerson University's film program.

At its core, *Conflict* is the story of one man – Winkler himself – returning to his homeland.

Conflict was presented at many film festivals and won best documentary award at the Montreal World Film Festival; best documentary and runner-up for best film at the Aspirations Film Festival in Waterloo, Ont.; winner of the best film award at the National Student Short Film Festival in Toronto and was a semi-finalist for best documentary at the Angelus Awards in Hollywood.

Though he moved to Canada from Rehovot, a small town 20 minutes east of Tel Aviv, when he was nine, Winkler still feels a strong connection to his place of birth.

"Israel will always be my home," he says. "I was born there, I grew up there and most of my extended family is there. That connection will never go away."

Conflict follows Winkler, who also narrates the film, as he returns to Israel to interview those who have been affected by the violence of the second intifadah.

"The film looks at both the beauty and the ugliness of Israel," says Winkler. "It reveals the human suffering behind the conflict and looks at those who have to live with it every day of their lives."

When Winkler made the initial decision to narrate the film himself, he was concerned that people might accuse him of bias.

His desire for impartiality is clearly shown by the inclusion of testimony from a Palestinian member of Knesset, an Arab-Israeli musician, a Muslim religious leader and a Palestinian teacher, in addition to interviews with Jewish survivors of violence, government officials, artists and civilians.

"I tried extremely hard to incorporate the views of both sides, rather than just show one perspective," Winkler says. "I wanted viewers to walk away from *Conflict* with all the information and then be able to formulate their own thoughts and opinions.

"People are going to see what they want to see," he says. "If you approach the movie with an open mind, you'll see that it is less about sides and more about frustration over a lack of progress."

He believes his skills for diplomacy and understanding every perspective come from the time he spent as a child with Scouts Tzabar, an Israeli youth group.

"Tzabar was a good arena for debate," he says, mentioning trips he took to New York to meet with other Israeli youth.

During those trips, Winkler formulated the political opinions that would remain with him throughout high school and university. As a self-described member of the left wing, he is often critical of the actions of the Israeli government.

"I don't think Israel does everything right. I acknowledge that sometimes [their actions] may be necessary, but rarely are they helpful to the peace process," he says. "Too often, [Israeli politicians] think only in the short term, with only the goal of retaliation in mind."

Despite these sentiments, Winkler had planned to join the Israeli army if he didn't get accepted to Ryerson. In fact, he cites his decision to remain in school as another of his reasons for making *Conflict*.

"I felt a little guilty about not joining the army, because as a citizen, it is something you must do," he admits. "Instead I just decided to make a film that would educate people about the conflict."

Winkler plans to take the film on tour and show it at film festivals in Toronto, Montreal and Los Angeles, including at the Montreal International Film Festival. In addition to the festival circuit, *Conflict* will be screened in schools as an educational tool.

"Most people don't know too much about the conflict," he says. "They see it as being repetitive with always the same provocation, just with different people. This film is trying to promote higher levels of awareness and tolerance."

Winkler, who funded *Conflict* himself, is in the early stages of starting a production company. He is also busy planning his next film, which he says will definitely include Israel in some manner.

"Right now, I'm thinking about doing a film on the army," he says. "Seeing the effects of service, as well as what people do once they leave, would make a great film."

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Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!

The Allan Sherman Hit Musical Comedy

The vouchers are redeemable for tickets for
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UP TO AND INCLUDING
Saturday, November 30, 2002 at 8:00 p.m.
at The New Yorker Theatre, 651 Yonge Street
*Subject to Availability

Rules: To be eligible to win a pair of vouchers to **Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh,** please print your name, address and daytime phone number on a piece of paper along with the answer to this question:

What is the name of the camp that the original song was based on?
(Hint: the answer can be found in the photograph printed in their advertisement elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by 1 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 1/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Mon., Nov. 4/02 at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: 'Hello Muddah' Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 'Hello Muddah' Contest, 416-391-0949.

Employees and family members of Bob Benia Productions, The New Yorker Theatre or *The CJN* are not eligible to enter.

Message to *CJN* Snowbirds

If you will be spending all or part of this winter outside of Canada, there are three options available to you regarding delivery of your *Canadian Jewish News*.

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2/ Advise our Circulation Department to suspend delivery until your return to Canada with no weeks lost in your subscription period.

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Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

CBC DOCUMENTARY ON SPEED DATING

Ilan Saragosti, a Jewish Montrealer of Sephardi origin, has lived for the last three years in Vancouver, where he made *A Match Made in Seven*, an offbeat documentary about Jewish speed-dating in Vancouver.

The documentary illustrates the crazy tactics needed and the lengths people are willing to go to meet that special someone.

It follows four single 30-something Jews determined to find their "perfect match" and tracks their results after the big night. It recently won an award for Best Documentary at the Temecula International Film Festival in California.

CBC Newsworld's *Rough Cuts*, Oct. 22, 10 p.m. Repeat broadcast, Oct. 26, 10 p.m.

* * *

Komedy Kabaret: The Morris "Nafty" Naftolin Komedy Kabaret is meant for people who like to smile, laugh and tell or hear good jokes. Amateur comedians and raconteurs are invited to claim their five minutes of fame on the cabaret's stage, and everyone is invited to enjoy an afternoon of laughter and entertainment.

Bernard Betel Centre, Auditorium. Free admission; refreshments. 1003 Steeles Ave. W. (west of Bathurst). Oct. 24, 2:30 p.m. 416-225-2112, Ruth Cohen.

* * *

New Sherman Offering: "Risk is necessary" is a credo of the local Necessary Angel Theatre Company, whose current season features a sneak preview of a work in development by Toronto playwright Jason Sherman, who has never shied away from taking risks.

Sherman's new piece, *The Message*, attempts to weave "a compelling portrait of the last days of Marshall McLuhan." Other plays in the season (which begins Oct. 24) are *Swollen Tongues*, *Last Romantics* and *Tamara*. *The Message* runs at Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgman Ave., Nov. 22 to 24. 416-531-1827 or 416-703-4006.

* * *

Jewish Stamps: Newly produced by Schreiber Publishing of Rockville, Md., *The Jewish World in Stamps: 4000 Years of Jewish Civilization on Postage Stamps* is a large hardcover book that shows more than 2,000 stamps in full colour from some 70 countries, delineating Jewish history from Biblical times to the present.

Just about every major personality and event in the Hebrew Scripture has evidently been featured on a stamp. The variety of stamps featuring Jewish themes and personalities is surprising: Micronesia, for instance, issued a stamp on **Abraham Joshua Heschel**, Togo on **Elie Wiesel** and Grenada on **Leonard Bernstein**.

Dozens of countries have issued Einstein commemorative stamps, and synagogues have appeared on multitudes of stamps from China to the Dutch Antilles.

This colourful 288-page volume by **Ronald Eisenberg** is due in stores later this month.

* * *

At the Galleries

• The Narrative Figure, a sculpture exhibition, is on view in Hazelton Lanes, 55 to 87 Hazelton Ave. Rotunda, lower level. Until Oct. 22, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• Beach Studio Tour is a show and sale of original artwork by 17 area artisans in 11 studios. Oct. 18 to 20. Tour card, 416-690-2680.

• Some of My Best Friends Are People, an exhibit of works by social activist **Abe Peters**, is on view at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Oct. 20 to Nov. 10 by appointment (416-789-5502). Opening reception, Oct. 20, 2:30 to 5 p.m.

• **David Halberstam's** The Fifties is an exhibit of hula hoops, poodle skirts, tail fins, televisions and other artifacts from that receding decade. Robert McLaughlin Gallery, 72 Queen St., Oshawa. Free admission; refreshments. Every Tuesday through Nov. 19. 905-576-3000.

• Probably the most valuable item of Judaica ever to come to auction, a 1331 illuminated manuscript called the *Machzor Nuremberg*, valued at $2-$3 million (US), is to be offered in a Judaica sale at Sotheby's in Tel Aviv on Oct. 30. An auction of international and Israeli art by leading Israeli and European artists follows on Oct. 31.

• Les Couleurs de France is a showing of new paintings by **Elyssa Wortzman**. BVD, 1366 Yonge St. Oct. 24 to Jan. 30, 2003.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• City Centre Theatre Productions presents *The Elephant Man*, by **Bernard Pomerance**, directed by **Andy Pandoff**. Adults $20. Oct. 24 to Nov. 2. 416-483-2626.

• Mental Hygiene, a festival of forgotten classroom guidance films from 1941 to 1961, runs at the Bloor Cinema, Oct. 25 to 27.

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After Losing 47 Pounds Amy Says...

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My name is Amy Ransom. I live with my husband and daughter. When my husband returned from six months at sea I was 47 pounds lighter. Now he can't keep his hands off me! This is my story. It's true and factual.

I lost 47 pounds with hypnosis. 6 pounds the first week. 15 pounds the first month. My dress size plunged from an embarrassing 16 to an elegant size 10. I'm actually 7 pounds less than my original goal. It was that easy. I feel great.

Amy Ransom before Positive Changes Hypnosis

Overweight hurts. I should know; I was heavy at 6 years old. I tried everything. Shakes, prepackaged foods, support groups and stupid diets. With every diet I only lost more self-control.

Food was my life. I lived on fast food. I made excuses for buying junk food. I once baked chocolate chip cookies to send to my husband. Only half the batch made it. The rest went to my bulging hips and thighs.

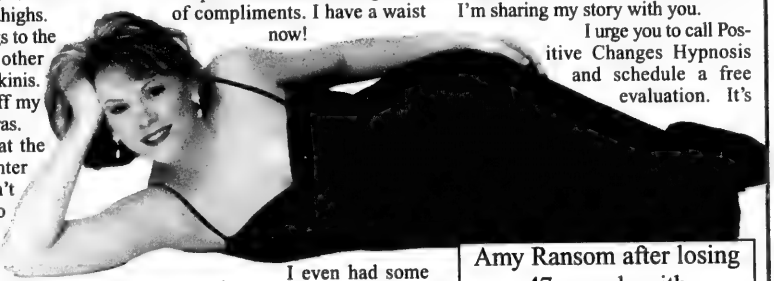
I used to avoid outings to the beach. I resented the other wives in their skimpy bikinis. I wouldn't even take off my shorts. I hid from cameras.

Picture this. We're at the playground. My daughter crawls into a tube. I can't fit. My husband has to go after her. That was when I knew I was out of control... way out of control!

I heard about Positive Changes Hypnosis on the radio. My husband was skeptical. I was desperate. I decided to give it a try. I went to the free screening with hope and an open mind. There was no high-pressure sales talk. My consultant explained hypnosis. How the program worked. What kind of results I could expect. I signed up.

I noticed changes after my very first session. My confidence skyrocketed. I did it without stress. No cravings, NO DIETS, NO DRUGS. I didn't starve myself, count calories, attend group meetings or weigh food. I learned self-hypnosis. I enjoy 100% control over my eating behaviour.

I feel proud and attractive. I get lots of compliments. I have a waist now!



Amy Ransom after losing 47 pounds with Positive Changes Hypnosis

I even had some boudoir pictures taken. I couldn't believe it was me posing for the camera. My husband loved the photos! It's great to feel desirable.

My body is in better shape now than when I was 18. I'm full of energy. I love being active with my daughter. We can run, play and roll around on the floor. I'm a better role model for her.

Hypnosis has improved every aspect of my life. I feel good just walking down the street.

Positive Changes Hypnosis delivered on their promises. My weight loss was fast, easy and effortless. No hassle. No fuss. I'm walking, talking, living proof hypnosis delivers results.

The day I greeted my husband at the ship was the proudest of my life. He kept looking me over from head to toe and muttering, "Wow!" I know he's proud of me. I can see it in his shining eyes. I couldn't be more satisfied. I'm convinced most anyone can get the results I did. That's why I'm sharing my story with you.

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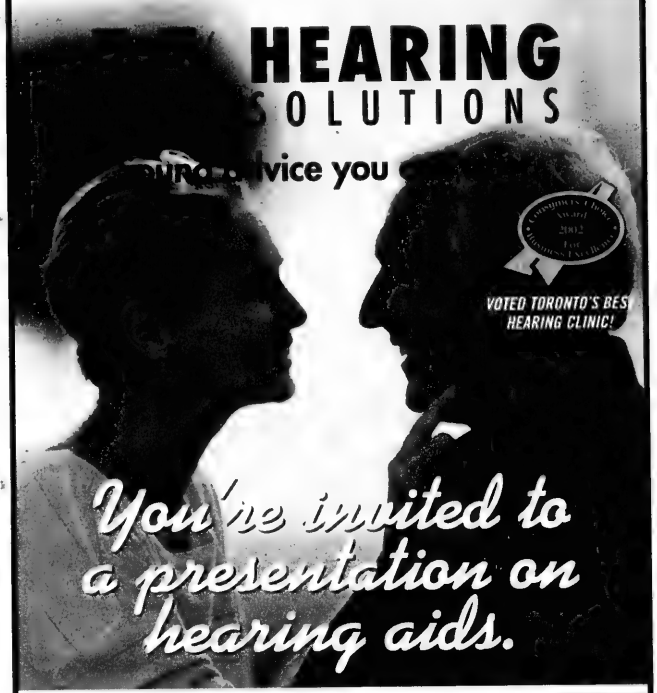

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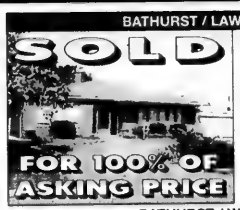

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280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bridge players wanted. Small money game. Nice atmosphere. Call Sam @ 416-921-3216.

330 OBITUARIES

KLARMAN, Alexander – on Sept. 24, 2002.
KUSHNER, Minnie – on Sept. 25, 2002.
BEN-ARIE, Samuel – on Sept. 25, 2002, late of 100 Canyon Ave.
YOUNG, Hyman – on Sept. 25, 2002, late of 80 Antibes Dr.
STERN, Gladys – on Sept. 26, 2002, late of 177 Haddington Ave.
PERL, Magadalena – on Sept. 26, 2002.
ELKAIM, Messoda – on Sept. 26, 2002.
CAMPEANU, Arnold – on Sept. 27, 2002.
TAUB, Sol – on Sept. 29, 2002, late of 8 Newbury Lane.
GOLDMAN, Anita – on Sept. 28, 2002, late of 133 Torresdale Ave.
LEVI, Rose – on Sept. 29, 2002, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
WELLESZ, Leslie – on Sept. 30, 2002.
BRICKMAN, Woolf – on Sept. 28, 2002, late of 561 Avenue Rd.
SCHEININGER, Albert – on Sept. 29, 2002, late of 3892 Bathurst St.
RUBINSTEIN, Samuel – on Sept. 28, 2002.
POLLOCK-KOLLINS, Thea Honey – on Sept. 30, 2002, late of 325 Crosby Ave.
ZIEDENBERG, Jacob – on Oct. 3, 2002, late of 109 Dell Park Ave.
NEFSKY, Joseph – on Oct. 2, 2002, late of 3 Concord Place.
DELNICK, Benjamin – on Oct. 4, 2002.
SOCKET, Anna – on Oct. 4, 2002, late of 159 Yellowood Circle.
ROSENTHAL, Bessie – on Oct. 6, 2002.
ASCHAIEK, Tufaha – on Oct. 6, 2002, late of 3705 Bathurst St.
LOBL, Lajos – on Oct. 6, 2002.
DRUKMALER, Yette – on Oct. 6, 2002, late of 569 Sheppard Ave. W.
TAUB, Sol – on Sept. 28, 2002, late of 8 Newbury Lane.
SCHNEIDERMAN, Howard – on Oct. 1, 2002, late of 625 York Hill Blvd.
KORCZAK, Rachel – on Sept. 30, 2002, late of 135 Antibes Dr.
KATZ, Rywa – on Oct. 1, 2002.
HORWITZ, Maurice – on Oct. 1, 2002, late of 4005 Bayview Ave.
MILLER, Martin – on Oct. 1, 2002.
STERNHEIM, Schaja – on Oct. 2, 2002, late of 229 Carmichael Ave.
SCHLEIFER, Lila – on Oct. 2, 2002, late of 101 Franklin Ave.
TOBE, Freda – on Oct. 2, 2002, late of 550 Cummer Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

PAYNE, Garry – on Aug. 29, 2002, late of 20 Kimbark Blvd.
LEVY, Florye – on Aug. 30, 2002, late of 135 Caribou Rd.
FREED, Andrew – on Aug. 27, 2002, late of 137 Woodcrest Dr.
ZEIDENBERG, Issie – on Aug. 31, 2002, late of 795 Vaughan Rd.
TARTER, Rachel – on Aug. 31, 2002, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
WHITE, Jean – on Aug. 31, 2002, late of c/o 500 Avenue Rd.
FOOT, Martin – on Sept. 1, 2002, late of 128 Kingston Rd.
SINCLAIR, Gary – on Aug. 29, 2002, late of 3870 Ponderosa Lane.
FRADKIN, Yuri – on Sept. 3, 2002, late of 4300 Bathurst St.
WEREK, Chaim – on Sept. 2, 2002, late of 74 North Meadow Cres.
STREBINGER, Frieda – on Sept. 3, 2002, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
WEINER, Jacob – on Sept. 2, 2002, late of 47 Oakwood Ave.
BORNSTEIN, Marie Calp – on Sept. 3, 2002, late of 20 Guildwood Parkway.
LOTHE, Tilly – on Sept. 5, 2002, late of 33 Wilmington Ave.
KUPFERSTEIN, Deborah – on Sept. 5, 2002, late of 45 Fraser St.
ARNOLD, Ralph – on Sept. 7, 2002, late of 18 Limcombe Dr.
RAMM, Frances – on Sept. 7, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
HERMAN, Shirley – on Sept. 5, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SINGER, Bella – on Sept. 6, 2002, late of 1 Northwestern Ave.
COHEN, Susan – on Sept. 8, 2002, late of 75 Weldrick East.
KRIVEL, Beatrice – on Sept. 8, 2002, late of 21 Mayfair Ave.
WEINTRAUB, Susan – on Sept. 9, 2002, late of 629 Briar Hill Ave.
SHARPE, Adele – on Sept. 9, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
WELLS, David – on Sept. 9, 2002, late of 55A Avenue Rd.
WEISS, Shelley – on Sept. 10, 2002, late of 517 Melrose Ave.
GILBERT, Clara – on Sept. 12, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
COOPER, Fred – on Sept. 12, 2002, late of 31 Kirkland Blvd.
MILCHMAN, Edith – on Sept. 15, 2002, late of 10 Torresdale Ave.
SHERMAN, Sadie – on Sept. 15, 2002, late of 18 Romfield Circuit.
WISEMAN, Doris – on Sept. 14, 2002, late of 5444 Yonge St.
STARR, Harry – on Sept. 14, 2002, late of 75 Wynford Heights Cres.
WATT, Bruce – on Sept. 16, 2002, late of 120 Torresdale Ave.
WITTENBERG, Bill – on Sept. 17, 2002, late of 7420 Bathurst St.

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330 OBITUARIES

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330 OBITUARIES

KNELLER, Irving – on Sept. 17, 2002, late of 22 Clarisa Dr.
DOERR, Gertrude – on Sept. 17, 2002, late of 139 Midland Ave.
WEINSTEIN, Freda – on Sept. 21, 2002, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
RADOVSKI, Gita – on Sept. 20, 2002, late of 4300 Bathurst St.
ROTIN, Louis – on Sept. 20, 2002, late of 39 Covewood St.
SLATER, Vera – on Sept. 21, 2002, late of 28 Empress Ave.
SCHWARTZ, Morris – on Sept. 21, 2002, late of 3892 Bathurst St.
LUDWIG, Katz – on Sept. 22, 2002, late of New York, N.Y.
ZADNOFF, Frank – on Sept. 23, 2002, late of 412 Richview Ave.
WOLFE, Pearl – on Sept. 23, 2002, late of 29 Avenal Dr.
PEARL, Sylvia – on Sept. 22, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
FREEMAN, Sharon – on Sept. 24, 2002, late of 750 Briar Hill Ave.
LANGER, Pearl – on Sept. 23, 2002, late of 66 Collier St.
KOVEN, Jonathan – on Sept. 23, 2002, late of 22 Cavotti Cres.
SALSBERG, Bea – on Sept. 24, 2002, late of 1 Northwestern Ave.
BRESLAW, Lily – on Sept. 25, 2002, late of 17 Hoover Dr.
GORMAN, Elissa – on Sept. 24, 2002, late of 79 Braemar Ave.
LEBO, Louise – on Sept. 25, 2002, late of 46 Oxton Ave.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

GOREN, Yetta – on Sept. 7, 2002, late of 351 Christie St.
RAPP, Helen – on Sept. 11, 2002, late of 15 Shalimar Blvd.
LEWIS, Samuel – on Sept. 12, 2002, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
GREEN, Leonard – on Sept. 16, 2002, late of 24 Harrington Cres.
KRIKST, Miriam – on Sept. 16, 2002, late of 640 Sheppard Ave. E.

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
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will take place
Sunday, Oct. 20th, 10:30 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MOE EMER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 20th, 9:45 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Beth Sholom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
JANKA FISCHER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 20th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St. N. of Major Mackenzie
B'nai Torah Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BERNARD HALPERN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 20th, 11:00 a.m.
Roselawn Cemetery
Shomrei Shaboth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
MOLLY KLEIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 20th, 1:00 p.m.
Lambton Cemetery
Lagover Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
FANNIE RUTH WOLFSON ז"ל
will take place
Sun., Oct. 20th, 1p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
986 Wilson Ave.
New Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument in loving memory of the late
ARTHUR REUVEN SHOIHET ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 20th, 2:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Shomrai Shabboth Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

TO PLACE AN UNVEILING NOTICE PLEASE CALL AT LEAST 14 DAYS PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THE UNVEILING

336 CARD OF THANKS

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our friends and relatives for your support, heartfelt sympathy and generous donations during our time of bereavement for the loss of a dear and beloved wife, mother, grandmother, aunt and sister

Raymonde Alloul ז"ל

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335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument in loving memory of
SHLOMO (SAM) LAUFER ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, October 27th at 12:30 p.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Emunah Shlema Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
Elli Podoleski ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, October 20th at 12:00 noon
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Shaarei Shomayim Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Coast to Coast

WINDSOR NEGEV DINNER: Journalist, author and lecturer Mort Crim was keynote speaker at the JNF 2002 Windsor Negev Dinner which honoured five couples for their community leadership and dedication to public service. Seen here (from left) are honourees Ted and Sharon Hochberg, Fred and Marcey Katzman, Mort and Sharon Kaplan, Harriet and Milton Whiteman, Beverley and Jerry Alexis, with campaign chair Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Plaut, who is presenting the Negev Dinner citation to the couples.

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women seeking men

CALL ME
Hi, I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs old. I'm a warm person, honest, very open, out going, good listener and good to communicate with. I also friendly, and I enjoy people. Looking for a widow 54-62 for friendship first. **AD#1403**

MAKE YOU LAUGH
I am a professional woman in my mid 50's. I have been a widow over a year and would like to meet someone. This person must be someone who's single and professional, with whom I can share my interests with. Preferrably someone who lives in metro-toronto. I am outgoing, funny to be with and easy to talk to. **AD#1461**

QUIET TIMES
I am widow in my 50's and I'm starting over. I'm a non smoker, friendly, down to earth, love cooking and baking. I enjoy romantic, quiet times listening to music and sitting in front of a fire. I would to like to meet a widower 55-60. **AD#1344**

WARM SMILE
I am a Jewish widow, and would like to meet a widower 55-63, likes music, old movies. I'm a caring and sharing, romantic, warm person, who's down to earth and likes to smile a lot. **AD#1191**

YOUNG AT HEART
I'm a youthful, 58 yr old single female who's warm, kind and compassionate. I don't smoke and I'm financially secure. I would like to meet someone to share interests with like going to movies, the theatre, walking and other interests. Looking for loving partner to enjoy life with. **AD#1032**

A REAL FIND
I'm a smart, kind hearted, loyal, very very funny female who's cute, youthful, physically fit, & professionally successful with no strings, I'm looking to meet a wonderful Jewish man 60-68 yrs of age to share, enjoy & enrich our life experiences. **AD#1195**

A MENSCH FOR ALL SEASONS
Michelle is an engaging, fun-loving, energetic, fanatically-fit widow with a zest for life & a passion for work & family. Friends say she is attractive & fun to be with. She is looking for a mensch. (by definition a life loving man of integrity) **AD#1012**

NEW LIFE WITH YOU
I'm a widow who would like to rebuild a new life with a widower or a single male 54-60 yrs. I'm active, outgoing and down to earth. I enjoy life, non smoker. I like art, adventure & travel. Seeking a mature relationship. **AD#1383**

LET'S MEET
Hi, I'm a sincere lady with a warm smile. I'm kind, caring & compassionate. I'm also honest & have a good sense of humour. I love animals & seek a gentleman for companionship between 60-65 yrs. I also enjoy long walks, dancing, theatre & music. **AD#1447**

FINER THINGS
Hi, I'm an attractive professional woman in my early 50's. I'm 5' 6", red hair and have 2 grown wonderful children. I'm sincere, respectful, caring, romantic and fun loving. I enjoy cooking, fine dining, dancing, theatre, opera, travel, walks in the park, and I love to sing. **AD#1402**

LET'S MEET FOR COFFEE
Hi, I'm 39 yr old single female. I'm seeking a male 39-49 yrs, who's attractive, hard working like myself, and easy going. Looking for friendship, hopefully leading to a relationship. I like dancing, going out to eat & movies. **AD#1289**

STARTING OVER
I'm a widow in my 50's, who would like to start over. I'm a caring & sharing individual, a good listener, non smoker, positive person w/ a smile. I enjoy life & people and humour. Would like to meet a single man in his 50's w/ similar interests. **AD#1236**

SPEND TIME TOGETHER
I'm a widow looking for a widower between 50-60 yrs. I enjoy music and reading. I'm very open, caring, romantic, enjoy country drives and holding hands. Looking for a warm person with a great smile, and sense of humour with similar interests. **AD#1380**

STREETCAR NAMED...
Hello my name is Stella, looking for a serious relationship w/ a honest man who is intelligent & has a sense of humour who likes the outdoors, music, travel & many other things. I enjoy outdoor activities, I'm sincere, outspoken person. Seeks quality time with someone. **AD#1460**

PLAY GAMES WITH YOU
Hi, I'm a tall, attractive, Jewish woman, 39 yrs, independent, honest, down to earth, love to read, do crossword puzzles, play scrabble, dance, long walks, I'm looking for a tall Jewish, warm, intelligent & kind man who knows what he wants out of life. **AD#1152**

SIMPLE THINGS
I'm a slim, shapely, very attractive, 50'ish, single Jewish female who's 5' 4" tall, dark hair & eyes, a great smile, warm & affectionate. As far as interests are concerned, the simple pleasures of life are the very best. For me it's laughter, good conversation, sipping wine at a cafe. **AD#1029**

SOULMATE SEARCHING
33 yr old female, with long brown hair & eyes, very good looking, out going, charming, loves to have fun. Looking for a down to earth attractive male between 30-40 yrs, non smoker, who shares same interests as I. I'm looking for my soul mate, if your interested please respond. **AD#1406**

DESTINATION: LOVE
Hi, if your interested in meeting a special single Jewish female, baggage free, has air miles & loves to travel you've answered the right ad. I'm a very attractive, slim, shapely, fun loving, 50'ish, single Jewish female with a warm smile, integrity & many interests. **AD1061**

EUROPEAN WIDOW
European, retired widow, is looking for a loving relationship w/ widower or divorced man, loves music, art , swimming, walking & tennis. **AD#1182**

men seeking women

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Hello my name is Michael. I'm a 41 yr accountant, and have been working for many years. In my spare time during the summer I enjoy playing baseball, bike riding and hiking. I also enjoy getting together with friends. I'm looking to meet a young lady with similar goals, which hopefully leads to long term relationship. **AD#1370**

PROFESSIONAL MALE
Hi I'm a single 40 yr old male, professional, physically fit easy going, who enjoys meeting people and have a joy for life. I'm looking for a female 30-40 yrs, who meets my common interests. **AD#1286**

DOCTOR OF LOVE
My name is Dan, I'm 51 yrs and work as a medical doctor. I have 2 daughters that live with me and I'm a devoted father. I'm slim, fit, energetic, intense, and I'm always looking to learn new things. I take course most of the time. Interests range from art, philosophy, foreign languages & ballroom dancing. **AD#1293**

INCURABLE ROMANTIC
Jewish male, non smoker, in his 70's going on 50. A university graduate, 5' 8", 145 lbs. I have many varied interests including theatre, music, dancing, the arts, tennis, golf, dining, travelling. I'm also an incurable romantic & social drinker with a great zest for life. **AD#1235**

ROMANTIC MAN
Hi, I'm a Jewish male, late 50's, who's looking for a sharing & caring woman, non smoking, 45-58yrs. I'm a romantic who likes long walks & enjoys nature, quiet evenings cuddling together at fireside. **AD#1478**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
I'm a man in my 50's w/ blue eyes, dark brown hair, who would like to meet a woman, also in her 50's. She should enjoy travel, museums, the arts & musical theatre. Looking for someone who can share lots of laughs w/ a good sense of humour. Home cooked meals would be a definite bonus. **AD#1234**

HEALTHY WEALTHY
Hi my name is Arnon, I'm a white executive living in Thornhill. I look in the mirror & I see a healthy young 1939 model w/ no deficiencies, I'm told that I'm not bad to look at either. I've got salt & pepper hair, beautiful blue eyes, slim., 5' 10" and I have good teeth too. My passions are the sun & sea. **AD#1005**

DO YOU JUBU?
Physically & spiritually active male, 33 yrs old. Seeks non materialistic female with insight, aged between 25-35 yr old for mindful & compassionate relationship. **AD#1315**

FRIENDSHIP & LOVE
Single Jewish male of Indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest. Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family. **AD#1459**

UNEMPLOYED BUM
Are you looking for a ugly, short, fat, bald, unemployed bum? Well keep looking because I'm none of the above. I'm honest, successful, good looking with no dependents. I love gourmet foods, wine tasting, movies & I'm a very good cook. Seeking a woman between 38-48 yrs. **AD#1227**

PICTURE THIS
I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more. **AD#1442**

LET'S MEET
Hi my name is Marvin, I'm a warm & thoughtful person, single. 60 yrs old and I live in GTA. I'm a romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who loves to travel, watch movies, take long walks, rides in the country. I also enjoy great conversation, nice quiet times at homes, and I love to read. **AD#1074**

FUN GUY
Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things. Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading, Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands. **AD#1368**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1178**

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Koufax's legacy lives on

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The ball rolled off his fingers with such velocity and spin that when it met the wind, the air cried.

Marilyn Pink, a biomechanical researcher in Los Angeles, performed an analysis of Sandford (Sandy) Koufax's curve ball and found that it was biomechanically perfect.

Koufax, the greatest Jewish major league baseball player since Hank Greenberg, was like a meteor streaking across the heavens.

In 12 seasons with the Dodgers, first in Brooklyn and then in Los Angeles, Koufax compiled an astonishing record.

From 1962 to 1966, the year he retired due to an arthritic arm, he led the National League in earned run average and in strikeouts. He was the first pitcher to throw four no-hitters, including a perfect game in 1965, and he won the Cy Young Award as best pitcher three times. In 1972, he became the youngest person ever to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. *Sports Illustrated*, in 1999, named him athlete of the century.

And lest we forget, the Brooklyn-born Koufax achieved iconic status, among Jewish fans at least, when, on Oct. 6, 1965, he refused to pitch a World Series game because it fell on Yom Kippur.

Jane Leavy, a former sports writer for the *Washington Post*, has written a literate and appealing biography of Koufax, a publicity-shy man who abhorred self-promotion and declined to live off his past.

The book, *Sandy Koufax: A Lefty's Legacy* (HarperCollins), is an unauthorized biography.

Leavy admits she had problems writing it, given the nature of Koufax's personality and his refusal to be interviewed.

How, she wonders in the preface, "do you write about someone who would prefer not to be written about, a public person who has chosen to lead a private life but whose public deeds demand consideration?"

In a word, with difficulty.

Despite these impediments and the fact Leavy never actually saw Koufax in action, she has produced an intriguing and nuanced account of his life.

Basketball, believe it or not, was really Koufax's passion. His dream was to play for the New York Knicks.

Koufax's record in his first three years in the majors was dismal: nine wins and 10 losses.

By the end of the 1960 season, Koufax had won 36 games and had lost 40 – "a study in mediocrity," Leavy observes – and he was ready to quit.

Fortune smiled on Koufax in 1961, when he broke Christy Mathewson's 58-year-old single-season strikeout record and pitched his first no-hitter, a 5-0 triumph over the New York Mets.

From 1962 onward, he was virtually unbeatable, leading the majors in every category: most wins (111), lowest earned-run-average (1.95), winning percentage (.766), strikeouts (1,444), shutouts (33) and no-hitters (four).

As well, he won the World Series Most Valuable Player Award twice and was named Player of the Decade.

But until his decision to refrain from pitching on Yom Kippur, he was merely a terrific ballplayer, a teammate recalls. After Yom Kippur, he became a symbol.

As Leavy puts it: "By refusing to pitch, he... reinforced Jewish pride... a feat as prodigious as any he accomplished on the field."

Now close to 70, Koufax remains a legend in his own time, a classy guy who burnished America's national pasttime.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 51.

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Bridge is a member of a large family of card games that involve trick-taking. In various countries (notably Russia, England, and Italy), a number of trick-taking card games have been played for centuries. In 1925, Harold S. Vanderbilt defined the rules and scoring of contract bridge. He must have done something right as the rules and scoring of the game have remained largely unchanged for over 75 years. Contract bridge has been the most popular card game in the world for most of its history.

Bridge with Gitelman

Vanderbilt was not only the man who pioneered contract bridge, he was also one of the game's finest players. This deal (which took place in 1929) features Vanderbilt in action as declarer.

NORTH	EAST
♠ AK8	♠ J93
♥	♥ J82
♦ AK86	♦ J97
♣ AKJ1082	♣ Q954
WEST	**SOUTH**
♠ Q6	♠ 107542
♥ K106	♥ AQ97543
♦ Q105432	♦
♣ 76	♣ 3

The bidding saw Vanderbilt end up as the declarer in 6♠. West's opening lead was the ♦4. Cover the East-West hands and think about how you would play this hand as the declarer before reading on.

6♠ is not an especially good contract, but Vanderbilt found the only line of play that would ensure his slam provided that trumps broke 3-2 and clubs broke no worse than 4-2. He made the unusual (but critical) play at trick one of winning the opening lead in the dummy while discarding his singleton club!

Vanderbilt continued by ruffing a club in his hand, crossing to the dummy in trumps, and ruffing another club to establish that suit. Then he played a second round of trump to the dummy. When both defenders followed, the slam became a sure thing.

Vanderbilt started playing winning clubs from the dummy and East was welcome to ruff in with the ♠J whenever he wanted. That would be the only trick for the defense. The dummy would be high except for 2 diamond losers. Declarer could ruff one of those losers with his last trump and use his ♥A to take care of the dummy's last small diamond.

Nowadays the average player bids at least as effectively as the top experts did in the 1920s, but even in the 21st century, Vanderbilt's play of this deal still qualifies as exceptional.

Fred Gitelman is one of Canada's most successful tournament bridge players. His Las Vegas-based company, Bridge Base Inc., is a world leader in the development of educational software for bridge. You can find out more about Fred and his company through www.bridgebase.com. Fred's columns will appear once a month in the Canadian Jewish News. Questions and comments from readers are welcome, but we cannot guarantee a personal response.

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On being a matchmaker

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

The first Torah portion, Bereshit, states that "a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh." I was amazed to learn that a statement of closeness between a husband and wife appears in the same portion as the creation of the world.

It would seem that "becoming one flesh" is integral and dramatically important to the creation story. Clearly, Judaism puts a lot of stock in the importance of the relationship of love and marriage.

Unfortunately, the strong emphasis on finding one's soulmate can also be very distressing, because the significance Judaism places on marriage and partnering often puts enormous stress on those who are single.

This often manifests itself in an excruciating ache of loneliness. Some say the emptiness of being single is harder on women than men because of the pressure of the "biological clock." This might be true; however, loneliness is a throbbing black hole in the gut, for both genders.

With all the stress placed on "becoming one flesh" in Judaism and the Jewish community, an exciting and worthwhile industry has cropped up – matchmaking.

Yenta, in *Fiddler on the Roof* was a parody of the meddling matchmaker we all know and try to keep our distance from. *Crossing Delancy*, a Hollywood film starring Amy Irving, emphasized the Jewish grandmother's need to marry off her granddaughter and the anxiety people go through when seeking their bashert (soulmate).

One of the things we might want to commit to in the New Year, therefore, is to try to bring together two soulmates, by becoming a "nouveau-matchmaker," a sensitive shadchan.

It is important that we consider this colourful grassroots hobby, because the attempt to find a marriage-partner is a difficult one. The difficulty might stem from the quiet, demure Canadian mentality, and/or from the demographical challenge of finding the right spouse from the limited number of community members who are the right fit.

So, how do you become a matchmaker? There are shadchanim in our community who could give workshops on the art of matchmaking. If you know a matchmaker, ask him or her for a few tips. By the way, he or she might mention "shadchanim gelt" – the matchmaker's fee. Being a shadchan can be lucrative!

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Here are some tips of my own. Carry a pen and pad with you at all times. When you meet a single person who is interested in dating, write down the name and phone number. Create your own special file, making notes about the person. For example, "She is a poet," or "He loves travelling." Over time, potential matches will pop out at you.

Base your choices on character traits and interests. People are compatible, generally, because of shared desires and worldviews, not because they are single.

Be diligent. Invite singles for Shabbat or for dinner. Take a risk and don't shy away from putting the love deal together. Many people say, "No, I don't want to get involved and be responsible for a bad relationship." Ultimately, the individuals you match up will make their own decisions about the future. Your role is simply to make the match.

Mostly, don't be afraid to offer assistance. Many single people will really appreciate the help.

Loneliness is tough, especially in the Jewish community, where events, holidays and general culture are designed to centre around the family. Be a matchmaker! When you facilitate a bond of love, you become a partner in it.

Consider that God spent as much energy bringing together man and woman as he did creating the heavens and the earth. This is an incredible concept, and speaks to the depth of love, adoration and companionship within Judaism.

Be a matchmaker. Create love – because you can't create the heavens.

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1 cup butterscotch chips

Preheat oven to 350°F. Sprinkle apple with a little lemon juice to prevent browning. Cream margarine and sugar until sugar is dissolved. Blend in eggs, sour cream, milk and vanilla. Sift flour & salt together in a separate bowl and gradually add into creamed mixture. Add grated apples and butterscotch chips. Spread batter into 9" square baking pan which has been coated lightly with cooking spray. Bake 45 minutes or until browned. Cook and cut into 24 squares.

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See opposite page for this week's specials.

About Life

Dear Ella,

My husband and I are miffed about the actions of two close friends of ours. They are having a bar mitzvah and have not invited us.

Let me give you a bit of background so you can understand. We have been friends with these people for close to 20 years. They have attended all of our simchahs and we have attended all of theirs – until now. We have small children the same age and belong to the same playgroup.

Granted we don't see them as much as we used to, but both our families have grown to have very busy schedules. That shouldn't mean that we aren't friends. Nothing ever happened between us to cause bad feelings. My husband is very hurt and the more he talks about it, the more I can see a permanent split in this friendship. Should we leave it alone or confront them?

Feeling Left Out

Dear Feeling Left Out

Without knowing all the facts, I can understand your immediate feeling of resentment.

As you know from having made simchahs yourself, there is much thought that goes into each detail, including the invitation list. Many factors are taken into account: cost, space, special circumstances, family feuds etc.

Perhaps, as in many cases these days, their son's friends far outnumber the adults and you were not the only friends left off the list.

You won't get a clear-cut answer without speaking to them. After having a 20-year relationship with these people, there is no reason why you can't ask. Give them the benefit of the doubt. There was probably a reason that you won't know about until you speak to each other.

The one thing you do have to do is get your feelings in check before you speak. Don't be confrontational or accusatory, as that will only make them uncomfortable, and they probably feel that way now. This does not have to mean the end of a long friendship. After getting an explanation, I'm sure you'll be able to put this behind you.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN *or email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Crossword Puzzle

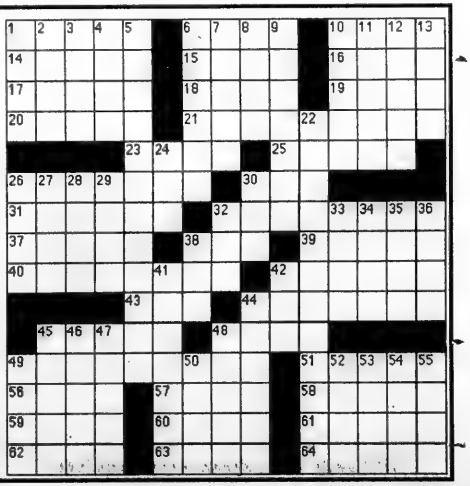
The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 50.)

Mama's Kitchen
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. ___ delight: could be mama's
6. Fast planes
10. Imperial ruler
14. He had Sarai's good meals
15. State, in French
16. Gaugin's Mahana No ____
17. Lariat
18. Grand ending for fi
19. Lima's place
20. Eastern Native American
21. Ben and Jerry'_____
23. Perpetual
25. Lighthouse, in France
26. Football kicks
30. Arafat's terror and politics grp.
31. Examine again
32. Wonderful for the soup! Have some more!
37. Battle-site mountain near Belgrade
38. Eeyore's friend
39. Pocket, in Paris
40. Almond-flavour soup nuts
42. _____ national salami
43. State prefix makes it say wrongly
44. Gets it back from pawnshop
45. Sucker-fish (abbrev.)
48. Become vapid, insipid
49. Jewish deli order shout
51. Perfect exemplar
56. Vouch for or verify
57. Score points
58. ____shkes
59. Musical composer, loved mama's cooking!
60. Site
61. Delete
62. Italian noble family
63. Cad's opposite
64. Computer on fridge button

Down
1. Advanced math.
2. Girder type
3. Irish tongue
4. Stage, in Salerno
5. It's nova, nu!
6. Taste and smell (It's mama's good cooking!)
7. It's 'madregah' in Hebrew
8. Good for baby's bottom
9. Spire
10. Frank, Jewish filmmaker
11. Brisket source
12. Emanations of personae
13. Room, in the Ruhr
22. Comes from the chicken, with help in the kitchen
24. Former serviceman/woman
26. Their light, in Hebrew
27. Russian river
28. Musial or Getz
29. Following y, give a bit
30. Beyond amat.
32. Thus, in Hebrew
33. Leaf part
34. Port north of Haifa
35. Acad. subj.
36. Works stone or timber
38. They've displaced typewriters
41. Plane's wing design overcomes it
42. Cardamom, in Kfar Darom
44. Shout and storm against
45. Rambles
46. Employ pressure
47. French river
48. Thin metal plate, e.g., in printing
49. Kinneret
50. Naked
52. Courageously attempt
53. Important periods
54. Cove or loop, in French
55. ___motif, theme in music or writing



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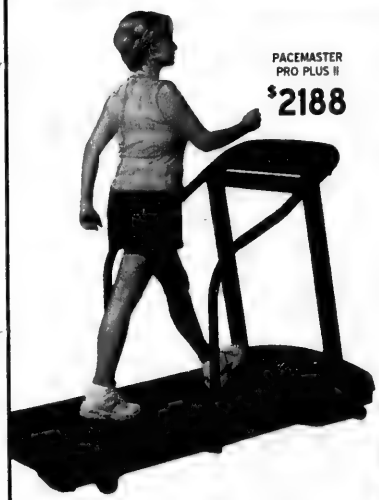

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The Canadian Jewish news

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This Week

National

Toronto artist's mural unites Israeli army base. *Page 15*

On Campus

Defending Israel: Where are the other Jewish students? *Page 26*

Arts & Travel

The Grey Zone evokes the horror of Auschwitz with amazing precision. *Page 42*

Roman Vishniac photos part of multi-media event. *Pages 44*

Health & Lifestyles

Conference aims to help those facing death. *Page 48*

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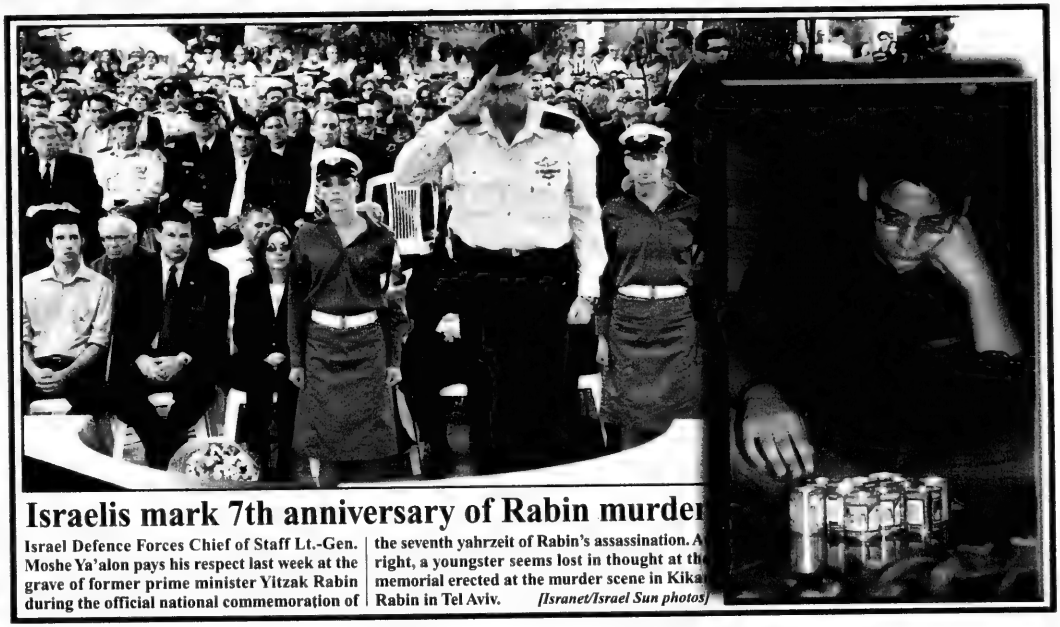

Israelis mark 7th anniversary of Rabin murder

Israel Defence Forces Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon pays his respect last week at the grave of former prime minister Yitzak Rabin during the official national commemoration of the seventh yahrzeit of Rabin's assassination. At right, a youngster seems lost in thought at the memorial erected at the murder scene in Kikar Rabin in Tel Aviv. */Isranet/Israel Sun photos/*

Workers mull leaving CUPE Ontario

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Employees at Jewish agencies affiliated with the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) are reconsidering their membership in the Ontario branch of the Canada-wide union.

Lil Nobel, president of local 2063, which represents 80 workers at the UJA Federation and Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS), said the local has been upset by the union's position on the Mideast conflict. The recent appearance of a CUPE official carrying a CUPE flag at a rally protesting a Toronto speaking engagement by former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu was the last straw, she said.

Janice Shaw, president of local 265, which represents 90 workers at the Jewish Family & Child Service (JF&CS) said "we are investigating a number of possibilities and leaving CUPE Ontario is one of them... There is a lot of grumbling" by local members, she added.

Continued on page 5

Argentinian influx expected in Montreal

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

The Montreal Jewish community is preparing to receive "thousands" of immigrants over the next year or two, mainly from Argentina and France, says FEDERATION CJA president Steven Cummings.

Cummings is so confident that Montreal will be the destination of an immigration wave, the likes of which has not been seen since the postwar years, that he believes the Jewish community may well double its approximately 100,000 members over the next 10 years. It would be a dramatic reversal for a community that has been in decline century.

Cummings would not be more precise about how many thousands are expected, but a FEDERATION CJA strategic plan aims to absorb 10,000 immigrants annually.

ed on page 33

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Talks to free Tannenbaum stuck — please see page 38

The News in Brief

CANADA

Envoy Heads to Israel

TORONTO — A representative of Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee left for Israel last week for the first Israeli International Humanitarian Aid Conference, held on Kibbutz Yakum near Netanya, organized by the Israel Forum for International Humanitarian Aid (Israid). Ve'ahavta program director Rachel Lasry was to join members of the 35 other Jewish and Israeli relief groups expected to attend. She was to announce the launch of a new Tikkun Olam Online News Bulletin, a Web site that will provide updates on the activities of Jewish aid and relief groups around the globe.

ISRAEL

Prize for Alert Guard

TEL AVIV — An alert security guard who prevented a recent suicide attack in Tel Aviv has received a $5,000 (US) reward from a Swiss Jewish millionaire who had promised to honour civilians who prevent terror attacks. Michael Sarkisov stopped a bomber from entering a cafe near the city's crowded beachfront promenade. The man then bolted toward the nearby U.S. Embassy. Sarkisov, assisted by other security guards, wrestled him to the ground and bound his arms and legs so he could not set off his charge.

Lien on PA Funds

JERUSALEM — An Israeli court has placed a $16-million (US) lien on tax money Israel owes the Palestinian Authority following a request from the family of Israeli soldier Vadim Norjitz. He and another soldier, Yossi Avrahami, were lynched in October 2000 by a mob in a PA police station in Ramallah. Israel has frozen some $400 million owed to the PA for customs duties on Palestinian imports. Norjitz's family sued both Israel's finance ministry and the PA. Though the court has yet to rule on the case, it placed the lien so that funds would be available if his family wins a judgment against the PA.

Rabbi Blasts Lawyer

SAFED — The chief rabbi here has issued a ruling that forbids praying in a minyan with Shamai Leibowitz, the Israeli lawyer who is part of the defence team representing Palestinian militia leader Marwan Barghouti, who is accused of planning numerous terror attacks on Israelis. Rabbi Shmuel Eliahu made the ruling in reply to a question by someone who wanted to know if it would be permissible to curse Leibowitz if he came to the local shul.

WORLD

Alleged Nazi Guard

WASHINGTON D.C. — The U.S. Justice Department wants to revoke the citizenship of an Ohio man accused of guarding Nazi concentration camps. Jakob Miling, 78, is charged with obtaining U.S. citizenship illegally by concealing his service as a Nazi guard. The department alleges Miling manned machine-gun posts at the Sachsenhausen camp and later served in the SS at the Gross-Rosen camp.

Goldhagen vs. Church

BERLIN — Scholar Daniel Goldhagen says Germany's Roman Catholic Church is trying to stop the publication of his new book in order to cover up its role in the Holocaust. Acting on complaints of an incorrect photo caption, a German court recently issued a recall of some of the books in Germany. Goldhagen called the move an attempt to "avoid a real discussion." *A Moral Reckoning: The Role of the Catholic Church During the Holocaust* is to be released Oct. 29 in North America.

Writing Contest

NEW YORK — The Coalition for Advancement of Jewish Education is offering $1,000 (US) in prizes in the 13th annual David Dornstein Memorial Creative Writing Contest for Young Adult Writers. Authors 18 to 35 can submit a short story on a Jewish theme or topic by Dec. 31. Details at www.caje.org.

Insurance Agreement

WASHINGTON D.C. — A new deal will release insurance payments to German Holocaust survivors. Representatives of German insurance companies and the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims signed an agreement last week that will trigger the release of $100 million (US) to pay claims against German companies and $175 million for humanitarian projects. Former Jewish residents of Germany and their heirs will also be able to view a list of policies issued to Jewish residents of Germany during the Nazi era.

Nimoy Dropped From Fund-raiser

SEATTLE — The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle dropped actor Leonard Nimoy from its Oct. 23 fund-raiser because of images in his book of photographs.

The cover for Nimoy's book, *Shekhina*, shows a woman wearing tfillin; her right breast is visible through a translucent garment.

The work is entirely "reverential," Nimoy told the Associated Press. "It's a photographic essay on the subject of the Shechinah, which is the feminine presence of God, the feminine aspect of divinity."

Federation director Barry Goren told the *Seattle Times* he dropped the former *Star Trek* star after receiving "some expressions of concern."

He said he had little choice. "If you were running a charity fund-raising dinner and there were going to be images of naked women or naked women with Jewish ritual objects draped on them, that might be offensive to some folks." Comedian Al Franken was booked as a replacement.

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Child survivors gather to celebrate life

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

They came to Toronto to sing, cling to one another, celebrate life and, most of all, commit to educating future generations.

An atmosphere normally seen at large family reunions permeated last week's gathering of those who were hidden as children during the Holocaust, and of children of Holocaust survivors.

Umbrella group launched for Holocaust survivors

Please see page 20

Some 350 one-time hidden children from across North America, Europe and Israel joined about 150 members of the second generation for the 2½ day conference, staged annually by the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust.

Those in attendance at the Regal Constellation Hotel embraced and caught up on family news like members of a long-lost clan. The "children," now in their 60s and 70s, laughed, reminisced, shared and even shed the odd tear.

The warmth and camaraderie, however, did not detract from the emotional intensity that shot through the conference. Those who suffered through the Holocaust as children, whether in hiding, in ghettos, on the run, or in concentration camps, were especially vulnerable given the trauma they experienced in such formative years.

The array of workshops and seminars, some led by psychologists and social workers, explored whether trauma is transmitted through generations; physical and sexual abuse of child survivors; being orphaned after the war; parenting styles; and facing the prospect of aging and death.

But straddling those themes was the need to pass on the legacy of survival to the next generation, even if it means unlocking painful memories.

And children of survivors also have a special duty, the conference heard.

"The responsibility of the second generation is to be witnesses to our parents. We have a profound, solemn obligation to perpetuate survivors' work and to ensure their message will continue to be heard," Menachem Rosensaft, a well-known U.S. Holocaust educator and activist, told the wrap-up session last Monday morning.

"We have a moral authority to ensure that the Holocaust will be written into contemporary history from the perspective of the victims, and not exclusively from the perspective of the perpetrators," Rosensaft stated.

Some speakers at the session voiced concern that with a new rise in anti-Semitism, a sense of doom is again enveloping the Jewish world.

"Don't panic. It's not 1933 or 1938," advised Nathan Durst, clinical director of AMCHA, an Israeli organization that provides psycho-social outreach and services to Holocaust survivors. "We have to learn not to panic. Let's be aware of what's going on, and united. Not everyone loves us, but life is worth living."

Durst addressed the issue of identity loss among survivors.

"Our story is not just the story of the Holocaust. Our story is thousands of years of heritage and roots. If we forget that, we forget large parts of our identity."

Jehudi Lindeman, who, as a child, spent three years in hiding in Holland, also acknowledged that all Holocaust survivors have a heightened fear of being pursued.

One way to counter that, he suggested, is to "disturb" the world.

Continued on page 5

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Greater Toronto Area

New Jewish scholarship

From the editor's desk

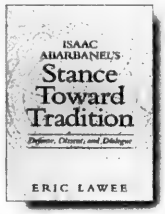
The relatively recent increase in the offerings of Jewish studies at Canadian universities has been an important development for the Jewish and, indeed, for the general Canadian community.

Especially exciting for both the academy and the public has been the opportunity afforded to teachers of Jewish studies to advance the state of Jewish scholarship.

During the past year, two new significant works by young, fresh, dynamic scholars teaching at Canadian universities have appeared. It is our delight to bring those works to the attention of our readers.

* * *

Eric Lawee is assistant professor of humanities at York University in Toronto. He has written *Isaac Abarbanel's Stance Toward Tradition: Defense, Dissent and Dialogue*, a boon to anyone interested in Jewish and European history, philosophy, biblical exegesis and rabbinics, to name but a few of the rich veins of Jewish and other scholarship this engaging text mines.



Lawee has devoted the large part of his academic training and research to medieval and early modern Judaism and Jewish history, focusing in particular on the work of the 15th- and early 16th-century intellectual giant, Isaac Abarbanel (1437-1508).

Abarbanel was a rare, commanding figure. He served as an advisor in the royal courts of Portugal, Spain and Italy. His service to the King and Queen of Spain became the stuff of legend.

Even as the Spanish rulers were signing the decree of expulsion against the Jews in 1492, they pleaded with Abarbanel to stay behind. But he refused, preferring to march with his co-religionists in search of yet another new home rather than remain behind in the service of the villainous monarchs. The dislocations in his life mirrored the migrations of the wandering Jews as they were cast out from country after country.

Lawee places Abarbanel at the critical crossroads of the dawning of modern western civilization: "The life of this celebrated courtier-financier and scholar, who passed the majority of his years in Portugal but wrote nearly all of his works in Spain and Italy, intersected some of the most important and influential intellectual, religious, historical, political and technological trends and transitions of late medieval and early modern times."

At the outset of the work, Lawee tells the reader, "The book's main goal is a discriminating portrait of a specific religious, personality living at a captivating historical moment when 'the Middle Ages and the Renaissance were yet indistinct.'" But in truth, Lawee's purpose is rather narrower. It is to explore Abarbanel's views about following tradition.

Abarbanel, a profound thinker and prolific biblical commentator, was deeply anchored within the parameters of traditional, observant Judaism. Yet he was never reluctant to challenge the interpretations of contemporaries or even of ancient forebears. "Abarbanel's approach to sacrosanct figures and his readings of classical Jewish texts could be decidedly... nay, provocatively, 'untraditional.'"

What are the lessons, if any, that we can cull and apply from Abarbanel's innovative, critical approaches to what he considered problematic Jewish thinking?

Lawee's language is engaging, accessible to the layman as well as to the scholar, occasionally even tending to memorable turns of literary phrase. He has meticulously crafted a window from which we can look upon the life, times and thought of Isaac Abarbanel. What we are able to see through that window may share similar outlines with some of the issues dominating the Jewish horizon visible through the windows of our own times.

Stance Toward Tradition, published by SUNY press, is an important work.

* * *

Maimonides and the Hermeneutics of Concealment: Deciphering Scripture and Midrash in The Guide of the Perplexed, by James Arthur Diamond, is more of a specialist's text. It delves into the manner in which Maimonides relied upon midrash to organize and convey his thoughts in his grand work, *The Guide of the Perplexed*.

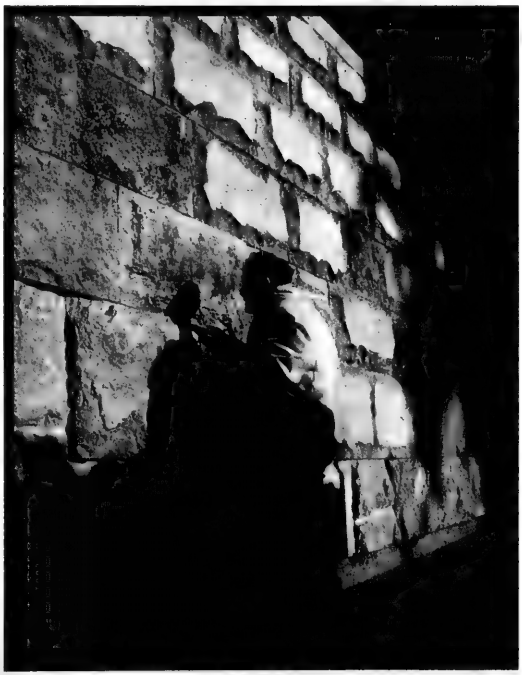
"This study," Diamond writes, "shall confine itself to Maimonides' use of midrashic and scriptural prooftexts in the *Guide* and demonstrate that his expositions of many topics and issues in the *Guide* are implicity rooted in complex, multilayered readings of midrash and Scripture."

The book is undoubtedly a welcome addition for Maimonides scholars.

Diamond holds the Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Chair of Jewish Studies at the University of Waterloo. Recently, as reported in *The CJN*, he was appointed to direct a team of scholars from a consortium of universities to study the remaining contents of the Cairo Genizah.

—MBD

SeeJN



REPLICA WESTERN WALL: A small reconstruction of Jerusalem's Western Wall has been built opposite Moscow's Great Synagoge. In this photo, a Moscow Jew prays at Russia's Eastern Western Wall. [Israel Sun photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Jewish workers consider leaving CUPE Ontario

Continued from page 1

In a letter to CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan, Nobel described "the collective shock and dismay" of the workers at several Jewish agencies that the CUPE flag would appear at the rally.

Nobel said she was told by a national CUPE official the flag had been stolen or was missing and there would be an investigation into the circumstances of its appearance at the protest.

Later however, the *National Post* reported that the individual who carried the flag, Ken Theobald, who is president of a large CUPE local in Toronto, said he did not take the flag without authorization and that the union permits use of the CUPE flag at demonstrations, if they are in line with CUPE policy.

That position was supported by Ryan, who said Theobald did nothing wrong in using the flag. Ryan, however, distanced himself from Theobald's statements criticizing Netanyahu, saying "I would never in a million years come out and make those accusations."

In the *Post* interview, Theobald called Netanyahu a "blatant racist against Arab people" and he compared the former Israeli prime minister to the Ku Klux Klan.

Nobel said her local now feels itself "a minority" in the CUPE family. "My executive and myself are in the middle of trying to figure out what we'll do in regard to CUPE Ontario. We are a member of CUPE Ontario. We don't have to be. We can withdraw from CUPE Ontario" though the local would retain an association with the union's national wing, she said.

Local 2063 has met with representatives of other workers at Jewish agencies, including JF&CS, the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and JIAS, where the flag issue was raised and strategies discussed. The locals, which represent 400 employees in total, are all considering whether to remain in CUPE Ontario, Nobel said.

Ryan said such a departure would be a mistake: "The way to change [CUPE] policy is to participate and not withdraw."

He blamed Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) for influencing Nobel's views and for attempting to drive a wedge between the local and CUPE Ontario. "Her views are fueled by CJC," he said.

Referring specifically to Bernie Farber, executive-director of Congress' Ontario region, Ryan said Farber had put the option of "dis-affiliation" on the table at a recent meeting of the local executive. (Farber denied the suggestion CJC introduced the dis-affiliation option to the locals. "It was union representatives from the locals who sought our advice, who sought our opinion. Nothing was fuelled by CJC," he said.)

"CJC is beginning to show itself as anti-union," Ryan said. "That's why they're going to have problems down the road.

"If they think this will ingratiate themselves on the left, they are sadly mistaken."

Ryan described CUPE's position on the Mideast conflict as balanced, opposing both Palestinian suicide bombing and Israeli aggression. Theobald, he continued, represented only his personal views at the anti-Netanyahu rally. CUPE is not a homogenous organization, Ryan said. "Ken is his own person. He makes his own statement."

Farber said Theobald's appearance at the protest, held one day after violent protesters shut down a speaking engagement by Netanyahu at Concordia University in Montreal, led to questions whether CUPE supported the protester.

"To refer to Benjamin Netanyahu as a racist and a KKK is as offensive [a statement] as any I can think of," Farber said. "Is this CUPE's position?"

Farber said "there is a sense in the Jewish community, not just in the centre of the political spectrum, but also on the Jewish left… that they have been abandoned because they are Zionists and supporters of the State of Israel. They feel abandoned by the trade union movement and the political left. It's a huge problem and this is a small particle of it."

Ryan said Congress has been outmanoeuvred by Palestinian advocates in Canada and public opinion favours the Palestinian position in Canada and around the world.

Child survivors gather in Toronto

Continued from page 3

"We need to speak up whenever we see injustice and abuse in the world," said Lindeman, now an English professor at McGill University in Montreal.

He would extend that concern to Palestinians, and the discussion veered sharply when Lindeman called on Israel to "get rid" of Jewish settlements, "which are too close to Ramallah, Nablus and Hebron."

That prompted jeers and shouts of protest.

"We Jews are entitled to be there," yelled one woman.

"You ought to be ashamed of yourself," remarked one man.

The episode shone a light on how passionately Holocaust survivors regard Israel as a haven, balanced with legitimate concern for the downtrodden of the world.

Rosensaft said he too feels for Palestinians. "However, when hate is directed at us; when women and children are expendable, I become more of a chauvinist. I'm not prepared to turn the other cheek," he said to wide applause.

Survivors, he said, have to choose their issues carefully.

"If we speak out on every issue, we speak out on none."

Lindeman defended himself by saying he "is not in the peace camp, not making a political statement and not advocating [Israel's] unilateral withdrawal [from Jewish settlements]."

However, the hatred many Palestinians feel toward Jews "is a result of a policy of colonization," a statement that drew more jeers.

The session dissolved into spontaneous singing of *Hatikvah* and *Am Yisrael Chai*.

Participants linked arms for more songs, and pledged to meet again next year.

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CJC, Women's Bookstore resolve button issue

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A recent meeting between representatives of the Toronto Women's Bookstore, Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, and other members of the Jewish community proved fruitful, says Rachael Turkienicz, chair of CJC's social action committee.

The meeting was called after tempers in the Jewish community flared over the bookstore's display of pro-Palestinian buttons, and its refusal to display buttons offered by CJC and National Council of Jewish Women's Toronto section that read, "Stop the Homicide Bombings."

Turkienicz, a York University professor and *CJN* columnist, said those at the meeting decided to work together to design a new button that will get the message across clearly and sensitively that both sides have the right to exist in peace and safety.

She said that at the meeting, it became clear that the "bookstore people had waded into territories that were complex.

"They had not understood the kind of hurt [the buttons] portrayed, and they had not anticipated or understood the Jewish community's reaction."

Anjula Gogia, co-manager of the bookstore said the meeting cleared up a lot of misunderstandings.

"There was a lot of confusion out there, and our position was not accurately reflected.

"We call for peace with justice in Israel and Palestine, and we denounce violence. We condemn suicide bombings... we do not support the killing of civilians in any conflict.

"We are a political bookstore. We carry a wide array of political buttons, addressing issues of violence against women, poverty, police brutality, the Tory government, homelessness ... and the list goes on," Gogia said in a press release.

She insisted that the bookstore has "no room for anti-Semitism or racism, and that it continues to work with Jewish and Palestinian women to create a space that allows for dialogue about complex issues."

Turkienicz said we need to realize that when making statements, it is important to be aware that issues are never straight forward or simple.

"The women who represented the bookstore were made aware of the sensitivities, and they were open and eager to address them. I give them credit for that," she said.

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Jewish Book Fair caters to all ages

Plans for this year's Jewish Book Fair, which runs from Nov. 2 to Nov. 10 at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre's Leah Posluns Theatre, began the day last year's fair closed, says its director Helen Redner.

Together with her board of about 27 members, Redner says, she has been reading books and book reviews all year in preparation for the 26th annual fair, sponsored by Koffler Centre of the Arts.

"We don't go with a theme; we try to find books – this year there should be about 8,000 – and plan programs that cater to every age, every interest."

Putting together the fair is like setting up a bookstore, she says. "Volunteers keep track of the books, unpack boxes, lay out books, hand out brochures, take cash – it's a huge job."

The fair's opening night features a talk, The Truth About Terrorism, by John Loftus, former justice department prosecutor, first Irish Catholic president of the Florida Holocaust Museum, and author of *The Secret War Against the Jews*.

One of the fair's highlights, says Redner, is the Nov. 10 talk by Roma Ligocka, author of *The Girl in the Red Coat*.

Ligocka, a child survivor of the Holocaust who was depicted in *Schindler's List*, will talk about her memoir of survival and self-discovery.

Other speakers include Mennett Muraskin, who will speak on his book *Humanist Readings in Jewish Folklore*; Rosalie Wise Sharp, author of *Ceramics, Ethics and Scandal: The Rosalie and Isadore Sharp Collection*; Bill Stern, author of *You Don't Have to be Jewish*; N.N. Shneidman, author of *The Three Tragic Heroes of the Vilnus Ghetto*; and Sondra Gotlieb, author of *Life with a Jewish Flavour*.

Poet Nancy-Gay Rotstein will read from her poetry book *This Horizon and Beyond: Poems Selected and New*.

In another program, Henry Aubin, author of *The Rescue of Jerusalem*; Eric Lawee, author of *Isaac Aberbanel's Stance Toward Tradition*; and Allan Levine, author of *Scattered Among the Peoples: The Jewish Diaspora in Ten Portraits* will talk on Significant Moments in Jewish History.

In a children's program, Karen Levine will talk about *Hana's Suitcase*, a book inspired by a suitcase that arrived at a children's Holocaust education centre in Tokyo. With Levine will be Fumiko Ishioka, the centre's curator, and George Brady, Hana's brother.

Also for children ages seven and over, students at Dr. Abraham Shore Shearim Hebrew Day School and Sam Hennick Education Centre will perform *The Magic Pan*.

—C.B.

Scholar suggests compromise over Jerusalem

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

As far as international hot-button issues are concerned, the question of Jerusalem is certainly one of the hottest.

A city holy to the three monotheistic faiths, control over its future remains hotly contested, with both Jews and Muslims claiming it as their eternal capital.

For Reuven Firestone, professor of medieval Judaism and Islam at Hebrew Union College (HUC) in Los Angeles, politics and religion are always intertwined when it comes to Jerusalem. Nevertheless, he believes, the future of Jerusalem will be resolved eventually.

"There are ways to solve the problem," he said, "but this is not the time given the climate."

Firestone, an ordained rabbi, was in Southern Ontario last week to address a number of Reform congregations as well as an audience at McMaster University. At a Shabbaton study session and lunch at the Holy Blossom Temple, he discussed the topic: "Whose Jerusalem? The Holy City in Judaism, Christianity and Islam."

He was also scheduled to address congregations at Temple Emanu-el, Temple Har Zion in Toronto and a group at McMaster University in Hamilton, on the topic of divine authority for violent acts. From Toronto, he was to travel to the University of Massachusetts and New York City for further speaking engagements.

Though Jerusalem is holy to three faiths, Christianity has only a small role to play in its future disposition, he said. The sanctity of Jerusalem for Christians remains an individual affair and there are no Christian states with claims on the city.

For Jews and Muslims, however, the future of the city remains a point of contention. Firestone believes it can be resolved by both sides giving a little.

"The majority of Jews could live without full and complete control of Jerusalem if they could be assured of full and free access to the holy places," he said. Similarly, "most Muslims and even Palestinians would go for the same approach as long as they can be assured of full and complete access."

A resolution is certainly not imminent, he continued, given the "divide" between the two sides and "the total and complete breakdown of faith on both sides."

What's more, "there are Jews and Muslims who are totally opposed to compromise," he acknowledged.

Firestone, who lectures on a variety of topics that concern relations between Jews, Muslims and the Mideast conflict, believes both sides tend to minimize the other's attachment to Jerusalem. Some Jews believe Jerusalem is not holy to Muslims while Muslims believe Jews have distorted history to show it is sacred to them when it is not. (Yasser Arafat famously told President Bill Clinton at Camp David that Judaism's holy temple never stood in Jerusalem.)

"Both sides tend to diminish the feelings of the other side," Firestone said.

As far as he is concerned, it's irrelevant whether Mohammed ever visited Jerusalem and ascended from there to heaven, and it's impossible to try to prove that Abraham intended to sacrifice Isaac on the site of today's Temple Mount.

"I think it's a futile project. It doesn't do any good. The better response is to accept the other's attachment to Jerusalem," he said.

Firestone is author of *Journeys in Holy Lands: The Evolution of the Abraham-Ishmael Legends in Islamic Exegesis*; *Jihad: The Origin of Holy War in Islam* and *Children of Abraham: An Introduction to Judaism for Muslims*.

Suicide bombings political, not religious: Palestinian prof

By STACEY STEIN
Special to The CJN

Suicide bombing attacks are an expression of Palestinian frustration rather than an act of religious conviction, academic Muhammed Abu Samra said at a recent event hosted by Kolel, the Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning.

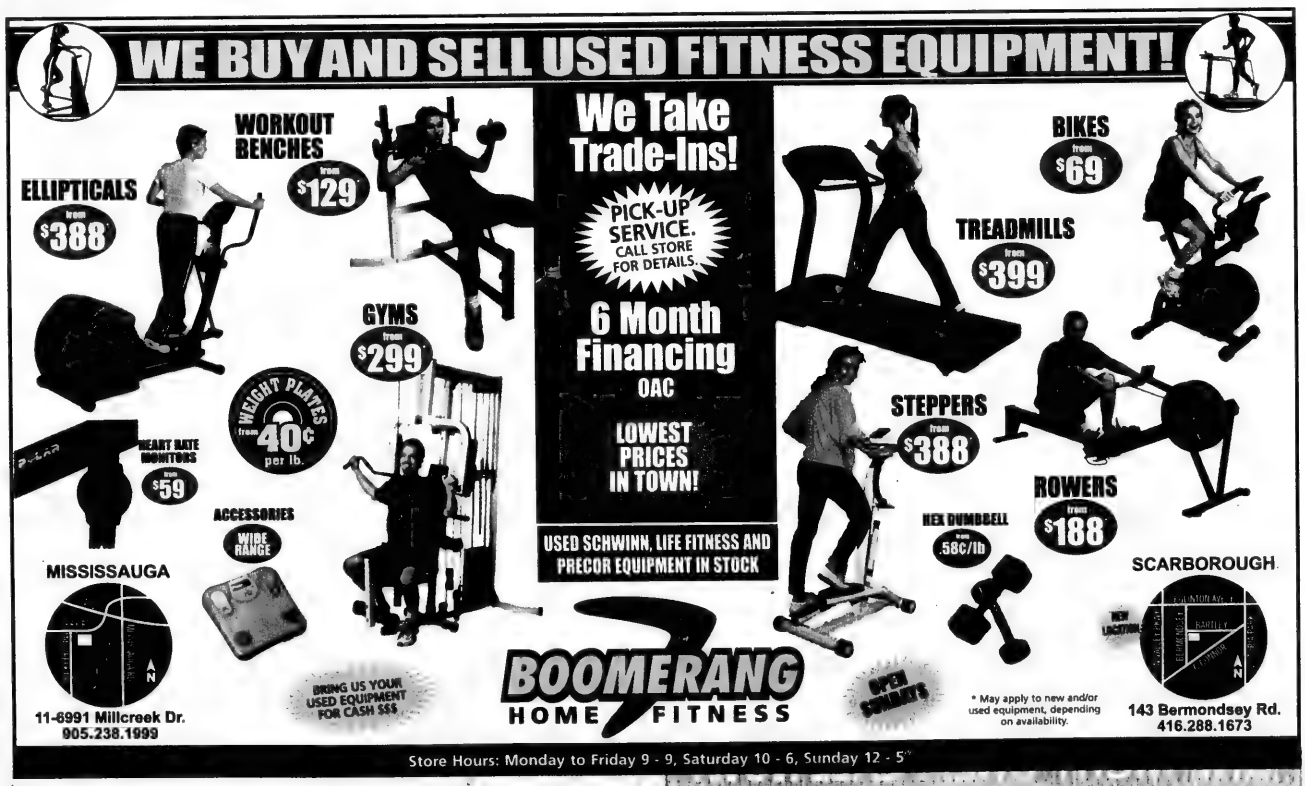
Faced with grim economic and political realities, many Palestinians have become hopeless, leading some to commit heinous murderous acts, Abu Samra, a professor at Al Quds University and the David Yellin College of Education in Jerusalem, told the audience at a discussion titled, "To Die For? Judaism and Islam on Martyrdom."

Tzvi Howard Adelman, a professor at Hebrew University, opened the evening with an examination of suicide and martyrdom from a Jewish perspective, using Masada as his main point of reference.

Adelman contended that Jewish tradition does not preclude committing suicide for religious and political purposes. "It's Islam today that's often associated with martyrs, suicide bombers and shaheeds," he said. "The fact is we're dealing with a phenomenon that has deep roots among the Jews."

But the focal point of the evening was Abu Samra's speech and the reaction of audience members to his arguments. Several audience members questioned Samra's assertions in a charged question-and-answer session that followed the professors' discourse.

Continued on page 13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How sad to look now upon CUPE

The appearance of the CUPE Ontario flag at the demonstration last month in Toronto against former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu is the latest and saddest evidence of the shallow waters in which that union is now swimming. The Toronto demonstration against Netanyahu occurred the day after anti-Israeli thugs vandalized Concordia University in downtown Montreal and roughed up a number of people trying to get into the hall to hear the former prime minister. The hooligans prevented Netanyahu from speaking at the school. In effect, therefore, they also vandalized key cornerstone values underpinning Canadian democracy.

On the very next day, the CUPE Ontario flag was prominently displayed among the banners and slogans that branded Israel an apartheid state. While itself an example of the free speech that Canadian society cherishes, that accusation in particular is outrageous, vile and dangerous, yet ever since the Durban anti-racism conference in September 2001, one of the most-commonly invoked calumnies against the Jewish State.

CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan told *The CJN* that the flag-waver, Ken Theobald, president of one of the largest CUPE locals in Toronto, represented "only his personal views" at the demonstration. But this explanation was as disingenuous as it was inconsistent with plain common sense. If the view expressed by Theobald was only a personal one, then the use of the flag was indeed inappropriate, and egregiously so. As we all know, by the very nature of the act, the use of the union's flag was intended to clearly and publicly ally the union to the cause scrawled on the signs and banners in that anti-Israel protest.

And what was that cause? Let there be no mistaking its true aim. Let there also be no condoning the sly attempt by CUPE Ontario leaders to hide or obfuscate its true aim. The logic of the haters of Israel is as simple as it is distorted: Israel is an apartheid state. It must be treated in the same manner as the only other apartheid state was ever treated. It must be dismantled! By joining with the hate-filled slogans being hurled at Israel, the union was *de facto* supporting, condoning and even affirming the call for the elimination of the Jewish State. However much he equivocated on the issue of the use of his union's flag, Ryan cannot escape the truth of what its appearance at that rally meant.

Ryan's predecessors in the Canadian labour movement would have condemned, with all their might, CUPE's morally inverted actions.

"Israel is like a light set upon a hill, the light of democracy in a night of darkness," the late, venerated Tommy Douglas said in 1975. "You and I and fellow trade unionists," he said the following year, "have a responsibility to stand with [Israel], to speak out for [Israel], to ally ourselves with [Israelis] and to try to get trade unionists the world around to stand together and say, these people shall not die; this light shall not go out."

How vacuous Ryan's words are in comparison to Douglas' ringing declarations. How sad that CUPE stands now for what was once so odious.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Dani (Hamid) Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

Dry Bones

THEIR BRUTAL ATTACK ON THE MAGICAL ISLE OF BALI...
SHOWS THAT ALTHOUGH WE LIVE IN A SHRINKING WORLD...
WE'RE ALSO LIVING WITH A GROWING THREAT!
...ALL OF US.
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A portentous, sad anniversary

The 64th anniversary of the deportation back to Poland of Polish Jews residing in Germany is Oct. 28.

The deportation by train of some 17,000 men, women and children was carried out in a brutal and ruthless manner. Eventually, the Polish government closed the border and several trains had to return to their home cities. Most of the deportees to Poland perished in the Shoah.

Among the deportees were the parents of Herschel Grynszpan from Hanover. Seventeen-year-old Herschel, who lived in Paris, was very upset about the deportation of his parents. He obtained a gun and on Nov. 7, 1938, went to the German Embassy and shot and mortally wounded an embassy official, Ernst von Rath. Von Rath died a day later.

This assassination was the pretext for Kristallnacht on the night of Nov. 9, 1938. The Nazis were looking for an excuse to start more vigorous persecution of Jews and they found it.

What many Jews in Germany and Europe did not see at that time were the thickening black clouds of the imminent catastrophe, the Holocaust.

Willie Glaser
St. Laurent, Que.

* * *

Seeking an accounting

I am grateful to Leslie Vertes for calling my attention to the good deeds performed by the Claims Conference (*CJN*, Letters, Oct. 10). Indeed, the organization is in dire need of favourable publicity.

But since the Cummings Centre receives an abundance of annual reports published by the Claims Conference, would Vertes be kind enough to share with me one particular annual report? I am referring to the annual report that contains a ledger that has three columns: one column lists the sums of the money received and their source; adjoining it is the column that lists the allocations and their recipients; the third column provides a rationale for the allocations. Proper accounting also keeps a journal that is a quarterly summary of the various financial expenses. This journal also shows the maintenance expenses such as salaries, travel, per diem expenses and executive benefits.

Among the materials the Cummings Centre has received there must be one that gives a coherent definition of a survivor. The conference's present practice by which moneys are disbursed qualifies Henry Kissinger and Madeleine Albright to receive restitution funds. Without a working definition of survivorship, the money is allocated at the whim of the conference.

Eli Pfefferkorn
Toronto

* * *

Denies he was key organizer

I was surprised to read Janice Arnold's statement that I was "one of the group's key organizers" of the protests that shut down Benjamin Netanyahu's planned Sept. 9 lecture at Concordia University, in the article "Questions raised about Montreal visit" (*CJN*, Sept.19).

Had she chosen to speak to me, she would have discovered that I had no part whatsoever in the event and was out of the country for two weeks prior to the protests. My only connection to that day, in fact, had occurred over a month earlier when, at the request of Concordia Hillel, I had acted with another member of the Concordia Student Union Executive and given up our booking for the auditorium where Netanyahu would have appeared.

Aaron Maté
Vice-President, Concordia Student Union
Montreal

* * *

Says Israel is a pariah state

In the Editor's Desk column of Oct. 10, Mordechai Ben-Dat complains that Israel is seen as a "racist, colonial, terrorist, pariah state." In fact, it is. This has been a topic of discussion and fear among progressive Israelis, even among the Labour party establishment. It is no more anti-Semitic to state nearly uncontestable facts about the Ariel Sharon government than it is anti-Muslim to speak of the actions of Iran or Taliban-Afghanistan. Most Jews privately concede that Sharon is not good for the Jews.

Even by the most conservative estimates, Israel proper, discounting the occupation, has racist tendencies. Racism is not directed only against Palestinians, known to Israelis as "Arab Israelis," who even in "calm" times have never enjoyed the same *de jure* rights as Jews. Through a combination of Europhile elitism and top-down statism, Sephardim have also always felt discriminated against, and have been a target for the reactionary populism of the Likud.

Israel is quite literally colonial. This is not a value-laden term. Even accepting the legitimacy of pre-1967 Israel, which no one denies at this point, the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip are quite literally colonialist.

Israel is unfortunately also a pariah state, like the United States or Iraq. Any state that detracts from global equilibrium will be deemed by the rest of the world a pariah.

This has nothing to do with religion. Indeed, if the original Zionist ethic was to normalize the Jewish people within the context of 19th-century nationalism, Israel has been normalized by its extreme misbehaviour, not yet placing itself within the ranks of France, Germany or the United States, but far surpassing most of the Third World in its brutal "normalization."

Jordy Cummings
Toronto

* * *

Omission in story

We were distressed to read the article about Joan Peters, "Jews did not displace Palestinians, says author" (*CJN*, Oct. 3). There was no mention of the sponsoring organizations, Beth Sholom Synagogue and the Toronto Zionist Council.

Anne Maurer
Toronto Zionist Council

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

College ad misses the point

By SUSANNAH HESCHEL

As a historian of Jewish-Christian relations in Germany, and as a professor who has taught at several German universities, hostility toward Jews and Judaism in university settings is nothing new to me.

Yet the recent *New York Times* ad condemning anti-Semitism at American colleges neither reflects the reality of most campuses nor provides assistance to those of us in Jewish studies.

The full-page ad, based on a petition signed by 300 university presidents and sponsored by the American Jewish Committee (AJC) and signed by 300 university presidents, might actually harm Jewish studies at universities.

The ad calls for campus debates without "threats, taunts or intimidation" – which all of us support – but fails to define what constitutes intimidation. Its vagueness may be why so many university presidents, including Harvard's Lawrence Summers, refused to sign it.

Nothing stated in the ad is a problem; the problem is what is not stated. For example, it declares: "In the past few months, students who are Jewish or supporters of Israel's right to exist – Zionists – have received death threats and threats of violence." It then speaks of Jewish property that is being "defaced or destroyed."

No responsible citizen supports threats and violence against persons and property. All of us condemn anti-Semitism.

The problem is defining intimidation when it stops well short of rejecting Israel's existence or threatening Jews with violence. When does criticism of Israeli government actions cease to be a legitimate expression of political opinion and become anti-Semitism? How can we Jews speak out on behalf of human rights for Palestinians as well as Israelis and not be labelled traitors?

What's missing is help with a pervasive problem many Jewish professors and students face: intimidation and threats from other Jews. Many of us on campus are deeply critical of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, and yet we are strong Zionists. We believe in a two-state solution for reasons of politics, security and morality.

Thus we face two battles: defending Israel to those who oppose Israel's right to exist, and arguing our political views to right-wing Israelis, Jews and, increasingly, Christians. We often hear that criticism of Israel is equivalent to anti-Semitism – which, if true, would turn most Jews and Israelis into anti-Semites.

Ironically, the nasty comments I have received on campus came from right-wing Jewish students and faculty who were angry at me for publicly siding with Israel's Labor party platform and opposing Sharon. Jewish colleagues and students at other institutions have also reported being threatened by fellow Jews after criticizing Israeli policies. I've also heard about boycotts of Jewish professors critical of Israel that have been organized by Jewish students and faculty. And scholars who are accused by Daniel Pipes on his "Campus Watch" Web site of siding with Arabs or criticizing Israel have no opportunity to defend themselves, and the evidence against them is not contextualized.

The most common difficulties faced by Jewish professors are not violence or physical intimidation – which are quickly addressed by campus security – but the isolation we often experience in our support for Israel. In my experience, it is often Arab and Muslim students who most appreciate our concern to create peace for both Israel and a future Palestinian state.

But as much as peace needs to be negotiated between Israeli and Palestinian leaders, we need to negotiate peace on our campuses.

Neither the AJC newspaper ad nor Pipes' Web site assist us. Instead, they inhibit conversation through intimidation. No one wants to be misunderstood as an anti-Semite; better not to talk. A common fear expressed by my colleagues in Jewish studies is that if they express any criticism of Israel, funding will be withdrawn from their programs – not by their universities, but by the local Jewish community. That kind of anxiety is intolerable in a university setting, which can thrive only on a free exchange of ideas.

It's very well to spend thousands of dollars for a full-page newspaper ad or Web site, but it would have been far more useful to articulate how a Zionist can be legitimately critical of some Israeli government policies, support a Palestinian state and worry about the human rights and political futures of all people.

There is no peace for one side in a conflict; there is either peace for all or peace for none.

Susannah Heschel is Eli Black Associate Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College.

Fight campus anti-Semitism

By ALAN DERSHOWITZ

I applaud the 300 college and university presidents who signed the ad organized by the former president of Dartmouth, James Freedman, that expressed concern over "intimidation and hatred" directed against Jewish supporters of Israel on many campuses. I wish more presidents had joined in this condemnation of a dangerous form of bigotry that is now prevalent on campus.

As a professor who has long supported both human rights issues and Israel, I have received numerous phone calls, letters, e-mails and faxes from Jewish students around the country who are fearful for their safety and worried that anti-Israel professors will punish them for their support of Israel.

The fear is real. It is especially true since the campaign to divest from Israel and to boycott all Israeli Jews has heated up over the last several months. Any professor willing to punish Israeli colleagues just because of their national origin may well be willing to punish students who support the Jewish State.

Some argue that the presidents' ad will chill campus debate. But quite the opposite is true. The ad, along with Harvard President Lawrence Summers' statement that the campaign to urge universities to divest themselves of holdings in Israel is anti-Semitic, has stimulated healthy debate. Those who argue otherwise rely on the red herring that any criticism of Israel is immediately labelled anti-Semitic.

Susannah Heschel's claim – "We often hear that criticism of Israel is equivalent to anti-Semitism" – is simply not true. I challenge Heschel to back up that falsehood with hard evidence. I have never heard that accusation made. I am often critical of Israeli actions. But neither I, nor other critics of the Sharon government or supporters of Palestinian statehood, have ever been accused of being anti-Semitic.

Summers went out of his way to make it clear that criticism of Israel is not anti-Semitic, either in intent or effect. No one I know is seeking to stifle criticism of Israel or of the current government, or to chill support for Palestinian statehood and human rights.

What *is* the equivalent of anti-Semitism is the singling out of the Jewish nation for divestment, boycott, UN condemnation or other sanctions, despite its far better record on human rights than any other nation in the Middle East and most other nations in the world.

Indeed, a good working definition of anti-Semitism is: criticizing only Jews for a trait that is universal.

It is certainly possible that some who have signed the divestiture or boycott petitions do not believe their actions are anti-Semitic. They may not realize they are being used by Israel's enemies to delegitimize and isolate the world's only Jewish nation.

The recent campaigns for divestiture and boycott grow out of two earlier campaigns that were undoubtedly motivated by a desire to destroy Israel. The first was the Arab boycott, which lasted for many years and was finally defeated. The second was the now discredited UN resolution equating Zionism with racism.

The current efforts to equate Israel with the apartheid regime of South Africa will also fail, because the analogy is false. The goal of this campaign is not actually to achieve divestiture, but rather to miseducate college students into believing that Israel is among the worst human rights violators in the world, despite its great concern for minimizing civilian casualties by exposing its own soldiers to the risks of door-to-door fighting rather than resorting to wholesale bombing.

The fact that Israel is the only Mideast country with freedom of expression, an independent judiciary and a commitment to the equality of women and gays is ignored in this effort to isolate Israel. Ignorance may be a defence to bigotry, but it has no place on a university campus.

The immoral campaign on campuses against Jews who support Israel must be fought. The presidents' letter is an important component of this struggle against bigotry. Too many good people are remaining silent in the face of anti-Semitism. It is time to stand up and be counted.

Alan Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard Law School.

The origins of the campus ad

By KENNETH STERN

I had quite an education this summer helping a group of college and university presidents circulate a statement calling for "intimidation-free campuses."

The statement grew out of a discussion with five presidents about a series of incidents in which Jewish students had been victimized on a campus. Jewish property had been vandalized and Jewish students had been taunted with anti-Semitic chants and threatened with death. Some Jewish students said they were steering away from certain Mideast-related courses and professors, concerned that speaking out in favour of Israel would result in lower grades.

The drafters included a paragraph about attacks on Jewish students, but the guarantee of an "intimidation-free" campus applied to all groups.

While many presidents were quick to sign, others declined. One, a Jew, did not like the word "Zionist" in the text. Others feared signing would be taken as an admission that there were problems on their campuses. A handful of presidents, including one of the original signers, had another concern that came to light after more than 200 of their colleagues had already joined: the statement did not specifically include Arab students.

There was no way to change it at that point, but I agreed with the drafters that even if we could have changed it, there was no reason to do so. Arab students, indeed all students, were clearly covered by the statement as written. And while Jewish students and supporters of Israel were certainly active on campus, violence and intimidation were coming in one direction. The same week one of the original signers pulled out, violence by pro-Palestinian students prevented former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu from speaking at Concordia University in Montreal. Shortly thereafter, Jewish property was defaced at the University of Colorado at Boulder. To have made the statement "symmetrical" in this environment would not only have created an immoral equivalency, it would also have revised the narrative of the troubling facts that gave rise to the statement in the first place.

After Sept. 11, college presidents and most human rights organizations spoke out clearly about the dangers of scapegoating Arabs and Muslims. No one demanded that those statements not be issued unless they went from the particular to the general or included Jewish students, despite the fact anti-Semitic material blaming Jews and Israel for the attacks was already circulating on campus. Yet some presidents complain when a statement that goes from the particular to the universal does not specifically mention Arabs.

I have no doubt that the few presidents who would not sign will strive to create an intimidation-free environment anyway. I am concerned about what their refusal suggests. I doubt they would hesitate to speak out about anti-black bigotry without feeling a need to couple it with anti-white bigotry. Why, then, the reluctance to mention anti-Semitic death threats, uncoupled with any other form of bigotry, as a sufficient reason to articulate a commitment to maintain a campus open to ideas and closed to thuggery?

Kenneth Stern is the American Jewish Committee's expert on anti-Semitism and extremism.

The view from here

At this writing, I am still in Washington, D.C., where every morning I read the local press, particularly the *Washington Post*.

Of all the various happenings in this large nation, the latest news the paper is covering has to do not with world events and the role the United States plays in them, but with a local, unknown sniper who has already killed nine people as they went about their everyday tasks.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Alas, this is the leading news in the U.S. capital. Ours is a violent world, and Washington is no exception. A killer is roaming its streets, and at this writing has not yet been caught.

Fortunately, Washington is much more than that. It is a great city with stately avenues and buildings and offers all the amenities one expects to find in most large American communities – from music and theatre to sailing and football. I had occasion to attend a splendid concert in the magnificent Kennedy Center, one of the city's landmarks.

In addition, Washington has great libraries and significant museums, remarkable shops of every kind and, for me, has become a place that has provided me with new friends.

No, I have not had dinner at the White House, nor have I met the president, but the people I have met have opened memorable vistas for me. Those who are Jewish have expressed the same kind of concern for Israel that one would find in Toronto. But somehow, in the nation's capital, their concern has special weight. U.S. policymakers are aware of Israel's significance, and, fortunately, the United States has become the Jewish State's strongest ally.

But not everyone is happy with the Mideast policy of President George W. Bush, who has lately been under extra pressure to be more vocal in his support of the Jewish State. Albert Vorspan, vice-president emeritus of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, has been in town during my time here and was said to have challenged the Bush administration's policies. He also emphasized the need for safeguarding American civil liberties, especially in an atmosphere of international tension.

The sometimes parochial nature of the *Post*'s editorial page reminds me that the news I read is selective and not necessarily of universal significance. Happily, a recent edition of the paper did have a large article on Canada. It described Ottawa in detail and with warmth and appreciation. I was glad to see it and hope it had many readers and that further articles on Canada will follow.

Being away from Toronto gives me a chance to contemplate its many assets. It is today a world-class city of which I am very proud. A view from abroad has firmed up this sentiment.

Not wanted on the voyage

It's amazing how long a really bad idea hangs around. I refer to the paper *Canada's Immigration Policy: the Need for Major Reform*, by Martin Collacott, which pretends to be an objective look at our country's immigration policies and their effects on the economy and society of Canada. In reality, the paper, recently published by the Fraser Institute, is a thinly disguised rehash of things that certain groups have been saying just about forever. And what they have been saying is not pretty. In fact, Collacott seems to resurrect many of the same arguments.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

(Collacott, I should say right away, seems to have the credentials to attack our immigration policy: he has been an ambassador in Asia, he tells us, and his wife is of Vietnamese extraction. So surely he can be nothing but an objective, unbiased observer. Maybe not.)

The first things that caught my attention were two phrases referring to Canada's "ability to absorb" and "effectively integrate" immigrants. Where oh where have we heard about "absorptive capacity" – another phrase he uses – before? I'll tell you where: in the evil words of F.C. Blair, minister for exclusion of Jews before and during World War II.

Here's an example of what Collacott says: immigrants come with no skills and therefore take away the jobs of poorer Canadians, driving down wages. Or conversely, the influx of professionals like engineers pushes skilled Canadian labour into the arms of the United States, where presumably Canadian engineers flee from the immigrant hordes pressing on them for their jobs. Thus immigrants either scarf up low-paying jobs or create a brain-drain of the good Canadians.

Or consider this: our progress as a "tolerant and welcoming country will be placed at risk" if we do not bring our immigration policies in line with our "absorptive capacity." Now this figure of absorptive capacity has bedeviled the anti-immigration people for a century. Just what is this mysterious quality of population? Makes us sound like a sponge, not a country of immense space, economic possibilities and yes, tolerance. Collacott does not say – nor did the exclusionists that went before him. In the old days absorptive capacity was another way of saying white Anglos, northern Europeans, British, Scottish sometimes Baltic peoples – all desired for their thrift and hard work ethic – but never southern Europeans, blacks or Jews.

Collacott wants the government to decide how large a population we should have – a good trick, and one which I want to see him perform.

Further: immigrants may never reach the income levels of born Canadians. Maybe not – but their children do and will. Oh, and they don't speak English or French either, and their children drag down the schools. Well, if schools would restore the ESL classes they have cut from our public system, maybe more children would speak English faster! This does not occur to Collacott.

There are a lot more statements in this paper, many of them phrased in the "it may well be" manner, or figures based on non-Canadian models which "may" be true for us. (I may win the lottery tomorrow, but it is unlikely.) This kind of writing is sham academic twaddle.

Let me close with just one more example, skipping over inflammatory statements, such as our large cities may (there's that qualifier again) see race riots as the indigestible clots of immigrants cram into our schools and neighbourhoods and disrupt our nice quiet way of life.

My last example: immigrants bring disease.

Researching my master's thesis, I read for hours through the immigration files. It became addictive, and I went back to the early 1900s, transfixed by the correspondence about Jewish immigrants. As early as 1904, immigrants have brought disease. In those days, it was scarlet fever and typhoid or typhus – who wouldn't be ill after weeks on filthy ships? Now it is AIDS and TB. So don't give me your tired, poor, sick refugees. Just send me strong backs – oops, that was a former immigration minister speaking.

I'll tell you where disease, distress and difficulty linger – in the minds of people who write such papers for the Fraser Institute. They aren't even original. Let us hope they are not infecting the immigration policies of our government.

Yes, we surely need smart thinking about immigration, as it will continue to bring thousands to our country. But these sentiments demean us all. Unless Collacott, and you, the readers, are from the First Nations, we are all of us immigrants to this continent and this country. And we haven't done so badly by it, have we?

Finding a teacher

When my phone rang a couple of weeks ago, the display showed that the caller was dialing from a pay phone. I never get calls at my office from a pay phone, so I figured it was a wrong number—someone thinking I was either a taxi service or a pizza company.

My indifference vanished quickly, though, and was replaced by sharp focus and a flood of nostalgia.

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

The caller was Rabbi Itzchak Marmorstein, my high school Jewish law teacher. "Izzy," as his students fondly referred to him, left Winnipeg for Israel about 20 years ago. He later assumed a pulpit in Vancouver for a few years and now lives on British Columbia's Saltspring Island. He conducts workshops, retreats and the like, and immerses himself in the study of Torah and Kabbalah.

In the two decades since leaving Winnipeg, Izzy has studied and taught extensively and now has more rabbinical ordinations than I have suits.

Izzy was passing through Winnipeg in September and was calling to invite me to an evening of study at the home of a local rabbi. The topic was "Rav Kook on War and Peace." Rav Avraham Yitzchak Kook (1865-1935) was Israel's first chief rabbi. Izzy quoted from his "Kook Book" often in the early 1980s. I couldn't refuse the invitation.

Izzy was one of those teachers who had the ability to get into your brain—left side and right side—with just a few simple words. He delivered content in context with good humour, challenging discussions and a relaxed sense of purpose.

He was one of several gifted Judaic studies teachers at Winnipeg's Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate in the early '80s. It was an exciting time to be a student. His short phone call brought me vividly back to my Judaic studies classes with some remarkable educators.

I attended Rabbi Marmorstein's evening lesson. It was a small gathering, about 20 people. He recited some of Rav Kook's poetry, read from the tattered pages of his dog-eared "Kook Book," strummed on his guitar and led the group in song.

People drank it up. It was a warm, thought-provoking and spiritual experience. It was the kind of program where you leave feeling refreshed and happy.

On the way home, I realized that I'd been craving this sort of depth and colour in Jewish learning. Izzy's visit made me realize that, while I have engaged in some Jewish learning in the past 20 years, I haven't really challenged myself since high school. (I can make the same observation about math, but for some reason, it doesn't bother me as much.)

Pirkei Avot instructs us to "*aseh l'cha rav*" – find yourself a teacher. In high school, finding a teacher is no great feat. They're thrust upon you. But fast forward two decades and the challenge is somewhat greater.

For me, for now, I guess I'll answer the wake-up call that Izzy's visit brought by doing more Jewish reading. I'm about a quarter of the way through *The Sacred Chain*, a Jewish history book by Norman Cantor. Next up, I plan to read *The Lonely Man of Faith* by the late Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, a book I discovered on my wife's shelf last week. I also plan to occasionally read Izzy's daily "Mila Yomit" e-mail, which explores the Torah one word at a time, one day at a time.

I also plan to pay more attention to Jewish programs coming through town and make a point of attending a few more of them. And once in a while when I surf the Internet, I'll look for exciting Jewish content.

Izzy Marmorstein's visit was a treat. Learning with him was a great way to spend an evening, and the high school flashback was a gift. But, just like in high school, I now have a bit of homework to do after class.

Contact Stuart Slayen at stu_column@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

Muslim rage and impotence in modern times

For centuries, from the decline of antiquity to the dawn of modernity, Islamic civilization reigned supreme, being a paramount military and economic power and an illustrious centre of the arts and sciences. But then things changed and Muslim supremacy waned. By the 20th century, the Muslim world was largely subjugated and in a parlous state, a pale imitation of its former self. What had happened?

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Bernard Lewis, a distinguished historian of the Middle East, grapples with this conundrum in a thoughtful book, *What Went Wrong? Western Impact and Middle Eastern Response*, published by Oxford University Press. It should be read in conjunction with John Esposito's erudite *Unholy War: Terror in the Name of Islam*, released as well by Oxford University Press.

Advancing out of Arabia, the cradle of Islam, Muslim armies stormed Syria, Palestine, Egypt and North Africa in the seventh century. A century later, from their base in North Africa, Arab Muslim forces conquered Spain and Portugal and invaded France. They then seized Sicily and established a bridgehead on the Italian mainland. Christian armies eventually expelled the Muslims from Sicily and the Iberian peninsula, but in the 11th and 12th centuries, Muslim Tatars conquered Russia.

In the climax to Muslim expansionism, the Ottoman Turks captured the ancient Christian city of Constantinople, colonized the Balkans and, in the 15th century, penetrated Vienna, in the heart of Europe. At the peak of Islam's influence, only one other civilization, that of China's, could rival its achievements. Yet, as Lewis reminds us, Islam went further, creating an intercontinental, polyethnic and multiracial empire. China, by contrast, was confined to one region and one racial group.

The breakdown of Muslim power was a gradual process, rooted in intellectual neglect and military defeats. Lewis cites a litany of factors.

The immensely important translation movement that had brought Greek, Persian and Syrian works to Muslims came to an end. The new scientific literature of Europe was almost totally unknown to Muslims, and until the late 18th century, only one medical text was translated into a Middle Eastern language, a treatise on syphilis. "Apart from that," Lewis pointedly writes, "the Renaissance, the Reformation [and] the technological revolution passed virtually unnoticed in the lands of Islam."

Muslims, he explains, considered the inhabitants of the infidel West as barbarians who had little to teach them. It was a dangerous, dated concept. Though generally contemptuous of infidels, Muslims did not dismiss them altogether, being aware of Western skills in weaponry and warfare. Due to Christianity's initial success during the Crusades, Muslim domains eventually employed Western mercenaries and experts and bought war materiel from the West.

Since there was also a recognition that Western languages could be of use, the practice arose of sending students to study in the West. This, says Lewis, was a remarkable development, given the general reluctance of Muslims to venture into Christian Europe.

Prior to these developments, Muslim lands had welcomed Christian converts to Islam and Jews. In the late 15th and early 16th centuries, Jewish refugees from Europe played what Lewis describes as "a minor but not unimportant" role in Ottoman society, bringing to bear European economic, technical and medical skills. Of greater importance were the Greeks, who were particularly useful as interpreters to the Ottomans. The infusion of European talent, however, could not stem the tide of Western hegemony. Russia annexed the Crimea – a Turkish Muslim redoubt – in 1783. This was a pivotal loss, marking the emergence of Russia as a major Black Sea power and posing a threat to Ottoman and Islamic entities.

Less than two decades later, a French expeditionary force, commanded by Napoleon Bonaparte, invaded, occupied and governed Egypt. Iran fared badly, too. By the 1813 Treaty of Gulistan, Iran was forced to cede territories to Russia and to renounce claims to Georgia and Dagistan. Subsequently, Armenia and Central Asia also fell under Russian suzerainty.

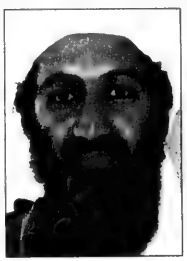
During the 1880s, Britain took control of Egypt, and in the aftermath of World War I, Syria, Palestine and Iraq were incorporated by Britain and France into League of Nations mandates.

There were, of course, Muslim modernizers, but the results they achieved were disappointing. Their quest to update their armed forces, as we have just seen, ended in humiliating setbacks. Their quest for prosperity through economic renewal resulted, in some cases, in impoverishment and corruption, and in still other cases, in an unhealthy dependence on a single resource, fossil fuels. And their quest to introduce constitutional democracy was disillusioning, ushering in an age of repressive dictatorships that continues to afflict Muslim nations to this day.

Lewis concludes: "By all the standards that matter in the modern world – economic development and job creation, literacy and educational and scientific achievement, political freedom and respect for human rights – what was once a mighty civilization had indeed fallen low."

So what went wrong? Some Arabs blamed their misfortunes on the Ottoman Turks. Still others pointed an accusing finger at Western imperialism, the United States and the oldest existing scapegoat, Jews.

Secular Arab politicians like Gamal Abdel Nasser and Hafez Assad turned to Arab nationalism as a prescription for deficiencies in the Muslim world. Since the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran, Muslims have been increasingly drawn to Islamic fundamentalism, or Islamism, as a panacea for their problems, real and imagined. Lewis believes that Muslims will not improve their lot until they adopt a more self-critical approach and start asking themselves "What did we do wrong?" instead of "Who did this to us?"



Osama bin Laden

Lewis' analysis is spot on, as a recent United Nations' report confirms. The report, written by Arab intellectuals, claims that Arab societies are crippled by an isolation from the world of ideas, a lack of political freedom and the repression of women.

Islamism, the subject of Esposito's learned book, has generated an array of fundamentalist movements in Iran, Sudan, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Egypt and Malaysia.

The causes vary by country, but in his view, there are common threads: widespread feelings of failure and loss of identity in many Muslim societies; failed political systems and economies; overcrowded cities with meagre social support systems; high unemployment; the growing gap between rich and poor; the breakdown of traditional religious and social values and government corruption. Beyond all this, Israel's crushing victory in the 1967 Six Day War contributed to the perception of Arab/Muslim impotence and of the failure of the modern nation-state in the Middle East.

Esposito claims that Osama bin Laden, supposedly in hiding in Afghanistan or Pakistan since the fall of the Taliban regime last year, represents the next step in Islamic fundamentalism: jihad international. The Arab terrorists who perpetrated the events of Sept. 11, 2001 were members of that movement, and were animated by the dissolution of Muslim power. As Esposito puts it:

"European colonialism reversed a pattern of Muslim rule and expansion that had existed from the time of the Prophet. As the balance of power and leadership shifted to Europe, much of the once dominant Islamic civilization found itself either directly [ruled] or dominated by the Christian West…

"Europe's threat to Muslim identity and autonomy raised profound religious as well as political questions for many in the Muslim world: What had gone wrong? Why had Muslims fallen behind? Why had Muslim fortunes been so thoroughly reversed?"

Claiming that Muslims such bin Laden have hijacked Islam and have used its doctrine to legitimize terrorism, Esposito warns Westerners not to judge Islam by "the beliefs and actions of a radical few."

Christianity and Judaism, he argues, made their respective accommodations with modernity. Islam has so far failed in this task.

He offers an explanation, the first part of which is that Western domination of the Muslim world has been a formidable barrier to progress. "When in power, Muslim empires were open and pluralistic in engaging foreign cultures and civilizations," he adds. "When in charge of the process, there was little fear of loss of identity, faith and pride. In defeat, Muslims faced questions of identity as well as faith."

He concludes by saying that Islam, in theology and practice, has always, in the end, rejected or marginalized extremists and terrorists. This may be historically true, but how much longer must we wait until contemporary Muslims reject and marginalize such extremists and terrorists?

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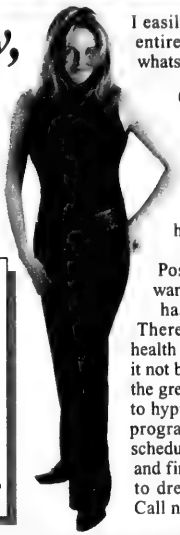
She should know, she melted off 30 lbs. two summers ago!

"Family and friends make comments such as, 'Wow, you have a great body!' It makes me feel like a million dollars!"

Lisa Bliss, Etobicoke



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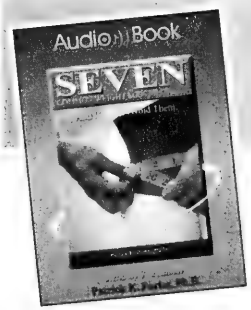

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Patrick K. Porter, Ph.D
Award-winning Author and Executive Director of Positive Changes Hypnosis Centres

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Suicide bombings political, not religious: Palestinian prof

Continued from page 7

Abu Samra's speech centred on the history of the Palestinian resistance to Zionism and the State of Israel. According to Abu Samra, the prominence of martyrdom, which he interpreted as the proliferation of suicide bombers, in Sunni Islam is a relatively new phenomenon.

He said Palestinian resistance can be divided into three stages – the first stage occurred before the creation of the state of Israel, the second lasted from the mid-1960s to 1982 and the third stage began with the first intifadah at the end of the 1980s and continues until today.

Abu Samra said the first two stages were characterized by hope among Palestinians that they could change their circumstances, while in the third stage they have become "desperate."

According to Abu Samra, "the martyr or the suicide bomber as someone who represents the dominant mode of Palestinian resistance to Israeli occupation is limited to the third stage onwards."

During the question-and-answer session, audience members peppered Abu Samra, who calls himself a Palestinian citizen of Israel, with pointed questions. One audience member asked him to explain what Muslim leaders point to in the Qu'ran to justify suicide bombings.

"Don't take religion seriously," Abu Samra said. "Behaviour is determined by the social, cultural and political realities, not by texts."

He added that "martyrdom is a marginal phenomenon in Sunni Islam... I think the realities of colonialism and occupation can help to invent a new tradition."

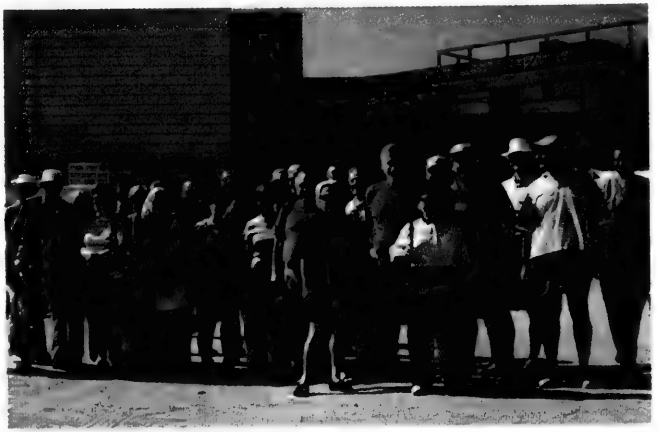
The speakers ended the evening on an optimistic note.

Adelman said a number of Arabs and Palestinians have attended lectures held by himself and Abu Samra on university campuses.

"I've sensed an interest in what we both have been saying," Adelman said. "And in our course in Israel, we have Jews and Palestinians studying together."

Abu Samra echoed Adelman's positive tone. "In the last 10 or 15 years, both sides have recognized the existence of the other," he said. "I have a feeling that both sides are aware of the fact that we have no other country. I think there's a kind of dialogue that we have noticed in recent months on both sides."

After the discussion, Kolel director Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, who introduced the speakers, said in an interview that the evening helped to expose people to different sides of the issue, but the views expressed do not reflect those of Kolel, which she stressed is a pro-Israel organization.



A DOSE OF REALITY: Canadian doctors and dentists visited Laniado Hospital in Netanya as part of UJA Federation's Toronto Medical-Dental Solidarity Mission. While there, head trauma nurse Lydia Lanxer, emergency preparedness coordinator of the hospital, explained the differences in triage methods in terror emergency conditions. She illustrated the plight of the hospital by describing the Passover bombing at the Park Hotel. "There were some 300 guests; 150 were wounded on the spot – the dead I'm not counting – 73 were brought to Laniado; 22 were severely wounded. We only have 14 stretchers and we don't even have oxygen points to treat everyone. The hotel is about three minutes from here, meaning that we heard the blast. We heard the first ambulance and by the time we put our gloves on, the first victim had arrived. How do you deal with such an event?" she asked. Twenty-nine people died. A former Toronto doctor now working in the hospital, said: "To really get a feel for what Lydia is talking about, picture an ambulance team in Toronto driving a heart attack victim down University Avenue. Toronto General emergency – closed. Then you go to St. Michael's and it's closed. Mount Sinai is closed. You might have to end up in Sunnybrook. This gives you an idea of our level of preparedness. Laniado is never closed."

legacy of life

Henry Goodman 1907 – 1997

When **Henry Goodman** spoke, people took notice. That's because when Henry was passionate about something, he wanted the world to join in.

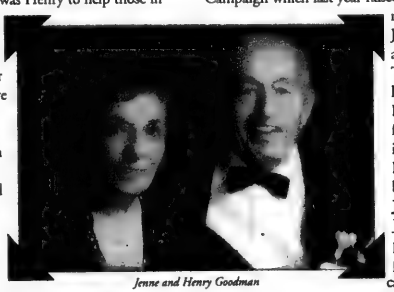
"My father always saw the glass as three-quarters full," says daughter **Lesley Miller**. "He was concerned about the common man and the common good and believed that if you had faith in a vision then anything was possible. He believed strongly in the whole concept of universality, what you do for this person you do for the other person. He believed in innovative programming and planning for the future. He called it as it was, he told you how he felt, and his Old World manners and charm allowed him to get away with it."

What moved Henry most were three things: family, community and social justice. Together they took him on a 60-year journey as a professional volunteer whose energy knew no bounds.

It all started in the late 1920s when young Henry, who was studying at Toronto's Osgoode Hall, found work in a law office across the street from the juvenile court. Whenever a Jewish child was in trouble, the local Jewish community would call on Henry to check up on the child and offer help. But for Henry that wasn't enough, so he took it upon himself to get cases held over until he could talk to the child's parents and work something out with the court. Henry became the legal aid representative for Jewish Big Brothers and eventually became president of Jewish Family and Child Service (JF&CS) in Toronto and co-founder of the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies (AJFCA) based in New Jersey.

"JF&CS was my first love because they take care of people from birth to death," Henry once said. "That's what being Jewish is all about."

So determined was Henry to help those in need that he didn't stop pushing until he saw change. He'd tap people for donations anywhere he could, be it on the streets, on the golf course, and on the tennis court. He even convinced the concierge at a popular country club to be his donation drop-off depot. He was a proselytizer of sorts, says daughter **Rhoda Lipton**, and if he believed in something "you couldn't come within an arm's reach of him without hearing about it."



Jenne and Henry Goodman

"Henry was a noodge in the best sense of the word," recalls **Gordon Wolfe**, executive director of JF&CS. "He would go to conferences, learn about new programs, and then be on the phone right away urging us to implement them here. He was always pushing, and as a result many new programs were initiated."

When JF&CS wanted to have a dinner in his honour Henry refused, urging potential guests to give what they could to the organization instead. The gesture evolved into an annual Friends Campaign which last year raised $300,000 for much-needed JF&CS programs and services. There's a group home named after Henry and two funds established in the name of Henry and his beloved wife **Jenne** – one at JF&CS so young people in their permanent care can pursue post-secondary education, and another given by AJFCA to a Jewish agency for innovative programming.

Henry's quest for social fairness benefited other organizations, too. He was very active with the United Jewish Welfare Fund (predecessor to UJA Federation), co-founding the Fund's social planning committee and chairing it for eight years. He was also active with Toronto Jewish Congress (now UJA Federation of Greater Toronto), the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, the Jewish Community Centre, Holy Blossom Temple, Metropolitan Toronto Children's Aid Society, and Metro Toronto's Social Planning Council. Where he found the time was anyone's guess, since he also ran a busy law practice and later reinvented himself in the property investment and management business.

Henry lived to be 90 years old and was involved right to the end, always staying aware and trying to make a difference.

"Henry was concerned about the disadvantaged and the vulnerable in our community and kept reminding the rest of us of our obligations," says Mr. Wolfe. "If everybody had that kind of concern and commitment, there would be a lot more volunteers and a lot more people being helped."

If you have a suggestion for future Legacy of Life profiles, please call Perri at 416.631.5728.

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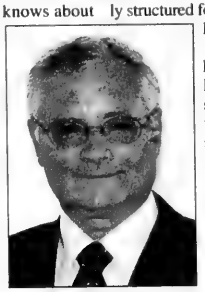
JNF shaliach is new Mr. Israel

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Joining Jewish National Fund (JNF) as its shaliach in Toronto has been an eye-opener for Eitan Glaser.

"Before becoming involved with JNF, I knew what every other person knows about the organization – it plants trees in Israel," says Glaser, who began his three-year term in August.



Eitan Glaser

While he was on a tour of JNF projects in Israel, he says, "I suddenly noticed how much the organization really does.

"It was an education. I learned that JNF deals with land reclamation for agriculture and settlements, helps develop new water resources, restores rivers, builds roads and establishes tourism and recreation sites.

"Now that I know so much more about the organization, I am encouraged to show others what it's all about. I want to open their eyes just as mine were opened," he says.

Glaser, 57, is a graduate of the Military Boarding School of Haifa, and served as major in the tank corps of the Israel Defence Forces.

He has worked for the Prime Minister's Office, and most recently he was responsible for research publications, public affairs and communications with the Institute of Policy and Strategy of the Lauder School of Government, Politics and Strategy, an interdisciplinary centre in Herzliyah.

Since he was 14, he says, he aspired to have a military career and work for Israel. "I decided that after I retired I could still contribute to the country in other ways."

JNF Toronto had not had a shaliach for about one year because the person supposed to come just prior to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks became involved in security matters in Boston, says Glaser.

One of the organization's more recent projects is the Halochem Park – part of Haruvit Forest – for physically challenged IDF soldiers, located between Bet Shemesh and the Re'em Junction. The park is suited for wheelchair traffic and includes a recreation area especially structured for those who are physically challenged.

This year's Negev Dinner honorees, Saul and Toby Feldberg, have chosen a second stage of the project to be funded from the proceeds of the dinner, says Glaser.

"The main idea for this park is that life goes on. Although people are suffering, they need a place where they can go and enjoy themselves. Unfortunately, more and more people are becoming disabled every day."

A JNF priority, he says, are the security roads it is currently building together with the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Public Works Department, in order to ensure safe passage for IDF soldiers, and to help protect civilians who use the road daily.

Glaser's main function while in Toronto is fund-raising, he says, but he also intends to be "Mr. Israel. I plan on speaking to seniors' clubs and schools to educate people about the country and about JNF.

"When groups want someone to represent Israel, they often turn to the JNF shaliach. It is traditional for shlichim to speak about Israel, its affairs and its people."

Glaser says this is his first time in Canada. "It has been a soft landing thanks to the JNF staff. I've also found a warm community with very warm souls. I feel almost at home."

He believes strongly in Israel and in its future, he says, "but I know Israel will not be able to survive without the Jewish nation abroad. We each help each other."

NEW REENA HOME: After one year of operating from a temporary townhome, Reena officially opened a specially built home in Maple for children with autism. Allen and Judy Berg dedicated the home in memory of Allen's mother, Yetta. The Berg Home, a permanent residence for three children with autism, provides a place where these children can develop friendships, have freedom of movement, and participate in appropriate programs. A further three spaces will provide respite to 18 families on a rotational basis. The dedication ceremony included the hanging of a mezuzah by Rabbi Ahron Hoch of the Village Shul, Toronto, and greetings from Thornhill MPP Tina Molinari and Vaughan Mayor Michael DiBiase. Also present were representatives from the Ministry of Family and Children's Services; local councillors Susan Kadis and Linda Jackson; directors of Reena and Reena Foundation; and family and friends of the Bergs. A heartfelt thank you to the Berg Family was made by Robin and Joe Spataro, parents of a resident of the Berg Home. Seen here is (from left) Judy and Allen Berg, Robin and Joe Spataro.

Toronto artist's mural unites Israeli army base

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A portion of Rhona Stein Singer's mural.

It's a project that Toronto artist Rhona Stein Singer credits with changing her life.

As a volunteer on an Israeli army base this past summer, Singer was asked to paint a mural on the 60-foot exterior wall of the base – the largest base between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

"I had been working in the medical corp unit putting together medicines and instruments, and I loved the work, but after a week, I was approached about painting this mural," said Singer, a painter, art therapist and author of children's books. "I knew it was a job meant specifically for me."

She decided to volunteer in Israel with Sar-El, the National Project for Volunteers for Israel, she said, because the "country needed me. My children are grown, and my husband, Norman, supported my decision. I felt that if I didn't go to Israel, who would?"

Israel is not new to her, she says. When she lived there for three years about 30 years ago, she completed a program to become an official tour guide for the Ministry of Tourism.

"That stint plugged me into my Judaism and into the country. I was the only woman guide in Gaza, and I saw the beginnings of the mess we are in now."

When asked to do the mural, she says, "I knew I couldn't complete it myself in the five weeks I had left as a volunteer, so I recruited help. I met two other artists who were volunteering on the base and they jumped at the chance."

The theme of the wall is Sar-El Friends. The mural depicts a group of volunteers dressed in army uniform, standing with their hands on each others' shoulders.

"I developed that idea, because every morning, the soldiers would line up beside each other with their arms outstretched," she says. "By depicting the volunteers touching each others' shoulders, I was demonstrating the solidarity the volunteers feel for Israel, for the soldiers, and for each other."

The work was a bonding experience, she says. "As we painted, we developed an intense friendship. We automatically connected because we had a common dream.

"It was difficult work… We worked from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the full heat, but we discovered a 10:30 a.m. shadow that cooled things down a little."

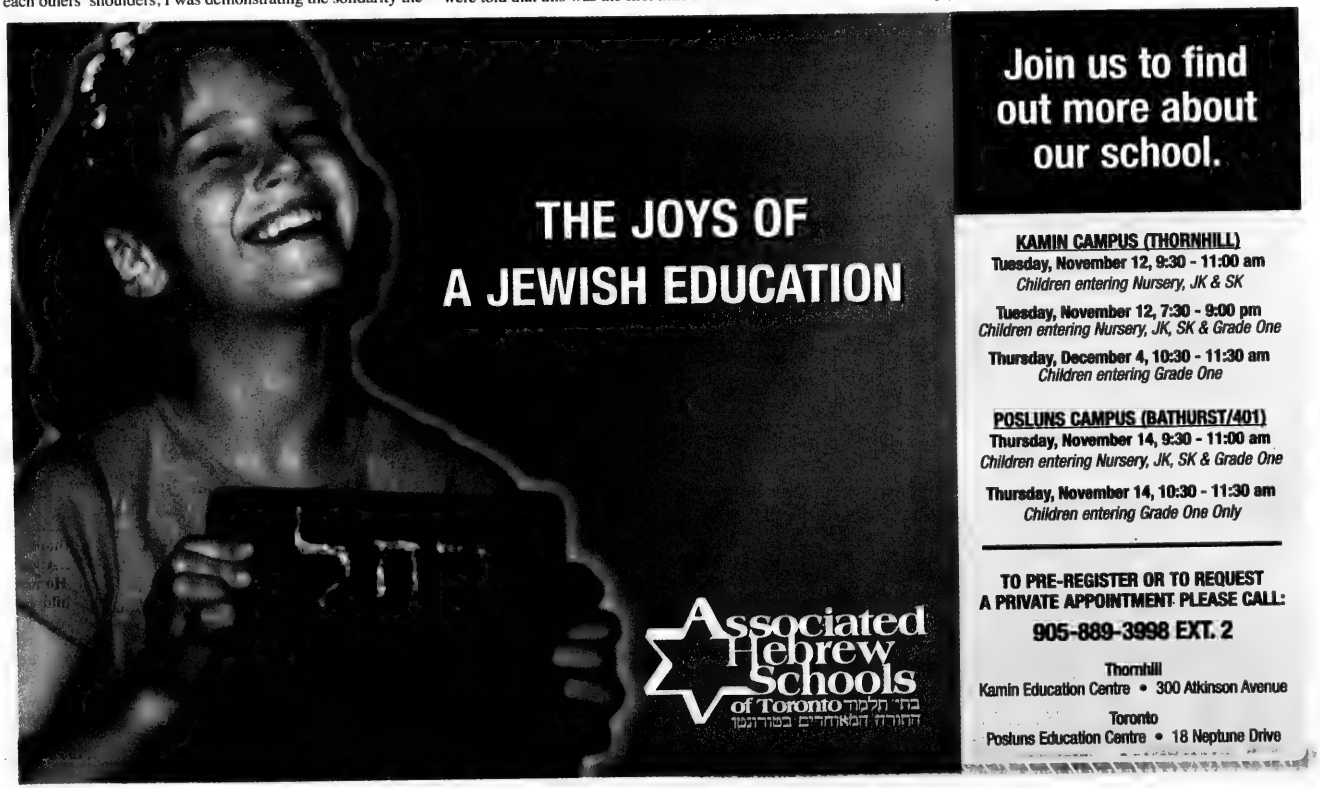
Eventually, she said, the whole base got involved in their project.

"As the days progressed and they saw the mural taking shape, they would honk their horns and do a thumbs up. We were told that this was the first time the soldiers took such an interest in the volunteers' activities. It was uplifting to see a bond develop between them."

The soldiers had been feeling isolated and abandoned, she says, because they hadn't realized so many people cared about them. "They were overwhelmed by the commitment of the volunteers."

Those six weeks in Israel, says Singer, "reignited all my old Zionist passions. I realized I was more afraid of not going to Israel than of going there. That old pull changed me. I plan on spending four or five months there, every year."

It's a good thing she plans on going back. "There are still two empty walls on the army base," she says.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Jewish Life

There is danger in mocking warnings

By RABBI IRWIN WITTY

This week's Torah reading includes a description detailing the destruction of Sodom. Jewish tradition teaches that Sodom was the very essence of sinfulness and evil. Various sources detail how steeped the inhabitants of Sodom were in idolatry, licentiousness, lasciviousness and murder. Their cruelty and heartlessness was especially evident in their insistence that any goods or possessions held even by their own widows and orphans must be surrendered to the ruling class.

Rabbinic Reflections

Sodom's evil was entrenched in legislation, which dictated that anyone offering so much as a slice of bread to an indigent person, a stranger or a poverty-stricken neighbour would be condemned to death by fire.

Not a place any of us would want even to visit, let alone dwell therein.

Scripture informs us that despite Abraham's efforts to stave off the destruction of Sodom, the Almighty decrees that the city that was the very embodiment of evil must be destroyed.

When Abraham learns of the divine decree, he addresses his sons-in-law and urges them to flee from the doom about to be visited upon the city. He exhorts them to get themselves "out of this place." But, in the eyes of his sons-in-law, he comes across as silly; they feel the impending disaster is all a joke. So much so that Abraham himself hesitates, and as disaster strikes, he is grabbed by the emissaries from God along with his wife and daughters, and led to the outskirts of the city.

Why do Abraham's sons-in-law treat the entire prediction of doom with disdain and laughter?

The Midrash fills in what is omitted in the biblical account. Apparently, the younger men turn to him with utterly incredulity and declared, "The city is filled with joy and merriment; the atmosphere resounds with the music of harps, violins and flutes, reflecting a mood of gaiety and contentment; all of Sodom's inhabitants dwell in tranquillity; and you are declaring that the city is to be overturned? Surely, Abraham, you are a fearmonger and are using scare tactics. Things are going so well; how dare you present the gloomy scenario you are painting?"

This midrashic tale sets me thinking about a parallel reaction that many offer with regard to our contemporary Jewish world. There are those who, like Abraham of old, express grave concerns about the future of Jewish life in the West, afflicted as we are with defections due to indifference and intermarriage, widespread ignorance of Jewish sources and tenuous affiliations with Jewish institutions.

But those issuing the warnings are met with mockery. The contemporary sons-in-law of Abraham tell us that Jews enjoy freedom to an extent never known before in our history. We enjoy economic success and have reached political heights beyond the wildest expectations of the immigrant generation. Jews serve as advisors to presidents, hold judicial appointments and constitute a major force on university campuses. Jews are a significant influence in the intellectual and literary development of the West. Amidst all of this, is there a need to be concerned about future Jewish generations? How silly!

Like Abraham, we hesitate. Maybe the situation is not as bleak as we might imagine. Yet we, like Abraham, need to have someone take us away from all the glitter around us, so that Jews might recognize that, despite our incredible achievements and celebrated status, there is "gloom and doom" that dogs us and that there are dangers to Jewish life against which we must be on guard.

Rabbi Witty, director emeritus of the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education, is director of the Albert and Temmy Latner Jewish Public Library.

Israel provides access to all holy sites

MYTH:

Israel denies Muslims and Christians free access to their holy sites.

FACT:

Since 1967, hundreds of thousands of Muslims and Christians – many from Arab countries that remain in a state of war with Israel – have come to Jerusalem to see their holy places. Arab leaders are free to visit Jerusalem to pray if they wish to, just as Egyptian President Anwar Sadat did at the al-Aksa mosque.

According to Islam, the prophet Muhammed was miraculously transported from Mecca to Jerusalem, and it was from there that he made his ascent to heaven. The Dome of the Rock and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, both built in the seventh century, made definitive the identification of Jerusalem as the "Remote Place" that is mentioned in the Koran, and thus a holy place after Mecca and Medina. Muslim rights on the Temple Mount, the site of the two shrines, have not been infringed. Although it is the holiest site in Judaism, Israel has left the Temple Mount under the control of Muslim religious authorities.

For Christians, Jerusalem is the place where Jesus lived, preached, died and was resurrected. While it is the heavenly rather than the earthly Jerusalem that is emphasized by the Church, places mentioned in the New Testament as the sites of Jesus' ministry have drawn pilgrims and devoted worshippers for centuries. Among these sites are the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Garden of Gethsemane, the site of the Last Supper and the Via Dolorosa with the 14 Stations of the Cross.

The rights of the various Christian churches to custody of the Christian holy places in Jerusalem were defined in the course of the 19th century, when Jerusalem was part of the Ottoman Empire. Known as the "status quo arrangement for the Christian holy places in Jerusalem," these rights remained in force during the period of the British Mandate and are still upheld today in Israel.

Source: Myths and Facts – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict *by Mitchell G. Bard, http://www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org.*

Dry Bones
WHEN YOU'RE A KID, YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO LISTEN.
AND THEN BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...
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THIS IS CALLED THE MIRACLE OF JEWISH CONTINUITY.
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Jewish Life

Bashert & the Internet

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

When you talk about romance and love and marriage and Judaism, one other word that inevitably comes up is "bashert." Translated as "fated," bashert is often used to mean the predestined soulmate. Today, a look at this intriguing word.

According to tradition, 40 days before a child is conceived, God has already decided one's bashert, "literally, a match made in heaven." But as the Judaism 101 site points out, just because a match is made in heaven "doesn't mean that your marriage will be trouble-free. Marriage, like everything worthwhile in life, requires dedication, effort and energy" **[http://www.jewfaq.org/marriage.htm]**.

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin goes one step further, saying that even if your soulmate is predestined doesn't mean you don't have to get moving **[http://www.ohrtorah.org.il/parsha/5758/besh.htm]**. He proves that fact by quoting the Gemarah's incredible statement that bringing two people together in marriage is as difficult as the splitting of the Red Sea (Sanhedrin 22a).

Rabbi Riskin explains that God was prepared to split the Red Sea to save the Israelites, but the Israelites had to make the first move. "Comparing marriage to the splitting of the Red Sea is how the sages address the doubts and fears all couples face. The comparison tells the questioning and even fearful loving friends at the brink of a critical decision that they have to take the plunge, make the first move, be willing to work hard and to constantly move forward. Neither he nor she may sit back and wait for 'bashert.'"

It seems as if Martin Bodek has done his share of searching and has some words for encouragement for anyone who is dating. In "How to Find Your Bashert," Bodek uses some high-falootin' calculations to prove how there are billions of people in the world who are wrong for you. But don't despair, Mr. or Ms. Right is out there… if Bodek's math is right **[http://www.angelfire.com/ny3/yaron2/bashert.html]**.

But how do know if you've found your true bashert? An article on the RealOlam site suggests that you cannot really know who your bashert is. "But once you get married, the person you married is by definition your bashert, so you should not let concerns about finding your bashert discourage you from marrying someone" **[http://www.realolam.com/channels/default.asp?channel=35&articleid=1567]**.

For more on the subject, you can listen to Rebbitzen Rookie Billet, who analyzes some very basic questions such as, "What is a bashert?" "Why do I meet people who are unworthy of my love, yet fall in love with them?" and "Is it better to be married and miserable or single and miserable?" **[http://www.613.org/subject.html#love]**

To find the answers, Billet looks to the relationships of Adam and Eve and of the Matriarchs and Patriarchs. And for more on bashert, see Moshe Handler's the Meaning of Bashert **[http://www.jewishinterest.com/May%20%2097%20Articles/Meaningbasherte.html]**.

As I mentioned above, marriages are bashert because God is the matchmaker **[http://www.jewfaq.org/marriage.htm]**. The Judaism 101 Web site quotes the following midrash about a Roman woman who asked a rabbi, "'If your God created the universe in six days, then what has He been doing with his time since then?'

The rabbi said that God has been arranging marriages. The Roman woman scoffed at this, saying that arranging marriages was a simple task, but the rabbi assured her that arranging marriages properly is as difficult as parting the Red Sea. To prove the rabbi wrong, the Roman woman went home and took 1,000 male slaves and 1,000 female slaves and matched them up in marriages.

"The next day, the slaves appeared before her, one with a cracked skull, another with a broken leg, another with his eye gouged out, all asking to be released from their marriages. The woman went back to the rabbi and said, 'There is no god like your God, and your Torah is true.'"

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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Replacing the rabbi: an inside look at shul politics

***The New Rabbi: A Congregation Searches for Its Leader*, by Stephen Fried, Bantam Books, 2002, $39.95**

Books
Bernard Baskin

At the centre of this compelling chronicle is Philadelphia's Conservative Har Zion Temple, which for the last 75 years has been one of America's largest and most prestigious congregations.

Rabbi Gerald Wolpe, a brilliant sermonizer and strong spiritual leader, who has served the congregation for more than 30 years, announces his decision to retire. This comes at a time when the congregation is considering a site for its new building. An exhaustive, nation-wide search for a new rabbi begins that is filled with drama, excitement and shul politics.

Stephen Fried, an award-winning investigative journalist, is granted access to the intense, often troubled personal and professional life of the temple's rabbis, and the complex, behind-the-scenes activities of a major congregation and its problems.

The search, expected to be relatively simple and to not take more than a year, extends to two years, and then to three. Numerous résumés are submitted and rejected. Well-qualified candidates are interviewed and found lacking. A rabbi chosen by the search committee changes his mind at the last moment.

The assistant rabbi at Har Zion is young, likeable and able. He becomes an unlikely candidate for the position even though, according to the rules of the Conservative Rabbinical Assembly, he is ineligible, being only three years out of rabbinical school and woefully inexperienced. A compromise is devised that allows him to serve as "senior rabbi in waiting" until the necessary six-year period is reached since his ordination.

The author, from his unusual vantage point, observes the conflicts between generations over issues of belief, observance, and the pressures of secular life. We meet Rabbi Wolpe's vigorously minded ailing wife, as well as his sons, one of whom has become a celebrity rabbi in Los Angeles.

Rabbi Wolpe had always discouraged the presence of young children at the service. For a long time, he resisted the trend of allowing children onto the bimah at the end of bar and bat mitzvahs to "lead" the closing prayer *Ein Kelokeinu*. One synagogue officer told Fried that he recalls Wolpe saying that such a scene is "too cute and Har Zion does not do cute."

Today, however, Har Zion does cute. "At the end of services, children from the Junior Congregation are led into the main sanctuary and up onto the bimah… The kids make noise and run around, some kids are wearing little 'dress clothes,' but most wear sneakers, baggy pants and sweaters. For some parents, this is the only reason to come to synagogue. The end of each service becomes a two-minute kiddie pageant."

In our rapidly changing affluent North American society, there are inevitable tensions between secular and traditional values. For example, 3,000 worshippers gather at Har Zion on the High Holy Days, many of them especially to hear the rabbi's well modulated and stimulating sermons. However, only a handful are present at the Sukkot festival.

If you are interested in synagogue life, changes in religious practice, the role of the congregational rabbi and what the author calls "the retail business of religion," then this book is for you. I found it of unfailing interest.

DETOUR ON THE WAY TO HEAVEN

At the end of his life, when already in poor health, Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, the 19th century German Rabbi, decided to visit the Swiss Alps. His disciples, surprised the rabbi would forgo an entire day of Torah study for such an apparently unimportant pursuit, asked why he was making such a trip. He replied: *"When I die I'm sure one of the first questions G-d will ask me is: 'So, Shimshon my dear rabbi, what did you think of my beautiful Alps?'*
And indeed Jewish tradition teaches that G-d will ask each one of us when we arrive in heaven, *"Did you make sure to enjoy the delightful world I created for you?"*

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Jewish Toronto

Parlour meetings encourage early involvement

Longtime friends **Mark Waldman** and **Josh Cooper** are bringing a whole new generation into the **UJA Federation** family. For the past year and a half, Waldman and Cooper have been inviting young professionals to their homes to hear visiting Israeli speakers, raising more than **$100,000** from new or existing donors. Between 25 and 110 people attended each event.

"It's a simple way for me to ease my peers into stepping up their gifts to UJA," says Waldman, 34 who is also a vice-chair of the **UJA Federation Major Gifts Cabinet** and co-chair of the **Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund**. "If we're going to ask young people to donate money, it's important for them to know what UJA is about. By coming out, they feel they're involved, that they can touch UJA a little bit. More importantly, we hope these speakers will raise the consciousness of participants about the situation faced by Jews in Israel and inspire them to become more active in the community."

Mark Waldman (left) and Josh Cooper

Waldman says many young professionals give little to charity and don't understand what's appropriate to give. Or they're so caught up in their jobs and raising a young family they're too busy to think about giving. That's where Waldman sees his niche.

"I'm telling them they could be doing more, that they can do more. All you have to do is ask," he says.

Waldman and Cooper recently opened up their parlour meetings to non-Jews, too, so they will learn about life in Israel and take that message into the wider community. Cooper, 32, sees his "Bagels in the 905 Diaspora" breakfast sessions as nothing less than his personal way of ensuring Israel's survival.

Cooper says he got into the spirit of holding his own meetings back in May, following one of Waldman's sessions, featuring one of Ariel Sharon's top advisors, Ra'anan Gissin.

"There weren't really any educational speakers on behalf of UJA north of Steeles," says Cooper. "I attended Mark's session and saw how wonderful the potential was, and called UJA to ask who was holding these events in Thornhill. They told me nobody was, so I said, 'well then, I am'. The 905 area is Canada's fastest growing Jewish community. After seeing Gissin, I knew we had to do something in that area."

"All you have to do is ask..."

The rest, as they say, is history.

His first meeting, held in June 2002 at his Thornhill home, attracted 60 people, raising $20,000 for UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003. Then there was a second session featuring a prominent Israeli Defense Ministry analyst.

"A lot of people I speak to say that their parents give on behalf of the family. It is now our generation's turn to start giving, " says Cooper. "I've never been to Israel, and I have a fear that there won't be an Israel one day if people don't commit to it. I want my kids to be able to go to Israel, and I also want to go soon. That's why I do this."

If you would like to hold a series of parlour meetings in your neighbourhood, contact **Joelle Tollinsky** at **416-631-5732** or by e-mail at jtollinsky@ujafed.org

Building for tomorrow

Construction has begun on the long awaited **Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life** near the University of Toronto, at the corner of Harbord and Huron.

The new centre – made possible by the generosity of the **Wolfond family** - via **UJA Federation's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow** - initiative will, hopefully be complete within a year.

The recent groundbreaking for the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the University of Toronto. Breaking out the hard-hats at the groundbreaking are: (Left to right) David Gotfrid, Jack Zarek, Agi Mandel, Henry Wolfond, Jack Chisvin-Project Manager, Zac Kaye, Susan Friedrich-Architect

The new complex will be the nerve centre of Jewish programming not only for students at U of T, but for all students in the downtown core.

It will also provide them with the tools needed to confidently take on the important task of defending Israel's cause.

The new 12,000 square foot building is long overdue to replace the existing cramped quarters at University College.

"This is a very exciting moment in the life of this project," says **Zac Kaye**, Executive Director of UJA Federation's Jewish Campus Services. "It is the culmination of seven years of hard work on behalf of so many people, to bring us to this point."

Boasting a state-of-the-art student common room, many resource rooms, a spiritual centre, a fireplace lounge, and an outdoor garden, the Wolfond Centre will help to establish a strong connection between Jewish students and Jewish life at a time when many students are still finding themselves.

The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life will also provide students with the materials, information and resources to educate them about Israel and build Jewish pride on campus.

It will offer an audio-visual centre and a *Cyber Centre* enabling students to interactively access facts and figures for presentations to counter misinformation and propaganda.

CHAZON: a new vision for jewish education

Chazon is a new initiative of UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education and Jewish Toronto Tomorrow. Chazon's mandate is to bring together a group of caring, committed Jews who are passionate about Jewish education in our community. The group will identify specific concerns and needs while promoting new proactive, innovative approaches to Jewish education.

Pictured from left to right as the inaugural meeting of Chazon are: Ronnie Appleby, Lindy Goodman, Sandy Brown, Liz Wolfe, and Dr. Seymour Epstein, executive director of UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education.

Jewish Toronto

Canadian communities help to protect Israeli children

Canadian Jewish communities are responding generously to provide expanded protection for Israel's pre-school age children.

Security guards are among the allocations for funds raised during **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Israel Emergency Campaign 2003**. The guards are designated for kindergartens, day care centres, community centres, and events in Toronto's partnership communities of Eilat/Eilot, Beit Dagan, Kfar Gvirol and Kiryat Moshe. UJA Federation will as well, fill in other gaps identified by the Jewish Agency.

"For years there was no security..."

In addition to pre-school security, UJA Federation emergency campaign funds will be allocated to help victims of terror, hospital equipment, trauma assistance and human services for Israel's most vulnerable.

Montreal's Federation/CJA has earmarked $850,000 for kindergarten security guards in the Jerusalem region. Today, thanks to this funding, guards protect 128 kindergartens in 50 complexes.

"For years there was no security and we were going to have to ask the parents to pay for guards," says Gilo kindergarten teacher Meirav Ayubi. "Now we don't." Gilo, which has suffered countless shooting attacks since the outbreak of Palestinian violence more than two years ago, is home to some 42,000 people.

More than $500,000 raised in other Canadian communities - including Vancouver, Victoria, Calgary, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Windsor, London, Hamilton, Ottawa and the Atlantic region - have been transferred for security needs at kindergartens and educational facilities in the Galilee Panhandle.

Security guards such as this one at an Israeli day care centre are made possible by funds raised during UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003

Giving is growing

If **UJA Federation's Ben Gurion Society** is any indication, giving is growing among Toronto's young Jewish adults.

The Ben Gurion Society consists of Jews 45-years-old and under who contribute a minimum of $1,000 to the UJA Federation campaign.

This year Ben Gurion society members have raised **$1.9 million** so far for **UJA Federation Campaign 2003**, compared to $1.1 million last year – a 73% increase.

"The number of special recognition events held for Ben Gurion members, combined with Israel's situation, has made people dig deeper into their pockets," says **Brad Ashley**, Chair of The Ben Gurion Society with **Jodi Bager**.

"Young people are continually stepping up to the plate and generally exceeding the minimum Ben Gurion level. I think it's safe to say that giving is definitely growing among younger Jews," adds Ashley.

"As the mother of a young family, whose children learn the basic tenets of Judaism," says Bager, "I have the responsibility of ensuring that what they learn in Hebrew school is practiced at home, especially tzedakah and *tikun olam*. Through the Ben Gurion Society, I have that opportunity, as we all do."

Ben Gurion society membership has increased impressively during its three years in existence. In 2001 - its inaugural year – membership stood at 393, followed by 522 the next year, and 612 this year.

Members of the Ben Gurion Society will soon be attending their second annual retreat in Chicago from October 26 to October 28 where they will hear expert speakers and volunteer at some of Chicago's Jewish agencies.

For more information about UJA Federation's Ben Gurion Society, contact **Naomi Cohen** at **416.631.5698** or via email at **ncohen@ujafed.org**

Chairs of The Ben Gurion Society, Jodi Bager and Brad Ashley, are all smiles at a BGS event preceding the launch of UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 at Toronto's Royal York Hotel.

Finding your philanthropic identity

On **Tuesday, October 15**, **The Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto's Family Philanthropy Forum**, chaired by **Michael Shulman**, held part one of a two-part series called ***Finding Your Philanthropic Identity***.

Held at Toronto's Four Seasons Hotel, the evening featured a special presentation by **Mark Charendoff**, President, The Jewish Funders Network, in New York. Charendoff is the former Vice President of the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Philanthropies, where he helped to establish the *birthright israel* program.

Charendoff's presentation focused on strategic philanthropy, and included a case study with facilitated family group conversations.

Part Two of the program takes place on **Sunday, November 3** from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst Street, Room 421. For more information, contact **Maxine Bessin** at **416-631-5827** or **mbessin@ujafed.org**

Pictured below from L-R: Featured speaker Mark Charendoff, Michael Shulman, Chair, Lionel Robins, Lionel Schipper and Lionel Waldman.

Umbrella group launched for Holocaust survivors

Seven sons and daughters of Holocaust survivors from across the United States who undertook to come up with a plan to unite descendants of Jewish Holocaust survivors under a loosely knit umbrella group, announced their success at the International Child Survivors and Second Generation Conference.

The conference, titled Sharing the Past, Celebrating Life, was sponsored by the World Federation of Jewish Child Survivors of the Holocaust. It took place over the Columbus Day/Thanksgiving weekend, as both nations celebrate federal holidays on the same Monday.

The Federation of Descendants of Jewish Holocaust Survivors will operate as a loose federation to provide groups and individuals with resources on the issues of concern to descendants of Jewish Holocaust survivors, and will link people together via the Internet and other media.

In a letter circulated to other descendants of survivors, the Toronto group makes clear that: "We want as many descendants of Holocaust survivors as possible to have ownership of this process. Therefore, we invite you to participate by contacting us. Please let us know your specific areas of interest and expertise, whether you would like to volunteer to co-ordinate information and communications in your region or would lead or participate in committees being organized around a variety of subjects.'

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Some of the resource committees are: long term health care for aging parents; political action; restitution and reparation; memoir writing; and preserving the past.

Committees will be added as people express their interests and expertise.

The planned Web site will be structured around links to regional and resource co-ordinators, individuals, groups, and Holocaust institutions.

The new federation will work in co-operation with all legitimate Holocaust survivor groups and Jewish organizations, and is looking to establish contact with descendants of Jewish Holocaust survivors around the world.

One member of the interim steering commitee is Serena Woolrich, who formed Holocaust groups in four states in the last 30 years. She is now active in Boston.

Relieved and smiling after intense planning sessions, she said, "At last we will have the resources and wherewithal to connect to each another and share our thoughts and information. We have needed this for a long time and I'm very pleased that we have committed ourselves to reaching out to one another."

Menachem Rosensaft, the founding chair of the International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors established in 1981, said "all of us are intent on getting this new federation off the ground."

Jeanette Friedman, founder of Second Generation North Jersey in 1979, who worked with Rosensaft on the 1981 World Gathering of Holocaust Survivors in Jerusalem, stressed that each member or group that joins the umbrella remains autonomous, and will continue to speak for itself and its constituents.

"We descendants of Holocaust survivors come from every walk of life and every religious and political denomination.

"We all have different opinions, ideas and philosophies, and only one commonality binds us – what we can learn from our past and apply to the present so that we can be assured a safe and secure future as Jews and human beings on this planet."

Chief Rabbi to speak in Toronto

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, Israel's Chief Ashkenazi rabbi, will be in Toronto on a one-day trip Oct. 27, when he will speak at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

In his public lecture that evening, the rabbi will discuss The Unprecedented, Unique Bond Between Christians and Jews in the Wake of Global Terrorism.

Rabbi Lau has been meeting recently with Christian leaders and discussing publicly the bond between Christians and Jews, said Francesca David, co-ordinator of the event at Shaarei Shomayim.

The event, at $18 a ticket ($20 at the door), is a fund-raiser for a new Israeli organization, A Shoulder to A Soldier, which provides support to soldiers from low-income families and soldiers who don't have family in Israel (commonly, those who immigrated at a young age without their parents).

Rabbi Lau

Rabbi Lau was elected to his present position in 1993. A child survivor of the Holocaust, he was born in Piotrokow, Poland in 1937. His last visit to Toronto was in June 2001, when he spoke at a memorial service for the victims of the Dolphinarium disco bombing in Tel Aviv.

DISCOVER ISRAEL
Crusader Castles and Fortress Fun
Once upon a time, Israel's medieval castles and ancient fortresses provided emperors, kings and knights with wall-to-wall protection against enemy armies. Today, these historic, stone structures are exciting tourist attractions surrounded by spectacular scenery and national parks.
Montfort Castle – Even today, this French Crusader stronghold, built in 1226, is accessible only by foot. But the view of northern Israel from the well-preserved, hilltop castle ruins makes the trek well worthwhile. The Montfort Castle overlooks Nahal Kziv – the Kziv stream – which flows into the Mediterranean Sea.
Masada – Best known as the final holdout for Jewish fighters against Roman oppression, Masada was actually built as a personal fortress by the Roman King Herod. Towering over the Dead Sea, atop an isolated Judean desert cliff, the remains of Masada reveal the king's comfortable living quarters, water supply, bathhouses and administrative facilities.
Belvoir – Israel's most complete Crusader fortress, Belvoir rises 500 meters above the Jordan Valley, south of the Sea of Galilee. Belvoir was once among the world's most impregnable structures, but until 1966, it was just a rubble of ruins. Today, with restoration work finished, Belvoir is a popular site for visitors.
Nimrod Fortress – At the northern end of Israel, Nimrod, with its thick walls and high towers, is perched 800 meters above sea level. A trail leads from the fortress to the beautiful Banyas Springs and a national park preserves the majesty of the area.
For additional information about Israel's castles, available missions to Israel and individual travel options, contact the Israel Government Tourist Office. Your presence in Israel will make a significant difference.
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Greater Toronto Area

Russian-born cantor to perform

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Moscow-born Svetlana Portnyanskaya, a cantor in California who has appeared as a soloist throughout the world, will present a Toronto concert on October 27 at 7 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St.

Svetlana performs classical masterpieces, opera, and a variety of popular, ethnic and cantorial melodies.

In a telephone interview from Newport Beach, Calif. where she is the cantor at Temple Isaiah, a Conservative congregation, she said, "Most of all, I enjoy prayers I can improvise – some you can't improvise and some you can."

Although she sings in a dozen languages including, Ladino, Hebrew, Ukrainian, Yiddish, Italian and English, she says, "I like all kinds of music but the base of my repertoire is in Yiddish and Hebrew."

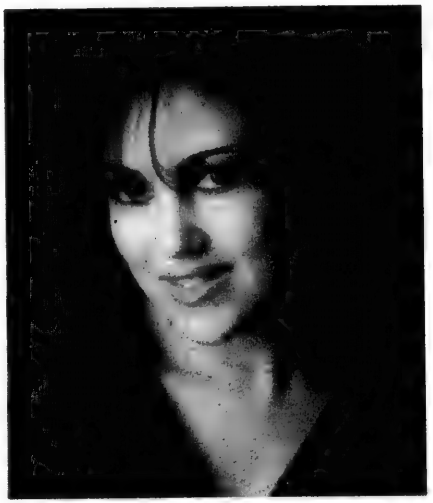
Svetlana graduated from the Moscow Conservatory of Music in 1986. She performed on radio, television and in concerts throughout the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. She won the first prize in the Soviet Union's Festival of Pop and Rock in 1990.

Shortly after, anti-Semitism raised its ugly head as she received hate mail and death threats. While performing at a concert in New York, she decided to stay in America and begin a new career.

Svetlana studied at the New York Theological Seminary. She moved to Los Angeles where she continued her studies at the University of Judaism and with the famous cantor, Samuel Fordis.

In 1996, Svetlana recorded the soundtrack for Steven Spielberg's documentary movie, *Survivor of Holocaust*. "This was very emotional for me," she says.

"I just signed a contract with Columbia Records which will release a CD in Hebrew. I am very happy because I will get international exposure."



Svetlana

Svetlana has performed with many world renowned performers such as, Lionel Hampton, Steve Allen, Maximillian Shell, Bruce Adler, and cantors Dudu Fisher and Yehuda Shifman.

For more information on Svetlana's concert or for tickets, call 416-226-9151 or 416-491-3014.

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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Oct. 28, is deadline for Nov. 7 issue and Monday, Nov. 4, is deadline for Nov. 14. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416- 391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, Oct. 24

MONTESSORI OPEN HOUSE

Montessori Jewish Day School open house, 7 p.m., 585 Cranbrooke Ave., for primary (age 2½ to 5) and lower elementary (age 6 to 8) programs. Information/registration 416-784-5071.

JNF CAARI

Jewish National Fund CAARI (Canadian-American Active Retirees in Israel) information meeting, 2:30 p.m., 4600 Bathurst St. **Moishe Weinberg** 416-638-7200, ext. 29.

JEWISH DAY SCHOOL

Downtown Jewish Day School open house 7:30 p.m., 250 Manning Ave. RSVP 416-928-3537.

CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

A support group for people who have been newly or recently diagnosed with colorectal cancer meets 7-9 p.m. The group meets the fourth Thursday of each month. For more information, call the Canadian Cancer Society, North York Unit, 416-638-0771.

Sunday, Oct. 27

REMEMBRANCE PARADE

The Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Toronto Post, annual remembrance parade and service. Assemble 9:30 a.m. outside Earl Bales Park Community Centre for parade to Beth Radom Synagogue, 18 Reiner Rd., for service. 416-663-8387 or parade marshal **Ernie Stein** 416-423-2794.

MISSIONARY CHALLENGES

Adath Shalom Sisterhood holds New Beginnings Breakfast Opener. Guest speaker Michael Skobac of Jews for Judaism discusses Combating Missionary Challenges to Judaism, 9:30 a.m. 864 Sheppard Ave. W. 416-635-0131.

FOOTBALL PARTY

Aish HaTorah Football and Tailgate Party – For Men Only, fundraiser for Israel. Bills vs. Lions. Includes bus to and from Buffalo. Huge barbecue. 905-764-1818, ext. 309, to reserve. Bus leaves 949 Clark Ave. W. at 8:30 a.m.

BOOKS AND BAGELS

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Sisterhood Book and Movie Club begins with two short stories by **Nathan Englander**, *The Wig* and *Reb Kringle* from his book *For the Relief of Unbearable Urges*. 10-11:30 a.m. at the synagogue. For information, **Rosemary Cohen** 416-633-9092.

BREAKFAST & LECTURE

Rabbi Dow Marmur speaks on The Important Thing is Not to be Afraid: A Jewish Response to the Uncertainties of Our Time at Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood breakfast. Service 9 a.m., breakfast 9:30 a.m., lecture 10 a.m.

FALL FASHION SHOW

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood fashion show. Boutiques open at noon, show at 2 p.m. **Sonia Slobodsky** 416-226-1831.

KITCHENER-WATERLOO

Heirlooms and Collectibles Sale sponsored by Kitchener-Waterloo Hadassah-WIZO Council, 1-5 p.m., Kitchener City Hall Rotunda, 200 King St. W.

UJPO EVENTS

United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) events at Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. 416-789-5502.

Historical perspective of The Roots of Secular Yiddishkeit (Jewishness) 10:30 a.m. RSVP.

Continued on page 23

Adath Israel Congregation
Jewish Music Endowment Fund
Invites the community
to attend Shabbat morning services

Saturday, November 9, 2002
8:45 a.m.

GUEST CANTOR
ISRAEL RAND
Ramat Gan, Israel
will officiate at Shabbat services
accompanied by
the Adath Israel Professional Choir
Bram Goldhammer - Conductor

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What's New

Continued from page 22

Singer, songwriter, musician **Batsheva** in concert, 745 p.m.

BEING JEWISH

Temple Kol Ami features Ira Schweitzer, director of education at Temple Sinai, speaking on How to Get More Out of Being Jewish, 8 p.m. at Indigo Book Store, Yonge Street and Highway 7.

Monday, Oct. 28

CHUG HATANACH

Meets at 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue to study the Book of Ezekiel, Chapter 23, led by **Rabbi Wayne Allen.**

Tuesday, Oct. 29

HORMONE REPLACEMENT

Weizmann Women And Science and The Centre for Research in Women's Health present What Do We Do Now? The Hormone Replacement Therapy Dilemma. Moderator **Dr. Heather Maclean**. Speakers **Dr. Jennifer Blake**, **Dr. Florence Haseltine**, **Dr. Lawrence Rubin**, **Dr. Len Steinberg**. 7:30 p.m. at Four Seasons Hotel, 21 Avenue Rd. **Sheri Feldman**, 416-733-9220.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Rabbi Moshe Stern discusses What's in a Name? – Choosing Jewish or Secular Names. 8 p.m., Shaarei Tefillah Congregation.

Wednesday, Oct. 30

HANA'S SUITCASE

Author **Karen Levine** introduces her award-winning documentary, *Hana's Suitcase*, based on the true story of a suitcase belonging to Hana, who died in Auschwitz, finding its way to the Holocaust Education Centre in Tokyo. CBC personality **Michael Enright** moderates the program, which features **Fumiko Ishioka**, curator of the of the Tokyo Holocaust Centre. 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation.

NCJW HAPPENINGS

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, upcoming events. 416-633-5100.

Current Events with **Doug Haddow**, 1-3 p.m.

Jewish Genetic Diseases in the 21st Century, What Are They and How Do They Affect Us? 7-9 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 31

TROLLOPE AND THE JEWS

Prof. Harvey Kerpneck gives the second session of his course, Anthony Trollope and the Jews, 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple. Anne 416-789-ext. 235.

SONS OF SEPHARAD

The Sons of Sepharad unite three renowned singers of Sephardi music, **Aaron Bensoussann**, **Gerard Edery**, **Alberto Mizrachi**, in concert. 8 p.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. Ticket information 416-633-3838.

RELIGIOUS/SECULAR

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am presents the third lecture of the fall series, Israel at 55 – Strengths and Challenges, Bridging the Religious-Secular Divide with **Rabbi Martin Lockshin** of the Centre for Jewish Studies, York University. 8 p.m. at the synagogue. 416-633-5500.

And What Else Is New

CHABAD LUBAVITCH

Chabad Lubavitch of Markham, 83 Green Lane, Thornhill, 905-886-9429.

Beginners Hebrew Course for Adults with **Rabbi Meir Girlin**, Wednesdays, 8 p.m.

Judaism, with a touch of mysticism, lecture series with **Rabbi Avraham Plotkin**, spiritual leader and executive director, Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Register.

Chabad Youth Club Wednesday Night at the Movies, (for ages 7-12) Thursday, Oct. 31, 7:30 p.m.

Going Kabbalistic lecture series with **Rabbi Avraham Plotkin**. Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

Women's Rosh Chodesh evening. Relieve your stress through the ancient arts of prayer and alternative medicine with **Chashi Skobac**, and **Dr. Tammy Berger**, Wednesday, Oct. 30, 8 p.m. at the home of **Suzanne Metz**. For details, ext. 225.

Registration for the Torah Tots 2003-2004 school year commences Oct. 28. For a private tour of the school, call 905-886-0420.

AT THE VILLAGE SHUL

Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. Phone 416-785-1107.

Happiness is a Serious Problem: Don't Take It For Granted series with **Rabbi Ahron Hoch** concludes Saturday, Oct. 26, 11 a.m.

The Seven Mitzvot of Highly Effective People. **Reb Zale Newman** guides you through the 7 aspects of Judaism that will have a positive impact on your life. Series runs Wednesdays to Nov. 20. To register or for information, call the shul.

Torah Tidbits – a weekly Torah workshop every Shabbat at 10 a.m. with **Rabbi Shmuel Veffer** and **Rabbi Dovid Lauderer.** Each week highlights important concepts from the weekly parshah.

HEBREW COURSE

Free Crash Course in Hebrew at the Jewish Centre for Learning and Living in Richmond Hill, beginning Sunday, Oct. 27. 905-883-3844. Also, bar and bat mitzvah classes in Richmond Hill.

SING BROADWAY TUNES

A 5-session sing-along with conductor-pianist **David Warrack** at the Koffler Centre, Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m., starting Oct. 29. To book a spot, 416-961-1502.

ISRAELI FOLK DANCING

Israeli folk dancing, classic and traditional, with **Teme** and **Yossi**, 8 sessions starting Sunday, Nov. 3, 8-10 p.m. at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. Teme 416-630-5871 or Yossi 905-761-0004.

ARMCHAIR TRAVELLER

Take a journey and explore new horizons, video presentation at the Bernard Betel Centre on alternate Thursdays beginning Oct. 31, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Instructor **Brian Prosserman.** 416-225-2112.

FEMININE VOICES

Series exploring the role of great women within Judaism at the Jewish Russian Community Centre Institute of Torah Study, Mondays 7:45 p.m. and Tuesdays 10:30 a.m. with **Chana Weisberg**, dean. 18 Rockford Rd. Register 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

CURRENT EVENTS

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section, presents **Erica Biro**, Thursday, Nov. 14, 8 p.m. at Council House. Refreshments. RSVP 416-633-5100.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. For registration or information, **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Couple Communication – a 4-session group focusing on communication skills, resolving conflicts and building a more satisfying relationship. Monday, Nov. 4, 7-9 p.m. at Lipa Green Building.

Successful Parenting of Children with ADHD, 6 sessions for parents of children who have been medically diagnosed with ADHD, Wednesday, Nov, 6, 7-9:30 p.m. at Lipa Green Building. Pre-registration mandatory.

Parenting 1,2,3, Magic, a 3-session group for parents of children ages 2-8, discipline techniques based on **Thomas Phelan**'s book. Wednesday, Nov. 6, at The Promenade Mall, Suite 313 7-9 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Holy Blossom Temple Lunch and Learn in Retirement series continues Wednesday, Oct. 30, with Memory and Aging with **Dr. Fergus Craik** at noon. Bring your own dairy lunch. 416-789-3219.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For information, 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Oct. 24, movie, *Avie Hofman*; Oct. 31, bingo. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama, Nov. 6, 20; Saturday dances, 7:30 p.m., Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 30; Sunday dances, Nov. 3, 17; Atlantic City Nov. 3-6; Line dancing and ballroom dancing, Thursdays, 10-11 a.m. 416-395-7881.

Young at Heart Seniors Florida vacation at glatt kosher Saxony Hotel for 2 weeks, 1, 2, or 3 months leaving the end of January, free full breakfast. **Helen** 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Amateur comedians and raconteurs, come and get your 5 minutes of fame at Morris "Nafty" Naftolin Komedy Kabaret, Thursday, Oct. 24, 2:30 p.m. **Ruth Cohen**.

Diverse tales of love, mystery, family life with **Alvin Abram**, storyteller, Tuesday, Oct. 29, 10-11:30 a.m. **Barbara Zigler** ext. 134.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons, meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Oct. 29, sing-along; Nov. 5, movie; Nov. 12, sing-a-long; Nov. 19, lecture; Nov. 26, bingo. **Anna** ext. 110.

Volunteer drivers needed to deliver meals to homebound or isolated seniors. Reimbursement for mileage provided. **Barbara Zigler** ext. 134.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Annual meeting Sunday, Oct. 27, 10 a.m. to noon. Also, the Maccabi athletes and coaches will be honoured for winning the 2002 Games in Montreal and bringing home their medals. Light brunch. RSVP **Esther** ext. 240.

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SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries on events to the event's organizers

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Greater Toronto Area

Marathon for cancer set

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Some might think that climbing Mount Everest, the highest mountain on earth, would be the most daunting challenge one could face. But not Sean Swarner.

Swarner, 28, did manage to scale the mountain earlier this year. But before that, he had to conquer cancer, not just once, but twice.

Sheila Geist is still recovering from the death of her father. For 18 months during his struggle with cancer, he received palliative care, which, Geist said, allowed him to die with dignity, and help the family cope.

Both Swarner and Geist believe in reaching out to help those in need, and will therefore take part in the Casino Niagara Marathon, to be held in Niagara Falls on Oct. 27.

They will be raising funds for the new Harold and Shirley Lederman Palliative Care Centre at Princess Margaret Hospital.

Swarner, from Jacksonville, Fla., was 14 when he was diagnosed with fourth stage Hodgkin's Disease, a virulent form of cancer. Although he was originally given only three months to live, chemotherapy sent him into remission. Then a second blow struck. He developed Askin's disease, an extremely rare form of cancer. Surgery, chemotherapy and radiation enabled him to survive, although he had to spend a year and a half in hospital.

When he recovered, he resumed the life of a healthy young man. He began studying for his MA in psychology, planning to counsel cancer patients. While waiting to begin a doctoral program in Chicago, he decided to try to climb Mount Everest.

He hooked up with an organization that had worked with National Geographic expeditions, and with three guides, a cook and his brother Seth, he set out for the peak. After a month and a half, he found himself looking down on the rest of the world. Swarner was the first cancer survivor to ever accomplish this feat.

"It was an overwhelming feeling," he told *The CJN* on a recent trip to Toronto. "When I radioed the base camp [to say that he had reached the summit], I cried like a baby. I did it for all the cancer patients around the world – they were all there with me."

The experience was life-changing, he said. "It made me realize how well the world is made and how insignificant you are, how tiny. On the other hand, [it made me realize] how important you are, and how we are here for a purpose."

Rather than finishing his doctorate, Swarner determined to work to inspire cancer patients and others in a dire situation. Through a program that includes speaking, a video and music, he hopes to motivate others to raise money in inventive ways.

One of those ways is to help those running marathons for charitable causes.

Geist has already worked to help people with cancer. Last year, she managed to save the Magic Castle in Princess Margaret Hospital, an area where parents could leave their children to play safely and happily while they underwent chemotherapy, radiation or another form of treatment. This year, inspired by those who helped her father so much, she decided to raise funds to furnish the palliative care centre in a comfortable, peaceful and attractive way. Now on the 14th floor of Princess Margaret, it will eventually be housed on the 16th floor.

Together with a running team she created called Sweat Donors ("We have team shirts, shoes and caps – we want to be visual!") she hopes to raise $500,000 for the purpose. Swarner came to motivate the runners, but decided to get sponsors and run the marathon himself.

Swarner believes in living with what he calls the "five Ls – love, laughter, learning, leading by example and living life to the fullest." He said he tries to laugh a lot. "It keeps the heart open."

Geist said her father would have wanted her to get involved in such a cause.

"If you give to others, it heals your heart," she said.

Swarner isn't stopping at climbing Mount Everest, even though it is the tallest.

"I want to get sponsors to the seven summits, the highest mountains on each continent," which include, he noted, Mount Vincent in Antarctica.

Princess Margaret Hospital is a cancer research, teaching and treatment centre, part of the University Health Network that includes Toronto General and Toronto Western hospitals.

For more information, call 416-946-4574.

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילוער

שטעלן באַנקעס

פון ד״ר פרעד וויינבערג

„סיוועט העלפן ווי אַ טויטן באַנקעס״ — אַ ייִדיש שפּריכוואָרט, וואָס איז זיכער אַלעמען באַקאַנט, אַפילו דעם ייִנגערן דור, וואָס הערן דאָס פון זייערע עלטערן. אָפט פאַרגרייזן זיי די פראַזע און מאַכן דערפון „טויטע באַנקעס״, וואָס האָט נישט קיין שום באַדייטונג. און טאַקע, וואָס פאַר אַ באַשעפעניש איז אַ „באַנקע״? . . .

דערלויבט מיר אַ קורצן אַריינפיר צו מיין אויפקלערונג וועגן באַנקעס. צאַפּן בלוט פון קראַנקע איז געווען אַן אָנגענומען היילמיטל פאַר פיל סימפּטאָמען שוין חונדערטער יאָרן לאַנג און אַפילו נאָך אין די היינטיקע צייטן אין טייל אייראָפּעישע נישט־אַנטוויקלטע ערטער.

דאָס בלוט־לאָזן האָט מען אויסגעפידט אויף פאַרשיידענע אופנים, צום ביישפּיל דורך אָפּרינען דאָס בלוט אין אַ שיסל אַריין דורך אַ לעכל אין אַן אָדער. שטאָלענע מעסערלעך האָט מען גענוצט צו עפענען די אָדערן. אַן אַנדערער אופן פון צאַפּן בלוט איז געווען מיט פּיאַווקעס (leech). אַ קליינע צאָל פּיאַווקעס האָט מען געטראָגן פון אָפּטייק אין מעטאַלענע קעסטעלעך מיט קליינע לעכערלעך, כדי אַריינצולאָזן דאָרט לופט. פּיאַווקעס זיינען ווערעמלעך, וואָס טרינקען זיך אָן מיט בלוט און ווען זיי זעטיקן זיך אָן מיטן בלוט, פאַלן זיי אַראָפּ פון דער הויט.

פּיאַווקעס קומען צו הילף אַפילו היינטיקע צייטן. צום ביישפּיל: אין אַ פאַל, ווען אַן אויער, וואָס איז אין אַן אומגליקספאַל אָפּגעריסן געוואָרן פון קאָפּ און ווערט צוריק צוגעגייט, איז כדי דאָס בלוט זאָל זיך נישט אָנזאַמלען אונטער דעם צונויפנייען, לייגט מען צו פּיאַווקעס זיי זאָלן אַריינזאַפּן דאָס בלוט און דאָס זאָל נישט שטערן דאָס פאַרהיילן.

אויף אַ גאַנץ אַנדערן אופן האָט מען זיך באַנוצט מיט באַנקעס. דאָס זיינען קליינע גלעזעלעך מיט אַ דיקן ראַנד, כדי צו מאַכן אַ שטייפן ענגן קאָנטאַקט מיט דער הויט פון קערפּער. דאָס גלעזל, ד״ה די באַנקע, האָט מען צוערשט אָנגעוואַרעמט מיט אַ ליכט אָדער אַ לעמפּל און דערנאָך צוגעלייגט אויף דער פּלייצע פון קראַנקן. ווען די באַנקע האָט זיך אָפּגעקילט, האָט זי אַריינגעזויגן אַ ביסל פלייש אין דער באַנקע אַריין און אַרויסגעברענגט בלוט אויבנאויף. טייל מאָל, איידער מען האָט געשטעלט די באַנקעס, האָט מען געמאַכט שניטלעך אויף דער הויט. דאָס רופט מען „געהאַקטע באַנקעס״.

איר דאַרפט געדענקען, אַז באַנקעס האָט מען גענוצט אין די יאָרן ווען קיין בעסערע היילמיטלען, ווי פּעניצילין און אַנדערע אַנטיביאָטיקס האָט מען נאָך נישט געהאַט אַנטדעקט. פאַרשטענדלעך, אַז באַנקעס קענען אפשר העלפן איבערקומען אַ קראַנקייט פון אַ לעבעדיקן מענטש, אָבער אַ נישט־לעבעדיקן קען עס לגמרי גאָרנישט העלפן. פון דאַנען שטאַמט דער אויסדרוק: „סיוועט העלפן ווי אַ טויטן באַנקעס״.

די באַנקעס קומען פון אַ באַוווסטעי אַפּטייק אין די 1920ער יאָרן: „האַשמאַל׳ס אַפּטייק״ אויף דאַנדעס גאַס אין טאָראָנטאָ.

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Defending Israel: *Where are the other Jewish students?*

By MIRIAM LEVIN
Special to The CJN

Guest Voice

The intention of this article is not to discuss ignorant pro-Palestinians and what Jewish students have to face today, or what a day is like at York University, but rather to address the disinterest and apathy of Jewish students on campus.

This is not addressed to those few students who come out and show support, but to the ones who stand in the hall and watch. I understand we cannot accomplish much by trying to convert the converted, but we need to challenge them and show that there are two sides to the argument.

Arguing in a fight like the one I experienced today is mostly unproductive, but it is much more effective when we have more than three people fighting 300.

Today, on my way to class, I encountered a group of students gathered in a central location on campus. As a board member of the Young Zionist Partnership, a new grassroots organization started by five students at York to educate and advocate for Israel on campus, I quickly realized from scanning the people in the group that I was seeing a Palestinian-Jewish argument.

I recognized a few of the Palestinian participants as members of the Middle Eastern Student Association, the International Socialists, the Anti-Racism Group and the Muslim Student Association. But there was a good representation from both sides, arguing about the issues in the Middle East, namely the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and PA President Yasser Arafat, the "occupation," refugees, claims to the land, etc. There were some loud Jewish students at the beginning, but as things calmed down, the few Jewish students left the area.

Right after the 20 Jewish students left, I would estimate 200 Palestinian supporters came to join the fight. Someone started arguing with me about the Jews kicking his family out of Israel, and all of a sudden, there were 50 people around me, screaming about their relatives who died or Sharon's war crimes, or the Jenin "massacre."

After half an hour of trying to answer back, I looked at the crowd and the people behind me to see if I recognized any Jewish faces who might get involved and do something or help me defend Israel to the crowd. I saw Jewish students I knew at the end of the hall and Jewish students watching and walking by, but no one was doing anything.

The Palestinian student who was screaming at me stood two inches away and told me that if he was allowed back into "Palestine," he would volunteer to be the next suicide bomber. He asked who agreed with him, and about 100 people raised their hands. He screamed about the 15 children who died when the Israeli army blew up a terrorist's house.

I asked him why there were celebrations when my friend died in a bombing at Hebrew University, and he said he personally celebrated when he heard the news. Throughout this "conversation," about 10 different people screamed accusations about Israel at me.

I never thought that my biggest concern in university would be coming to school and finding a large pro-Palestinian rally, and Jews being afraid to do something about it. We do a great disservice to ourselves by leaving one-sided arguments unchallenged by biased axe-grinders.

My plea to my fellow Jewish students is twofold. Educate yourself, and stand up and aggressively defend Israel at every opportunity. Know the issues and stand behind the people who are arguing about them. Stop being afraid on campus to stand up and defend your country.

Palestinian students are not afraid to stand up for their cause and draw attention to themselves, and we shouldn't be either. At the end of the day, we are on the right side. There will be lots of occasions during this school year that will be similar to the one I experienced, and we need the support of our fellow Jewish students, especially in numbers. We need to stop being afraid on campus.

Miriam Levin is a second-year religious studies major at York University. She is on the boards of the Jewish Student Federation and the Young Zionist Partnership.

Elsewhere in this issue

Thriller mixes romance, psychology and history

please see page 41

Project Moses to start at Montreal Hillel

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

Montreal Hillel is leading an international campus campaign in memory of the victims of this summer's terrorist bombing at Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Launched earlier this month, Project MOSES, which stands for Masses of Students Showing Support, will raise funds across North America toward the purchase of a Torah for Hebrew University in memory of the nine who were killed and 85 who were injured in the July 31 bombing at the Mount Scopus campus cafeteria.

According to Hillel president Ariela Cotler of Montreal, thousands of students will each contribute a fixed amount for a letter of the Torah (the Torah contains 300,000 letters).

The process of writing the Torah will take about a year, she said, adding that organizers hope to have a delegation of students to deliver it personally to Hebrew Unversity for a completion and dedication ceremony with the victims' families.

Using a Torah to raise funds was the idea of a group of Montrealers attending this summer's Shusterman Conference for college students at Camp Moshava in Pennsylvania.

The idea caught on, and the campaign will be run in collaboration with Hillel International in Washington, D.C.

Montrealers taking part in the discussions included Cotler and McGill student and Project MOSES chair Kate Bush, a native of Detroit studying psychology at McGill. Bush also serves as a Hillel liaison for Jewish out-of-town students.

"We're doing this because university is supposed to be a haven, not a place of terror," Bush said in an interview, adding that the attack was against all students.

Cotler said the idea represented a "meaningful and spiritual way" to remember and pay tribute to the victims.

In total, 90 Hillel campuses, the overwhelming majority in the United States and Canada but also likely a few abroad, will take part in the drive, Bush said.

The Canadian campuses that will participate, besides those in Montreal, include several in Ontario, British Columbia and perhaps other provinces.

Yoni Petel, president of city-wide Hillel in Montreal, will also participate in the campaign, as will students at all nine Montreal university and CEGEP campuses where Hillel operates.

In memory of victims of Hebrew U bombing

At the launch, Petel described the initiative as a "meaningful, beautiful way for us to show our support for the families of the victims, to the Hebrew University community, as well as the Israeli public in general, who struggle with the daily threat of terrorism.

"We consider the Torah a tree of life, and we pray that through this gift, the memory of such special individuals, will live on," Petel said.

Bush said the campaign will probably raise much more than the $35,000 (US) needed to buy the Torah. Additional funds will be used for the Torah's adornments, and for donations to synagogues and charities, as well as toward supporting the families of victims of terror.

Bush, who visited Israel once in 1998, said she probably would have attended Hebrew University this winter were it not for the "situation."

Deciding not to go "was not an easy decision to make by any means," she said.

A press release describing the project read: "The place [terrorists] would fill with blood and chaos, hatred and destruction, we will fill with love and peace, and in the end we will win out because love is stronger than hate."

For more information about the campaign, e-mail projectmoses@hillel.ca or call 845-9171.

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George Brady and Fumiko Ishioka with Hana's suitcase.

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The **Baycrest Bulletin** in Brief

Fall 2002

A message to our community

In our message to you a year ago, we told you about the many challenges and concerns we were facing at Baycrest. It was indeed a message focused on the need for change. Well, in 12 short months we have successfully made many of those changes. After careful consultation with our staff, clients, families and community, we implemented cost-reduction measures and revenue-generating initiatives with minimal impact on care. At the same time our Foundation launched a campaign to support us in maintaining our high standard of care. The community understood our need and responded with great generosity to what is now "The Annual Campaign for Baycrest".

We still face serious on-going financial pressures, but thanks to these initiatives we have definitely turned the corner. Our sights, however, have not just been on today's challenges. We have also focused on tomorrow's needs. That is why the Board and management initiated efforts to develop a clear strategic focus for our organization that will help us address the most pressing needs of the aging community – care relating to brain disorders such as Alzheimer's, Stroke and Mental Health disorders.

Baycrest has always taken pride in the care it has provided to our community and it has earned a reputation as a world-class research organization in the area of brain disorders related to aging. But our greatest strength is the ability to bring both of these together and truly change the way we care for the elderly. And through our commitment to education we will be able to share our strengths locally, nationally and internationally. That is not just our focus. It is our promise to the people we serve.

What does this mean to all of us? It means Baycrest will continue to be a strong and vital part of the community, providing the quality care most needed by our aging population. And, while our organization still has challenges, including our financial pressures, we are now better able to manage such realities.

Those of you who already receive our publication, **The Baycrest Bulletin**, will have seen how our care, research and education are coming together under our new focus. Here are some examples of some of the innovative initiatives we are undertaking at Baycrest. These are made possible only by your ongoing support and generosity, which contributes immeasurably to enriching the lives of the elderly.

Geoffrey Matus
Chairman of the Board

Stephen W. Herbert
President & CEO

Leadership gift from Sam and Ida Ross funds Alzheimer's research and care

Sam and Ida Ross

A leadership commitment of $5-million from Sam and Ida Ross will be used to take research to new heights in understanding the care, management and prevention of Alzheimer's disease and other major dementias.

The Ross gift will support both care and research. First, it will provide funding for basic research conducted by leading scientists in the areas of Alzheimer's and other major dementias. Second, it will allow clinicians and researchers to work in tandem at a unique interdisciplinary clinic with a focus on Alzheimer's disease. Ultimately, the clinic will improve patient access to clinicians who can assess, diagnose and care for them using the most advanced scientific findings available.

Memory and amnesia programs expand to meet need

Baycrest is expanding its Memory and Aging Program in an effort to identify and treat people with memory complaints that may put them at risk for developing a dementia.

The Memory and Aging Program was created a few years ago for healthy aging adults who wanted to understand the normal changes to memory as they age. Since then, the Psychology Department recognized that adults experiencing memory complaints more serious than normal forgetfulness also needed help. The program will work with adults identified by their family doctors as potentially high risk for developing a cognitive disorder and will offer a multi-disciplinary treatment program.

Baycrest is also expanding existing service to individuals with severe amnesia and their families. Amnesia – a permanent loss of memory – is caused by brain injuries such as stroke and encephalitis. Currently, Baycrest is the only facility in Canada to offer specialized memory retraining and family support toward restoring a degree of independence to amnestics.

Senior looks forward to weekly "big hug"

Phone volunteer Freda Slotnick

Alverine Kling gets " a big hug" once a week--at least that's what it feels like to her when a Baycrest phone volunteer calls to see how she's doing.

" I look forward to hearing Freda's voice over the phone every Tuesday," she says of volunteer Freda Slotnick. Kling is one of dozens of seniors who receive weekly calls through Baycrest's Seniors Support Program which provides a vital reassurance link to frail seniors who live alone, are on the waiting list for long-term care, or are trying to cope with caring for an ailing spouse.

Seniors are called by volunteers who are carefully selected, specially trained, multilingual, and in some cases have stayed with the program since it began. Each phone volunteer is given a group to contact on a regular basis with the hope of addressing concerns of seniors living at home. They also offer information about community resources such as Baycrest's Community Day Centre for Seniors and home care services.

Slotnick is aided in her task by volunteer coordinator Beverly Devins and social worker Lesley Patterson who makes home visits. "Phone support helps to reduce psychological distress for seniors, particualry those who are failing health or waiting anxiously for a long-term care bed," says Patterson, who is also program coordinator.

The Seniors Support Program is free-of-charge and is accepting new clients. Call (416) 785-2500 ext. 2247 for more information.

The latest in Care, Research and Education news from Baycrest is featured in the Baycrest Bulletin. For your copy of the most recent edition call (416) 785-2500 ext. 2645 or visit www.baycrest.org

Required reading in the *Economist*

'According to Reports'

By PAUL MICHAELS

"No war against Iraq, Free Palestine' has become the slogan of anti-war demonstrators in Europe and America. The two conflicts have become entwined in the public mind in a way that the West's politicians cannot ignore."

So asserts the *Economist*, in an article that should be required reading for everybody concerned with foreign affairs in general and the Middle East in particular. "Double Standards: Iraq, Israel and the United Nations" (Oct. 10) provides a clear, careful dissection of the different categories of UN resolutions and shows precisely why no valid comparison can be made of the cases of Israel and Iraq.

As the *Economist* explains, when Iraq invaded Kuwait without provocation in 1990, the UN Security Council invoked the rarely used Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which deals with threats to international peace and security. It demanded that Iraq withdraw from Kuwait immediately, unconditionally and unilaterally.

By contrast, in 1967 Israel fought a war of self defence and as a result came into possession of territory. In recognition of these unique historical circumstances, the Security Council passed resolution 242 under Chapter VI, the section dealing with peaceful settlements of disputes. Resolution 242 proposed a "framework" for Arab-Israeli peacemaking that, together with Resolution 338 passed after the 1973 Yom Kippur War, obligated all the parties to take reciprocal measures: Israel's withdrawal from territories (not "the" or "all" territories) would be premised on guarantees of full peace and security.

Israel remains under no obligation to withdraw unilaterally in the absence of such guarantees. Moreover, Israel has repeatedly demonstrated, as in its peace treaty with Egypt (1979), Jordan (1994), and its Oslo agreement with the Palestinians (1993), that it will yield territory when its Arab partner is truly committed to peace. Still, there are mistakes in the *Economist*'s analysis. Resolution 242 does not refer specifically to "Palestinian" refugees but to "refugees" in general, which could include Jews – up to 800,000 of them – who fled or were evicted from Arab countries after Israel's establishment and still have outstanding claims for compensation.

Second, the *Economist* notes that the claim that Israel's occupation is "illegal" is "questionable." Not so. As Abba Eban, a dovish former Israeli diplomat and expert on the UN, has pointed out, Resolution 242 in fact legitimized Israel's presence in the territories pending a negotiated solution. The *Economist* distinguishes between Israel's presence and particular actions it may undertake on the ground.

The *Economist*'s treatment will not please everyone because it fails to note the historical, and even legal grounds, for Israel's claims to disputed land, even though, interestingly, it acknowledges that "Jerusalem has had a Jewish majority since the 19th century," a rare admission for the British media.

While it is not generally recognized, Israel remains a valid claimant to those territories whose status is yet to be determined. Nonetheless, the majority of Israelis have long been prepared to give up these claims (as evidenced by former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak's offers at Camp David) in exchange for a real, secure peace.

Therein lies the rub – the refusal of the Arab and Muslim world to allow a Jewish state to exist in its midst. Unless that intolerant attitude changes, there will, unfortunately, be no hope for a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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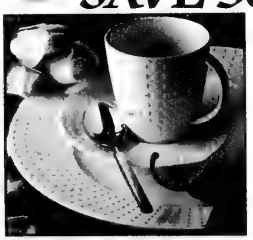

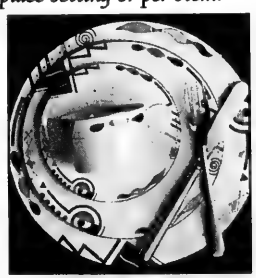

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Concordia U urged to re-invite Netanyahu

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Frederick Lowy, the rector of Concordia University, is considering a request by Nazi-hunter Simon Wiesenthal that the university reverse its decision to cancel a speaking engagement by former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

While no decision has been made to re-invite Netanyahu, "the rector will definitely consider the request," said university spokesperson Chris Mota.

Meanwhile, the school's board of governors turned down Lowy's suggestion that it begin to phase out a cooling off period instituted after violence by anti-Israeli protesters led to the cancellation of Netanyahu's Sept. 9 speaking engagement at Concordia.

Mota said Lowy had asked the board to begin lifting the cooling off period in phases, but the board "did not feel comfortable making the decision at this point."

A special board meeting could be held as early as this week to further discuss the steps taken in the wake of the Sept. 9 events, Mota said. These included a moratorium on any events related to the Middle East and a ban on information tables.

Writing from his home in Vienna, Wiesenthal urged Lowy "to reschedule Mr. Netanyahu's appearance at the university as soon as possible. Failure to do so will only further embolden those who see violence as the only way to achieve results."

Wiesenthal's letter, which is reproduced on the Internet at www.wiesenthal.com, said the level of anti-Jewish public hatred is greater than in the 1930s.

While some of that may be attributable to the intifadah, "the level of invective, the co-opting of the vocabulary of genocide to depict Israeli actions, the depiction of Israel as a Nazi-like state, the silence of the international community to state-sponsored Jew hatred in the Arab world, have all combined to create an environment of fear and in many places intimidation against Jews the world over, the majority of whom are Zionists," the letter states.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Los Angeles-based Simon Wiesenthal Centre, met with Lowy last week to present Wiesenthal's request. Re-inviting Netanyahu would send a clear signal to those who practice intimidation that their tactics will not work, Rabbi Cooper said.

"I felt the people running the school have a full grasp of the seriousness of the situation," he said. "But I'm not sure they're prepared to take the steps." Failure to do so will give the protesters the signal that their intimidation tactics are working and will likely lead to more trouble, he added.

The protesters who prevented Netanyahu from speaking "blackmailed the university and stopped freedom of expression," Rabbi Cooper said. "Why will it stop? The university must draw a red line."

He said the Concordia incident is part of a much bigger picture – of an international campaign "that was launched at Durban." Referring to last year's UN anti-racism conference in the South African city, Rabbi Cooper said "the script was written, signed off, sealed and approved at Durban."

That script, he continued, includes Israel standing in for apartheid-era South Africa as the focus of protesters' anger and vilification. The Israel divestment campaigns on university campuses parallel earlier efforts to cut off support for South Africa, he said.

The level of hate aimed at Jewish students, which includes anti-Israel protesters chanting "death to the Jews," goes "beyond just dangerous. It's an open provocation just beneath violence."

Rabbi Cooper said Concordia's efforts at reconciliation between Jewish and pro-Palestinian students are doomed to failure as long as that kind of rhetoric continues.

Noah Sarna, co-president of Hillel at Concordia, agrees. "The fact is these people led a student protest that shut down our freedom of speech and at which Jewish and non-Jewish ticketholders were hit and spat at."

He said Hillel had participated in several meetings with the Concordia Student Union (CSU) and with representatives of SPHR, Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights. (Members of both groups were among the organizers of the Sept. 9 protest against Netanyahu.)

Sarna said Hillel was somewhat hesitant to continue the meetings, saying pro-Palestinians in both organizations "have taken nothing back and are unrepentant."

Despite his personal misgivings, Sarna said Hillel's executive decided late last week to continue the meetings. "We have a responsibility to pursue dialogue as a way of reducing tensions."

Meanwhile, nine people who allegedly participated in the Sept. 9 violence have been identified and will be charged, Mota said. Her best information is that one will be charged under a municipal by-law, the others under the Criminal Code. Only two are reported to be Concordia students, she added.

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Coast to Coast

The Torahs are carried to their new home at Etz Chayim.

New synagogue dedicated in Winnipeg

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Over 500 people gathered recently for the dedication and official opening of Winnipeg's newest synagogue.

Etz Chayim, an egalitarian synagogue with a membership of about 800 families, was formed through a merger of the three largest north Winnipeg congregations – the Rosh Pina, Bnay Abraham and Beth Israel, which together, share over 300 years of history.

The celebrations began in the morning when Torahs were carried from the former Beth Israel and Bnay Abraham buildings to their new home at the former Rosh Pina location.

The formal program started with greetings from Lt.-Gov. Peter Liba, Manitoba Premier Gary Doer and Winnipeg Mayor Glen Murray.

Etz Chayim president Sid Kasner said the merger discussions began almost two years ago.

"The reasons are varied and diverse, the most important of which is to provide a viable and sustainable congregation in the north end of Winnipeg."

Etz Chayim's Rabbi Henry Balser descibed the new congregation as "an old/new synagogue," noting that it incorporates the histories of its constituent congregations but is a brand new entity with a clean slate.

"Dedicating Congregation Etz Chayim involves two tasks," he said.

"The first is one of memory. Our new synagogue has deep roots in Winnipeg. We stand on the shoulders of generations of Winnipeg Jews who brought sacred traditions from Europe and adapted them to the new world.

"We also must have the vision to translate those traditions and teachings so that they speak to new generations of Jews."

Other speakers included Winnipeg's senior Rabbi Peretz Weizman, who was rabbi emeritus at the Bnay Abraham and will be, as well, at Etz Chayim; Rabbi Allan Green, president of the Council of Rabbis, and spiritual leader of the Winnipeg's largest congregation Shaarey Zedek; Janet Tobin, international president of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism; Dr. Ian Goldstine, president of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/CJA campaign; and official dedication chair Randy Schwartz.

Rabbi Shalom Rappaport, also rabbi emeritus of the congregation, sent greetings from Florida, where he now lives most of the year.

The festivities closed with a performance by the synagogue choir, a presentation to Jack London, who spearheaded the discusssions which lead to the merger, the procession of the Torahs – the three constituent congregations had 50 torahs between them – and a prayer led by Rabbi Balser.

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'Thousands' of Argentinian immigrants expected soon

Continued from page 1

Cummings is basing his forecast on the "hundreds" of inquiries Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) has received this year from Argentinian Jews beleaguered by their country's devastating economic crisis, as well as increased interest from Jews in France, and to a lesser extent Belgium, worried about the rise of anti-Semitism there.

A community delegation headed by Victor Goldbloom was in Buenos Aires for six days in early September to meet with Jews considering coming to Montreal.

FEDERATION CJA first vice-president Sylvain Abitbol is leading a similar mission to France this week.

Cummings said the Montreal community has to strike a delicate balance between coming to the assistance of Jews in distress and not robbing Israel of *olim* or raiding troubled communities. He said all who inquire about immigrating to Montreal are first advised to consider aliyah, but if they choose not to, then Montreal will do all it can to welcome them.

Argentinian Jewry is largely well-educated and middle-class, either professionals or small business owners, and they have been particularly hard hit by the drastic currency devaluation, soaring unemployment and rampant inflation.

"They feel they do not have a future there, particularly the young," Cummings said. About 200,000 Jews live in Argentina today. The community has seen a steady out-migration over the past 40 years, which accelerated with the anti-Semitism of the early '90s and with the economic crisis, now in its fourth year. Many have gone to Israel and Spain, and to a lesser extent, Italy.

Their interest in Montreal has been piqued by a promotional campaign the Quebec government has been conducting from its office in Buenos Aires, Goldbloom said. Montreal has historically not been the destination of large numbers of Argentinian Jews.

Montreal seems to be an attractive choice because of its strong Jewish communal life and array of institutions, particularly Jewish schools.

Goldbloom said many also think Montreal has a "European character" that they could not find elsewhere in Canada.

They wanted to know about their job prospects and whether they could practise their profession in Montreal, Goldbloom said. They also wondered about the climate and language. Many appeared to have some French, and a significant number are enrolled in French courses offered by the Alliance Française, Goldbloom said.

Quebec has a great deal of autonomy in the selection of immigrants. Health and security checks on prospective immigrants are the main areas left to Canadian authorities.

While Quebec is not fast-tracking Argentinian immigrants, Goldbloom said its Buenos Aires office is processing applications expeditiously, promising to give applicants a preliminary answer within three months.

The Jews of France will be attractive immigration candidates for Quebec because of their language and culture, Cummings said. There are between 600,000 and 700,000 Jews in France, roughly divided between Ashkenazim and Sephardim.

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Reinventing the future of the Middle East

Two years ago, Yasser Arafat rejected Palestinian statehood, including East Jerusalem as its capital, and walked out of the Camp David talks, starting the second Intifada against Israel. Everything changed as violence erupted. Yossi Klein HaLevi is one of four outstanding analysts at Holy Blossom this fall who will address the current situation.

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A daughter's tribute: The life of Elli Podolski

By JULIA KOSCHITZKY

Feature

On July 5, my mother, of blessed memory, would have turned 90. It was a milestone that our family was planning to celebrate in a big way, just as we did for each of her other special birthdays. All the beautiful tributes would have reflected on her extraordinary life, her personal trials and tribulations. But above all, the celebration would have given her immediate family, including her eight married grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren, another opportunity to express their deep love and affection for her.

But it seems that God, in his infinite wisdom, had other plans, and we missed the celebration by four months. Instead, that time was spent sorting through her nine decades of precious possessions she had painstakingly kept. While growing up, I always marvelled at how well her delicate pieces of porcelain, crystal and silver survived through countless ocean voyages and places of residence.

Rescuing the small samplings of my mother's life, we could easily envision the world of German Jewry in the 1920s and 1930s. The books found on her shelves speak of two worlds and reveal a sense of time and place. Books by such authors as Henrik Ibsen, Miguel de Cervantes and Heinrich Heine lie alongside countless Hebrew prayer books with Gothic print inscribed with the names of family members dating back several generations.

Elli Podolski (née Moses) was born in Berlin-Charlottenburg in 1912. Her family was part of the half a million Jews who lived in Germany when Adolf Hitler came to power. An only child of Julius and Margarethe Moses, she grew up in a privileged, middle-class, modern Orthodox home surrounded by doting parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles. Her parents spared nothing in providing her with the best of everything in education, art, music and culture. At the same time, they made sure that she had a strong Jewish upbringing. When my mother spoke of her grandparents, she was always proud to mention that they owned a large matzah factory in Schonlanke.

Her well-documented and catalogued photographs of family gatherings and celebrations in Marienbad and Sunday excursions to the park Unter Den Linden or to the Berlin Zoo reveal a life that was never to return again.

Her childhood autograph book is priceless, with its rhyming prose in exquisite penmanship, accompanied by pictures she pasted on each page. The sentiments expressed on these pages do not in any way indicate a sense of urgency or impending danger. Rather, they capture the youthful hopes and dreams of friendship and love.

In 1934, she met and married my father, Max Podolski. When I look over their beautifully engraved engagement announcement, wedding menu, songsheets and telegrams that arrived from far-off places including Palestine, as well as little mementos of their honeymoon in Venice, I visualize a serene and idyllic life.

My parents belonged to the group of Jews who felt that Germany was a haven from Jewish persecution and poverty. They truly felt that the situation would improve and so they did not hasten to leave until it was almost too late. It was the terror of Kristallnacht in 1938 that finally made them realize things were as bad as they appeared. The next day, when the Gestapo called for my father, he miraculously managed to evade them by escaping out a back exit. With my mother's insistence and prodding that this was their last chance, he agreed to leave for England.

Elli Podolski

But the first available flight to England turned out to be on Shabbat. Uneasy about desecrating the holy day, my father asked the rabbi for advice. The rabbi told him that pikuach nefesh, the religious commandment to save human lives before fulfilling any other duties, took precedence in this case.

That advice proved to be very fortuitous. The next plane out after Shabbat crashed. There were no survivors.

My parents were the lucky ones, lucky that they had relatives and business connections that enabled them to get to England. The other family members were not that fortunate. Almost until the end of my mother's life, she would recall their names one by one during the *Yizkor* prayers, to keep their memory alive.

My parents moved from Berlin to Cardiff, in the south of Wales, where they had a relative as well as business connections. They made their home there for 10 years. Though it was very difficult, compared to what they left behind in Europe, it was paradise. It was here in this coal-mining town that my sister Jeanette and I were born.

I have few recollections of my first few years of life in Cardiff. The only memento I have is a photograph that I vividly remember getting dressed up for. It was Purim and my mother designed beautiful costumes for my sister and me made of blue and white plastic strips and huge Magen Davids that we attached to our chests. We stood together, proudly holding up the flag of our soon-to-be-formed Jewish nation.

As the political tensions of the Cold War set in, my parents became uneasy and decided to get as far away as they could from any impending conflict. So in May 1948, we sailed for Canada. We were to make that journey across the ocean twice, because my parents were daunted by the prospect of making a firm commitment to living here.

We first settled in Montreal, where the adjustments we had to make as new immigrants were difficult. A few years later, when business opportunities in Ontario became more attractive, we once again picked ourselves up and relocated to Toronto.

Just when we finally thought there was some semblance of normalcy in our lives, my father was in a car accident. He was hospitalized at Mount Sinai for 21 months. His right leg required amputation.

It was agonizing. We had no family, no medical connections and no support system to rely on. This is when our lives depended entirely on my mother. She had to keep the business afloat, bring up her two daughters and attend to my father's medical needs. In those days, she could not drive and her mode of transportation was two buses and a subway that she took everyday to bring my father homemade kosher food. Where she summoned her strength and stamina to carry on is still a mystery to me.

Throughout these turbulent years, she never lost her abiding faith in God and her commitment to Jewish values. Neither did she waver in her desire to see her daughters settle down with their perfect mates. In the end, her prayers were answered because those perfect mates also turned out to be the most wonderful sons-in-law any two parents could hope for.

Even in stressful situations, a window of opportunity presents itself. During my father's prolonged hospital stay, a romance developed between my sister and the hospital's chief resident, Benjamin Massouda. In time, they were married, and with his new son-in-law's care, my father lived for another 30 years. Together, my parents marched down the aisle at the weddings of several grandchildren and experienced the birth of their great-grandchildren.

If the beginning and ending of one's life are what really matters, my family can find true comfort in the knowledge that my mother's first quarter of a century was idyllic, as was her last. If the interim years presented her with many unforeseen challenges, she overcame them with tremendous dignity and courage.

She died on Feb. 28, a day that would have had great meaning and significance for her. It was the day of her father's birthday. She always felt extremely sad on that day as she lovingly remembered him. Now it seems that her special memories must become ours, and the sadness of that day will be compounded by her absence.

Her earthly possessions have since found their rightful place in the homes of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, but the most precious legacy that my mother bequeathed to us is the gift of life and love that we will carry deep in our hearts.

She died in the same manner as she was born, in her own home on her pink satin pillowcase, surrounded by her loved ones – the world she had helped to create. It was a peaceful death, with barely a whimper. For this special blessing, her family will eternally be grateful.

Julia Koschitzky, a longtime Jewish community activist, is a director of The Canadian Jewish News.

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Temple Anshe Sholom marks 150th anniversary

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Special to The CJN

HAMILTON — In 1853, 32 German Jewish families united to form the Hebrew Benevolent Society Anshe Sholom of Hamilton. Now a vibrant Reform congregation with a membership of close to 500 families, Temple Anshe Sholom is commemorating its 150th anniversary.

"We were the first liberal congregation in the country," Rabbi Bernard Baskin, Temple Anshe Sholom's rabbi emeritus, said in an interview.

Religious services began in 1856 in members' homes.

"For the first 10 years, this congregation had just a cemetery and a little meeting group," Rabbi Baskin said.

The congregation's first formal synagogue was a room above a leather goods shop in downtown Hamilton. Some years later, in 1882, Edmund Scheurer dedicated Temple Anshe Sholom's first building on Hughson Street, where the congregation would worship for the next 70 years.

It was Scheurer who was instrumental in bringing the ideas of liberal Judaism to Temple Anshe Sholom. He introduced English into the service, both in prayers and in sermons, which had previously been given in German. He also established Temple Anshe Sholom's religious school, the first liberal religious school in the country.

The Reform movement began more than 60 years prior to the temple's establishment, Rabbi Baskin said. "The French Revolution of 1789 broke barriers. Jews emerged out of the ghettos. It was an emancipation period."

Today, Hamilton "has the largest proportion of Reform Jews in any city in Canada," Rabbi Baskin said. "All groups [Reform, Conservative and Orthodox] get along well and work together in the interest of the community."

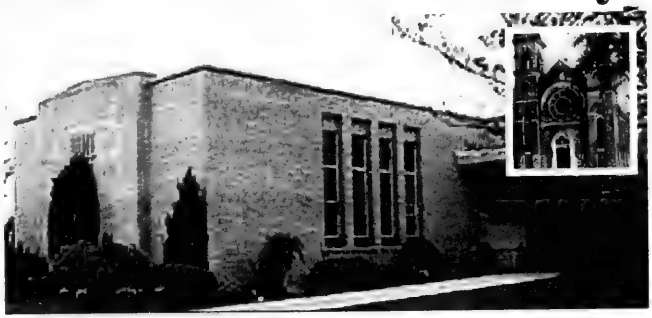
The most significant change in recent years in many Canadian Reform temples has been "a greater emphasis on ritual and traditional aspects of Judaism into the configurations of liberal Judaism," he said.

Among Temple Anshe Shalom's past spiritual leaders, Rabbi Arthur A. Feldman and Rabbi Emil Fackenheim stand out. The late Rabbi Feldman, who had a doctorate in philosophy, led the congregation through the Depression and the rise of Adolf Hitler. Rabbi Fackenheim, who later became a world-renowned philosophy professor at the University of Toronto and moved to Israel in 1984, served the congregation during the war and its aftermath. Under his tenure, the temple held its first Interfaith Institute.

The congregation's current rabbi is Rabbi Irwin Zeplowitz, who has been spiritual leader for the past 14 years.

"This is a period of relative rabbinical security," Rabbi Baskin said.

Rabbi Baskin said that when he and his wife Marjorie arrived in Hamilton from the United States in 1949, he was surprised at how removed Canadian Jews were from the larger community. "Things have changed drastically in the last half century," he said. "There's a much more widely educated Jewish community here. We've come a long way."



Temple Anshe Shalom as it looks today and in early days (inset).

In 1951, Temple Anshe Sholom moved to its current location in the Westdale area of Hamilton.

Rabbi Baskin said he favoured the move, even though the land was occupied at the time by an unsightly ramshackle farmer's shack with chickens scampering about the debris-filled property. The owner was a farmer who refused to either lease or sell his property to the city. He was asking $9,500, which the building committee thought was high, although the congregation eventually decided to buy the property.

The temple is marking its 150th anniversary with a number of events. Last month, a service using the siddur and music from 1952 honoured members who have been affiliated with the temple for 50 years or more. The names of 133 people were inscribed in the temple's *Golden Book*. A formal gala dinner is also planned for Nov. 2. The Comedy Improv Group of Toronto will entertain. A 50-year-old time capsule from a cornerstone of the building will be opened and new items will be inserted.

Other events include: a 100-year service on Feb. 7, 2003; a renewal of marriage vows on April 6 for couples married at the temple; a 150-year service on May 2, featuring Lenny Thal, vice-president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, as keynote speaker; and a family picnic on June 1.

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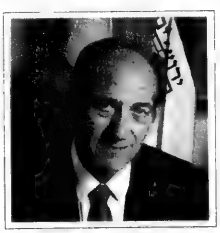

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Coast to Coast

Lethbridge Jews recall the past, hope for the future

By TAMARA STECYK
Special to The CJN

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. — The Jewish population is dwindling here, and the synagogue is struggling to remain open, as is the case in many small centres across Canada.

What remains are the strong memories of living as a Jew in the city, which now has a population of 72,700. About 35 people gathered at Lethbridge's Beth Israel Synagogue on Oct. 6 to share past experiences and see the shul before it possibly closes for good.

"Sitting in this synagogue brings back memories. The synagogue was loaded on High Holy Days. It was like a big family. Everyone took care of everyone. Everyone in this community was an auntie or an uncle to me," said Fran Snukal, one of 14 people who travelled from Calgary for the day.

Jews began moving to Lethbridge in the early 1900s, and Beth Israel was established in 1935 when the community purchased and renovated an old church. As the number of Jews grew, a new building was constructed in 1955.

At its peak, the community had about 75 Jewish families, now shrunk to 10 or 12, said longtime Lethbridge resident Hymie Davids. The congregation still gathers for High Holy Day services, but it is a struggle to hold Shabbat services.

"We have to count the women now to make up a minyan," said Davids, who helped organize the day's event with the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta.

From left, Maurice Silver of Calgary and Joe Green, Garry Kohn and Hymie Davids, all of Lethbridge, gather to examine one of four Torahs at the Beth Israel Synagogue.

He hopes that the synagogue will remain open and is worried that the day will come when it will be sold.

"We are going to hold onto it as long as we can. It's tough. Medicine Hat sold their building and gave their Torahs away," said the 83-year-old. "What is going to eventually happen, I don't know. I hope there will be a community here."

Garry Kohn, one of the younger members, says he received a call from a real estate agent wanting to know when the synagogue will be up for sale.

A decision to close the synagogue is up to the whole community.

Another purpose for the recent gathering was to preserve the history of Beth Israel and its community. A videographer was on hand to record the stories and the tour of the plots at the Jewish cemetery.

"We wanted to review the roots of Lethbridge. It was really good for the people who lived in Lethbridge. It was rehashing the past for them," said Emanuel Cohen, a member of the Jewish Historical Society of Southern Alberta.

Cohen also grew up in Lethbridge, but now lives in Calgary where he volunteers with the society, gathering historical archives.

"We have been silently gathering data on Lethbridge. What we are trying to do is preserve all the historical documents," Cohen said.

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West Bank outpost creates political storm

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — An illegal outpost in the West Bank has become the eye of a storm whose fury could be felt in the political power centers of Jerusalem.

In a tense weekend standoff, right-wing Israeli protesters clashed with police and soldiers trying to remove them from Havat Gilad – Hebrew for Gilad Farm.

The outpost near Nablus was established in memory of an Israeli killed nearby in a Palestinian terrorist attack last year.

On Sunday, the protesters burned tires, set fire to a field near Gilad Farm and blocked equipment brought in to clear the site.

By Sunday night, after six hours of confrontations, the last two standing structures at Gilad's Farm were dismantled. But later that night, protesters returned to rebuild the structures.

Sunday's clashes followed violent confrontations the previous night between some 400 protesters and police in which some 30 people were injured.

Along with confrontations at the site of the outpost, a political brawl erupted in Jerusalem over an army move that some cabinet ministers said was a blatant desecration of the Jewish Sabbath.

Right-wing ministers called Sunday for Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer's resignation because troops sent to evacuate the outpost travelled there before the end of Shabbat.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) chief of staff, Lt.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, said the order to send the soldiers to the outpost on Shabbat was apparently a mistake, and he promised an investigation of the incident.

Amid threats by members of the National Religious Party to bolt the governing coalition, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon also denounced the army order.

But in remarks broadcast Sunday on Israel Radio, Sharon also condemned the protesters for clashing with the soldiers and police.

"Any attack against the IDF, the security forces or the police is an attack on the rule of law" and must not be allowed to take place, Sharon said.

For his part, Ben-Eliezer spoke of the protesters' actions as a "revolt" that endangered the very existence of the state.

Amid the finger-pointing over who issued the army directive to operate on Shabbat, NRP cabinet minister Efraim Eitam demanded the firing of Ben-Eliezer, who has spearheaded the campaign against the illegal outposts.

Earlier this month, Ben-Eliezer promised to have 30 of them dismantled. Of these, 20 have been taken down, an aide to Ben-Eliezer said.

Eitam attacked Ben-Eliezer for desecrating the Sabbath, calling him a liar and a coward. Eitam later apologized.

Ben-Eliezer said the protesters who fought with Israeli security forces were a group of militant youths "that even the rabbis cannot control, some of whom are quite problematic, violent types."

Right-wing leaders acknowledged they had little control over the "fringe" element and called for nonviolent resistance.

Coming after calls last week by a group of rabbis urging religious soldiers to refuse to carry out orders to clear illegal outposts, the weekend clashes raised concerns that the debate over the outposts could spill into civic unrest.

Transportation Minister Ephraim Sneh sounded an ominous note, saying the attacks on Ben-Eliezer reminded him of the political atmosphere preceding prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination in 1995 by a right-wing student opposed to Rabin's land-for-peace policies with the Palestinians.

"This blend of physical and verbal violence in an attack of this sort on the defence minister," who is also the head of the Labor Party, is "precisely the recipe for a political assassination," *Ha'aretz* quoted Sneh as saying.

At the end of Sunday's cabinet meeting, Ben-Eliezer complained the government was not backing up his efforts to enforce the rule of law in the West Bank and Gaza.

Commenting on the personal attacks against him, Ben-Eliezer said there is a need for drastic steps. He did not elaborate. But his remarks came against the backdrop of a simmering threat in Labor to pull out of the government over the lack of diplomatic progress with the Palestinians.

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North Korea's revelations have Mideast implications

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

The U.S. discovery that North Korea has successfully developed a nuclear device, despite its international commitments to non-proliferation, has ramifications for the Middle East.

Some of the country's attempts to produce enriched uranium, as well as its tests on its long-range missiles, are being conducted in Iran, in exchange for Pyongyang's helping Tehran in these two areas. Iran also agreed to conceal the efforts from the United States and from North Korea's neighbours.

Comment

Many American experts believe that North Korea received help from Pakistan in developing centrifuges for enriching uranium, in exchange for Pyongyang's aid in developing missiles – a trade of nuclear know-how for missile know-how.

Those deals were made in the early 1990s, before Pakistan's current president, Gen. Pervez Musharaf, took power. Since then, North Korea has made significant progress in developing its nuclear weapons, although its dealings with Iran are much more recent.

Pyongyang reportedly approached Iran with the intention of hiding its activity from the spying eyes of the United States and North Korea's neighbours. American, Japanese and South Korean intelligence have all been watching Pyongyang's development of nuclear and missile technology. North Korea's violation of its nuclear commitments put an end to the 1994 agreement it signed with the United States, South Korea and Japan, which promised Pyongyang modern nuclear power plants based on light water and to provide it with fuel for several years, in exchange for its ceasing operations in nuclear plants where plutonium was being produced.

The Iranians are getting help from North Korea in building centrifuges for producing enriched uranium, as well as in developing propulsion systems for long-range missiles. Foreign sources say the North Korean centrifuges in Iran have reached the operational stage for production, but they do not know when that stage was reached or how much of the processed uranium Iran will get from the North Korean centrifuges. In any case, however, the deal will certainly advance Iran's nuclear ambitions.

As for North Korea's activities in Iran regarding missiles, the foreign sources say that Pyongyang has already tested the systems for the North Korean Taepo Dong missiles. The first version of the missile was built in 1998, and a more advanced version came out less than a year later. The missile is believed to have a range of between 3,500 and 5,000 kilometres. Early testing of the missile in North Korea prompted vehement criticism by its neighbours. The Iranians have begun planning a Shihab-5 on the basis of the Taepo Dong missiles.

In addition to its involvement with Iran, North Korea has helped Syria develop a production line for improved-range Scud missiles, including advanced Scud D missiles.

Egypt also has a missile connection with North Korea. Under American pressure, Cairo was forced to forgo a deal to purchase 50 Nodong missile engines from Pyongyang. Nodong missiles have a range of 1,300 kilometres and form the basis of the Shihab-3 missile developed by Iran and the mid-range Pakistani missile.

Israel now must determine how much Pyongyang's help to Tehran has advanced Iranian ambitions, considering that efforts to block the Russian technology leak to Iran have failed. Furthermore, if Washington now applies pressure on North Korea, forcing it back into isolation, how will that affect Pyongyang's weapons development activity in other Arab countries?

There is also the question of how the new crisis with North Korea will affect Washington's plans for Iraq. With North Korea joining the nuclear club and Iran on its way, there will be severe regional implications for Asian countries such as Japan and South Korea, as well as for some Middle Eastern countries.

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Talks with Hezbollah to free Tannenbaum stuck

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — This week marks two years since Hezbollah announced it had kidnapped Elhanan Tannenbaum and negotiations between Israel and the radical Lebanese organization on a prisoner exchange are stuck.

About a month after the kidnapping was announced, the French daily *Le Figaro* reported that Tannenbaum had been kidnapped from the United Arab Emirates.

Tannenbaum's kidnapping came shortly after Hezbollah's Oct. 7, 2000 kidnapping of three Israel Defence Forces soldiers – Adi Avitan, Omar Suwayed and Benny Avraham – in the Mount Dov area along the northern border with Lebanon. Indirect contacts between Israel and Hezbollah continue, albeit intermittently, on a prisoner exchange, but to date no meaningful progress has been made.

In early September, Israeli officials received a message from a diplomatic source in Lebanon that said Israel had an opportunity to make progress in the contacts with Hezbollah for a prisoner swap. The official estimated that Israel should quickly make a "proposal" to the Lebanese organization in order to do so.

The diplomatic official said his assessment was based on a public outcry by families of Lebanese prisoners held in Israel to Beirut and Hezbollah spiritual leader Hassan Nasrallah to take action to accelerate the return of their relatives.

But for several weeks there has been no progress in talks with Hezbollah, which are being carried out via German mediation. Officials involved in the talks said this is due to a disagreement not connected to Israel, but rather to relations between Germany and Hezbollah. A few months ago, Germany expressed its support for a call by the United States and Britain to add Hezbollah to the European Union's list of terror groups.

The security establishment in Israel, and probably Hezbollah as well, closely followed the elections in Germany held last month. The expectation was that contacts between Hezbollah and Israel would be renewed after the elections. But last week it became clear Hezbollah isn't interested in advancing the talks right now, despite new proposals made to the group in recent weeks.

This trend worries the Tannenbaum family, which recently began to support an Israeli proposal that was made to the Lebanese government a short time before the kidnappings, according to which relatives of the Lebanese held in Israel would visit them, with the mediation of the International Red Cross. Lebanon refused the proposal, claiming that any contact between Lebanese and Israelis is illegal.

"The concern now is that no negotiations are underway for a prisoner exchange," Elhanan's son, Ori Tannenbaum told *Ha'aretz* earlier this week. "The negotiations are stuck. Although responsibility for this falls primarily on Nasrallah, this doesn't mean that in the meantime we should sit around. We know that my father is alive, but we also know that every additional day he is held further endangers his life."

Ori Tannenbaum also said Israel should try to advance the negotiations before any U.S. attack on Iraq.

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UNDERGROUND SMUGGLING:
IDF forces discovered 2 tunnels in the Rafah area last week. The tunnels were used to smuggle arms from Egypt into the Gaza Strip. The discovery of these tunnels led to an exchange of fire with Hamas gunmen. [Israel Sun photo]

Hezbollah trying to obtain long-range missiles

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

WASHINGTON — Hezbollah is trying to obtain a ground-to-ground missile with a 300-kilometre range that could hit anywhere in Israel north of Be'er Sheva, a senior Israeli source said last week in conversations with American media commentators.

Hezbollah currently has Fajr 5 missiles that can reach Haifa and the source said that the situation on the northern border "is very dangerous."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's conversations with officials in the administration of U.S. President George W. Bush included concern that Hezbollah might exploit a U.S. assault on Iraq to provoke Israel.

According to the senior source, the Americans brought up the scenario. Sharon discussed the Lebanon issue with CIA Director George Tenet and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell during his trip to Washington, D.C., last week.

The senior source said that if Israel is attacked from Lebanon, Israel's response would be "proportional."

He said that in case of such an attack, Israel would regard Syria as responsible. "We will not initiate an action against Syria and do not want war. If there is an escalation in the north, it is because the Syrians allow it," he said, adding that the American administration was cautioning Syria on this account.

Bush raised the Hezbollah issue in his press conference last week with Sharon, saying that the U.S. does not expect Hezbollah "to attack our friends. That would be a terrorist action and we will fight terror everywhere. We have not changed our policy toward countries that harbour terrorists."

Oct. 14

• Israel released eight Egyptian sailors captured aboard the Karine-A weapons ship in January.

Oct. 15

• The UN Human Development Index for 2000 ranked Israel 22nd out of 174 countries in social development.

Oct. 16

• Commemorations marking the seventh anniversary of Yitzchak Rabin's assassination *(Cheshvan 11)* began with a ceremony at the president's residence in Jerusalem.

• It was reported that U.S. President George W. Bush told Israeli leaders they would receive enough warning of a U.S. strike on Iraq. Sources said Israel would receive more than the 48-hour notice it received when America attacked Afghanistan last year.

Oct. 17

• At least eight Palestinians were killed, seven of whom were civilians – including two children and two women – when Israeli tanks responded to heavy fire in Rafah. The shooting came from three armed men trying to prevent the soldiers from blocking off Palestinian tunnels on the Egyptian border that are allegedly used for smuggling.

Oct. 18

• Israel Defence Forces Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon reported that seven suicide missions inside Israel had been foiled in the past week.

• The spiritual leader of the Hamas movement, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, was personally involved in an attempt to supply arms to a unit of Hamas military wing, Israel's military prosecutor said.

• According to *Ha'aretz*, the British Foreign Office is holding up more than 150 requests for licenses to export security items and components to Israel, including items needed for projects ordered by the British themselves.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

ICC said prone to politicization

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Geography, not quality, appears to be the key criterion in the proposed appointment of judges to the International Criminal Court (ICC), an observer to a preparatory meeting of the ICC said recently.

Delegates to the Assembly of States, the parties to the ICC, agreed that judges must represent specific geographic regions of the world and must include a minimum female representation, regardless of whether judges so selected are the most qualified, said Leo Adler, director of national affairs of the Simon Wiesenthal Center's Canadian office.

In a report based on his observations of a recent ICC meeting in New York, Adler said the selection process for judges – already limited by geography and gender – will be further restricted because major nations have not yet ratified the treaty establishing the court. That leaves out judicial representation from such nations as the United States, Japan, China, Russia, Israel, Mexico, Philippines and South Korea, he stated. None of these states can nominate or vote for ICC judges or prosecutors (prosecutors are not restricted by gender or place of origin).

"Asia, in particular, is grossly under-represented in the assembly, thus making it particularly difficult to choose judges from that region as representative of that continent. Finally, reality being reality, it must be recalled that the majority of nations in the world are not democracies and may not have a judiciary or a bar that is beyond the control or influence of the state, thereby raising the spectre of judges becoming instruments of the state," Adler said.

The Netherlands, Canada, Britain and Australia were the last holdouts for choosing judges without restrictions, "but in the end they were driven to this consensus in order to allow the court to proceed."

Further complicating the issue is that the proposed election procedure for judges will not be done by secret ballot. France has already nominated a judge who happens to be President Jacques Chirac's best friend. "That's what it's come down to," said Adler, a member of the criminal bar in Ontario.

Efforts by some Arab states to put Israel in the dock because of its settlement policy reflect the potential politicization of the ICC, he continued. Because the ICC is prospective – it has no jurisdiction over events prior to its existence – Arab states are "trying to get the crime of aggression defined differently in the ICC than in [the] Geneva [Convention].

"They're trying to say that the expansion of [settlements] takes land from Arabs, and this is a forced resettlement and is a crime of aggression," he stated.

That re-definition of "aggression" is not consistent with the Geneva Convention and has not made much headway at ICC meetings, Adler said. Furthermore, the Arab states' efforts are complicated by the fact that "most haven't signed on to the Rome Treaty establishing the ICC. Most of Asia hasn't signed on."

Adler was also critical of the provisions – or lack thereof – for a defence bar. The statute establishing the ICC makes financial allowances for victims' representation and for the prosecution, but not for the defence. "Unless you have status and funding, it will be difficult for people to afford it," he said.

Furthermore, the ICC, which will consist of 18 judges sitting in The Hague, is being undermined by side deals being negotiated by some of the ICC's reluctant parties, Adler said.

The United States is signing agreements with a variety of countries to shield its citizens from the operation of the court. They are agreeing not to prosecute each other's citizens. "In effect, they're opting out of the ICC," and undermining its universal jurisdiction, he said.

"This would have the effect of leaving a rump court that would only deal with those few countries that are willing to both ignore the Americans and accept the ICC without qualification."

British academic: boycott of Israel 'deplorable'

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

LONDON — Baroness Susan Greenfield, a renowned neuroscientist and the director of the Royal Institution, has condemned a proposal to impose an academic boycott on Israel. The proposal was made by academics from Britain and Europe who were joined by some of their colleagues from Israel.

Speaking recently at an event organized by the British-Israel Chambers of Commerce, Greenfield said "The idea of an academic boycott on Israel is deplorable and reflects British academia in a very bad light because the reasons for it are wrong and groundless."

She said that a British scientific team was planning to visit Israel shortly and that she is personally working with a firm that is co-operating with an Israeli company in developing medical software.

Greenfield, a professor of pharmacology at Oxford University, is the first woman to head the Royal Institution, one of the most prestigious in Britain.

The volume of trade between the two countries stood last year at 2.6 billion pounds sterling, making Israel Britain's largest client in the Middle East.

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By e-mail: sjackson@ujafed.org By fax: 416-631-5715

No phone calls, please.

UJA FEDERATION

New Israeli museum to recognize Jewish soldiers in WW II

By DAVID SAX
Special to The CJN

The Holocaust remains the defining Jewish experience of our time. It is an event of such magnitude that it unfortunately overshadows all other Jewish achievements from that period. But in our efforts to "never forget" the slaughter, we have bypassed the heroic roles that 1.5 million Jewish soldiers played in the fight against Hitler.

To highlight this neglected chapter in the history of the Jewish people, the government of Israel laid the cornerstone on The Museum of the Jewish Soldiers in World War II at an emotional ceremony on Sept. 4. Among the tanks at Latrun's Yad Lashiryon Memorial site, veterans, ministers and foreign dignitaries observed the first step toward the permanent recognition of Jews who served in Allied armies during the war.

Set up with the co-operation of the Israeli government, the Yad Vashem Museum and various veterans' organizations, the museum will educate and display the heroic achievements of Israel's sons in that great and terrible conflict. Through a mixture of artifacts and photography and multimedia exhibits, the site will honour the role played by Jewish soldiers in the war's key battles, in Resistance movements within Nazi-occupied Europe and in British-controlled Palestine.

"Together we have established a museum recognizing the fighting spirit of the Jewish people," said the memorial's chairperson, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Chaim Erez, to a crowd made up mainly of American and Soviet veterans. "One-and-a-half million Jews fought against the Nazi beast, a quarter of a million fell as fighters, the highest percentage of any group."

Israel's deputy prime minister, Natan Sharansky, stressed the importance of remembering those achievements by recounting his childhood experiences in the former Soviet Union under Josef Stalin's rule. In an emotional speech, Sharansky detailed how his father's service in the war was denied by other veterans because he was Jewish. "In the Soviet Union, everything was done to erase any hint of Jewish heroism from World War II," he said.

The museum aims to incorporate the greater theme of Jewish strength into the site, linking it with the Latrun memorial along the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway. During the 1948 War of Independence, some of the bloodiest fighting between Israeli and Arab armies took place for control of this strategic route to Jerusalem.

In his speech, Maj.-Gen. Doron Almog, Israel's military attaché from Britain, stressed this strength. "The Jewish [fighters in WWII] gave the Zionist movement the experience it needed in the Haganah and early IDF to establish and fight for the State of Israel," he said.

Maurice Lobe sees the museum as a testament to Jewish brotherhood in combat. Lobe is one of many Diaspora Jews who fought the Nazis in Allied armies before moving to Israel to fight for its independence. Born in Northern Ontario, Lobe served with a reconnaissance unit in Iceland before moving to Israel and fighting in the War of Independence.

Col. Pat Dennis, Canada's military attaché to Israel, regards this brotherhood as a military tradition that is not unique to the Jewish experience in World War II.

"You certainly had Irish and Scottish regiments, and those people always commemorated their fallen sons," he said. "I think it's the same mentality that people celebrate the accomplishments and tragedies that befall a particular group of people... These young men went to war partly because they felt it was a worthy cause and partly because their own people were threatened."

Israeli President Moshe Katzav said the museum will become more than a testament to the past. "This site will serve as a message to the factions in the Arab world who still want to exterminate us," he said to the crowd.

The museum is expected to be completed in two years, at an approximate cost of $6 million (US).

David Sax, a Toronto writer, is currently travelling in Israel.

GRADUATE DIPLOMA PROGRAM
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It is specifically designed to meet the needs of teachers who elect to teach units in the current Ontario curriculum concerning Holocaust and intellectual dimensions of other genocide. It will also be of interest to educators working in community colleges, the media and social services.

The Program is to be taken part-time, one evening a week and consists of five courses: four core required courses and one elective. *Courses include: The Holocaust: A Social History; Holocaust and Genocide Education: Curriculum and Teaching Practices; Contemporary Genocide: An Interdisciplinary and Comparative Approach; Holocaust and Genocide Education Through Literature and Film; Anne Frank in Life and Death.*

To obtain a brochure and further information, please contact Dr. Carole Ann Reed at 416-923-6641 ext. 6953.

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Thriller mixes romance, psychology and history

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A series of random and seemingly unconnected events form the core of Dani Levy's tingling thriller, *The Giraffe*.

The 1998 film will be screened Thursday, Oct. 31 at 7:30 p.m. by the Goethe Institut (163 King St. W.) as part of Holocaust Education Week.

Taking place in the United States and Germany in the late 1990s, *The Giraffe* is a heady brew of history, psychology and romance, geared to appeal to an eclectic audience.

It opens as a factory owned by a Jewish businessman in Germany goes up in flames. The police suspect that neo-Nazis set the fire.

The plot thickens when a woman in New York City stumbles upon a newspaper photograph of a man she believes is her long-lost father and when a dying woman is found in a Manhattan hotel.

The tendrils of these murky incidents are linked to a web of shifting identities and tightly-kept secrets, all of which are related to Nazi Germany and the Holocaust.

Levy, who directs and stars in this intriguing movie, is quite adept at pulling together these disparate strands. But occasionally, he cannot juggle all this material successfully and the film spirals away from him.

When this happens, *The Giraffe* sinks into a morass and tends to be incomprehensible rather than illuminating.

The protagonists are David Fish (Levy), a New York Jew who is thrown into turmoil when his German-born mother suddenly dies, and Lena Katz (Maria Schrader), a theatre designer whose grandfather's plant is destroyed by arson.

Charles Kaminski, (David Strathearn), a private detective, rounds out the cast. He is hired to crack a major conundrum whose misty origins lie in Germany.

He gains access to a Third Reich archive in Berlin and triumphantly finds a piece of incriminating evidence that is particularly damning to one person, a Nazi war criminal who misappropriated someone else's identity after World War II.

Fish and Katz, who hail from different walks of life, meet after his mother's untimely demise. Almost immediately, they are drawn to each other, but they are really an unlikely couple.

As *The Giraffe* unfolds, they learn of dark secrets, of a Nazi roundup and of a frightened Jewish girl who was hidden in a basement by her best friend, a non-Jew.

At times, these startling revelations threaten to shatter their budding relationship.

Here and there, the story line becomes so complicated that one can barely follow it.

But just when you think that all is lost, Levy rescues the film with a deft move and *The Giraffe* redeems itself.

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The Canadian Jewish news

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(Hint: the answer can be found in their advertisement printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by 1 p.m. on Fri., Nov. 1/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Mon., Nov. 4/02 at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: 'Mandy Patinkin' Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 'Mandy Patinkin' Contest, 416-391-0949.

Employees and family members of The Toronto Centre for the Performing Arts or *The CJN* are not eligible to enter.

Arts & Travel

The Grey Zone evokes the horror of Auschwitz with amazing precision

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Harvey Keitel (right) plays a German commandant in *The Grey Zone*.

There have been precious few mainstream Hollywood films about the Holocaust as chilling or as realistic as Tim Blake Nelson's *The Grey Zone*.

Scheduled to open at the Cineplex Odeon chain Oct. 25, this compelling picture is based on the memoirs of a Hungarian Jewish doctor who assisted the infamous Josef Mengele in perpetrating gruesome medical experiments in the Auschwitz death camp.

The film, though, really turns on a doomed sonderkommando unit that perhaps redeems itself through an act of incredible courage.

Sonderkommando units, whose typical lifespan was four months, were charged with the most grisly of tasks: pacifying Jewish inmates, expropriating their valuables, herding them into gas chambers, shovelling their corpses into ovens and disposing of their remains.

In exchange for performing such unimaginably horrible duties, they were granted the right to loot, given decent food and drink and assigned reasonable quarters.

Yet they all knew they were living on borrowed time. "You're dead already here," one of its doomed members says ruefully.

The Grey Zone, whose authenticity is awesome, takes place in 1944, the year Auschwitz was shaken by an armed revolt organized by sonderkommandos.

Vastly outgunned and unavoidably reliant on peasants who could easily betray them to the Germans, the prisoners never stood a chance of succeeding.

Starring a stellar cast headed by David Arquette, Steve Buscemi and Harvey Keitel, *The Grey Zone* evokes the horror of a working concentration camp with amazing precision.

The crematoria, whitish smoke wafting from their chimneys, look terrifyingly real, as do the grim barracks housing the drones of the 12th Sonderkommando, consisting entirely of Hungarian Jews.

As the train with the latest victims pulls into Auschwitz one night, the camera pans on their unsuspecting eyes. If only they knew what awaited them in this hell on earth. As they disembark, they hear the soothing, civilized tones of classical music, played by an orchestra whose sole function is to lull the inmates into a state of submission.

"Cleanliness brings freedom," a sonderkommando exhorts Jews as they walk into the "showers." Then a gentle but misleading reminder: remember the hook your clothes are on. Little do they know they are on a one-way journey to oblivion.

Some inmates may know better. When a Jewish man refuses to part with his gold watch, a German guard beats him to a pulp and unceremoniously shoots him.

These horrific passages unfold with a coldness that chills the blood.

The worst, however, is yet to come. In scenes that are wrenching yet not exploitative, Jews let out bloodcurdling screams as Zyklon-B gas cuts them down in a pyramidal heap of bodies.

Ever ready, the sonderkommandos methodically shove corpses into burning incinerators. As the crematoria reduce them to ash and bone, we hear the clanging of eerie metallic sounds.

At the end of their shift, the sonderkommandos retire to their quarters as if nothing had happened. Deadened to the atrocities, they sit down to a meal at a table groaning with fine foods – smoked meats, oysters and cakes – and the choicest alcoholic beverages.

There appears to be no room for sadness, grief or morality in a heartless place like Auschwitz.

But when a wheezing, catatonic 14-year-old girl somehow survives a gassing, the sonderkommandos seize upon this miracle as a rare chance for personal redemption.

Urged on by a compassionate doctor who normally is at Mengele's beck and call, the sonderkommandos resolve to conceal her and thus save her from certain death.

They realize their compassion puts them at risk and possibly jeopardizes their planned rebellion. But dipping into their reserves of humanity, they throw caution to the wind.

In evoking the thunder of distant bombing raids, Nelson makes an important point: Allied aircraft bombed nearby targets but skirted Auschwitz altogether, condemning still thousands more Jews.

When the prisoners' revolt finally erupts in a fury of gunfire and confusion, the camp orchestra breaks into action yet again, and the juxtaposition between the music and the uprising is simply stunning.

Nelson's film, a cri de coeur about humanity's infinite capacity for cruelty and kindness, leaves an immense and memorable impact.

Unsentimental and powerful, *The Grey Zone* stands as an enduring witness to one of the darkest chapters in modern history.

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

JEWISH GOSPEL SINGER RETURNS TO TORONTO

Joshua Nelson, an African-American Jewish gospel singer, practically "brought down the roof" when he gave a brief performance at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival last spring after a screening of *Keep On Walking*, an award-winning documentary that is a musical portrait of his life.

By popular demand, the TJFF has arranged for Nelson to return to Toronto for a full-length performance to accompany another screening of the film.

Bloor Cinema, 506 Bloor St. W. (east of Bathurst). Patron tickets $50 (including 7 p.m. reception). General admission $25, balcony $18. Saturday Nov. 2. Screening, 8 p.m. Concert, 9:30 p.m. 416-324-9121.

* * *

Toronto Actor to Tour: *Filler Up!*, **Deb Filler's** one-woman show that she calls "a solo piece with 27 characters," closed recently in Toronto after playing for a month at the Artword Theatre. The comedy, which focuses on how a person addicted to food or other substances can find balance in her life, ran for an additional weekend before closing Oct. 20.

Theatre-goers may recall Filler's earlier show, *Punch Me In The Stomach!*, which played here to favourable reviews about 10 years ago. Both shows began off-Broadway in New York and both will eventually play to international audiences. Filler reports that she will perform *Filler Up!* in Winnipeg in December, London in February, and her native New Zealand after that. Her web site is www.filler up.ca.

* * *

Nashman's Keeping Busy: Dora-nominated actor **Alon Nashman** appears in *Alphonse*, an "enchanting and sophisticated solo work" for young people by Quebec playwright **Wajdi Mouawad**, as translated by **Shelley Tepperman**.

This Theatre Direct Canada production runs at the Du Maurier Theatre Centre, Nov. 5 to 17.

Theatre-goers can catch Nashman again in *Crimes*, an "explosive new play" by **Adam Nashman**. **Hrant Alianak** directs this dramatic presentation of two Armenian Canadians who explore the Jewish Holocaust in relation to the early 20th century Armenian genocide. Berkeley Street Theatre, upstairs. Jan 17 to Feb. 8, 2003. 416-504-PLAY (7529).

* * *

Mini-Film Fest in Montreal: Congregation Dorshei Emet, the Reconstructionist Synagogue of Montreal, holds its 4th annual Film Festival on Wednesday Oct. 23, Saturday Oct. 26 and Sunday Oct.27. The event features several films directed and produced by **Dorshei Emet** members and others who will be present at the screenings.

Je me souviens, **Eric Scott's** provocative documentary about fascism and anti-Semitism in Quebec, is being shown on Saturday night. The event also features *Vive le québec. . . Anglé*, by director **Garry Beitel** and **Barry Lazar,** which celebrates Anglo-Quebec writers and artists such as **Aislin**, **David Fennario**, **Josh Freed**, **Margie Gillis** and **Harry Mayerovitch**.

Opening reception, Wednesday evening. A four-movie festival pass is $24. Single admittance is $7.50 in advance, $8 at the door. Synagogue office, 514-486-9400.

* * *

Restoration Comedy Revisited: Written in rhyming couplets, **Kathleen Oliver's** *Swollen Tongues* gives restoration comedy a contemporary twist with its portrayal of a man who discovers his love verses are being plagiarized.

The award-winning play was staged in Vancouver in 1998 and London in 2000, and just ended a tour of Britain. The Toronto cast features **Jordan Pettle**, **Melody Johnson** and **Nancy Palk**. Factory Studio Theatre, 125 Bathurst St. $22 to $30. Oct. 24 to Nov. 10. 416-504-9971, www.necessaryangel.com

* * *

Dramatic Reading: Playwright's Workshop Series presents a public reading of *Shiksas Sit Shiva*, by **Catherine Hayos** and **Melinda Little**, with **Robin Craig**, **Barbara Gordon**, **Catherine Hayos**, **Carol Lempert** and **Melinda Little**. Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. Thurs. Oct. 24, 8 p.m. PWYC ($5 suggested).

* * *

Literary Notes

•Two Israeli authors have been nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature. **Amos Oz** and **David Grossman**, both known for their dovish political views, are reportedly among 20 writers nominated for this year's prize.

•Montreal residents **Meyer** and **Hall Goldstein** are among 35 Holocaust survivors featured in *A Celebration of the Triumph of Survival*, a book of memoirs that highlights their life accomplishments after 1945. The book is an outgrowth of the *L'Chaim Project*, an educational program of the South Area Solomon Schechter Day School of Stoughton, Mass. www.sassds.org

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In association with UJA 22nd Annual Holocaust Education Week
Children of A Vanished World

Produced and directed by Judy Kopelow
In collaboration with Mara Vishniac Kohn
Musical direction by Sabatino Vacca
Tues., Nov. 5, 2002 at 8PM
Hart House Theatre
7 Hart House Circle, University of Toronto
Tickets $22.00
Hart House Box Office at 416-978-8668
For information contact 416-787-1060
From 1935-1938 the renowned ROMAN VISHNIAC photographed Eastern Europe's shtetlekh. JUDY KOPELOW uses poignant Vishniac photographs for a special remembrance of the lives of children who vanished in the Holocaust. Over 50 photographs will be enlarged to fill the stage. Yiddish folk songs, instrumentation and narrative accompany this unique and powerful production. Followed by discussion with MARA VISHNIAC KOHN, the photographer's daughter. Moderated by CBC's EVAN SOLOMON.
Photographs with special permission from The International Center of Photography, New York. Special thanks to the Windsor Arms Hotel

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Arts & Travel

Photo exhibit depicts prewar poverty in eastern Europe

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

Two boys crouch beside a sewer as if it's a toy. A small hand touches the sewer, perhaps looking for a lost marble or looking for amusement in found trash. In the Polish city of Lodz in the late 1930s, these boys didn't have much to smile about – but impish grins tickle the faces streaked by dirt and poverty.

A girl who looks about eight years old is wrapped in a raggedy blanket as she holds a milk bottle. Black streaks stain her forehead. Her eyes say the words, "Don't forget."

The late Russian photographer Roman Vishniac never forgot how these lives suffered, even before the Holocaust wiped them out. His camera caught the faces and families of Jews in eastern Europe between 1935 and 1939. The photos were meant to raise funds for destitute communities in places like Warsaw in Poland and Vilna in Lithuania. But the famous photographer met indifference. Only later in life and after his death, did the world recognize the emotional force of his work.

As part of Holocaust Education Week, Toronto producer-director Judy Kopelow presents Vishniac's prewar depictions in a multi-media event on Nov. 5 at Hart House. Children of a Vanished World will commemorate the children by projecting the photos onto a 10-foot by 14-foot screen and accompanying the pictures with individual explanations. Yiddish folk music will add to the ambience at the 450-seat theatre.

"It's ... a respectful ceremony," Kopelow says, adding that the children's faces convey not only solemnity but also hope. After all, she says, these kids were so poor they could barely afford proper shoes; yet one smile here and a twinkle of the eye there, and the photo collection becomes a symbol of moving on.

With his camera, Vishniac explored this "unexplainable loss," Kopelow says, and the photos (borrowed from New York's International Center for Photography) spark questions that have no answers: Why did these children not grow up? Why could no one stop the Holocaust from swallowing these young innocents? Why us?

After the exhibition, guests can participate in a discussion with Mara Vishniac Kohn – Vishniac's 76-year-old daughter. It will be moderated by CBC's Evan Solomon. Kopelow says the discussion should "bring some insight into the evening."

Last year during Holocaust Education Week, Kopelow produced a performance of Elie Wiesel's composition *Ani Maamin* – a piece which literally means "I believe." It questions the suffering wrought by the Holocaust. She is also a critical-care nurse who has cared for children her whole life.

"Vishniac took these beautiful photos of children whose lives were snuffed out," she says. "It's tough to get our minds around the enormity of this cruelty and loss. But Vishniac was determined to let the world know about this."

In the years following his eastern European mission, Vishniac's efforts proved fruitless. The American public didn't want to know about the poverty overseas.

After arriving in New York in 1941, Vishniac tried to exhibit his documentary photographs because he believed the pictures of such endangered communities would prevent further catastrophes. American heads turned the other way, and Vishniac supported himself by producing well-known portraits of Albert Einstein and Marc Chagall.

Finally, in 1971, the International Center of Photography mounted the first exhibit of his work, and after his death in 1990, his daughter continued his efforts.

"My father would've been delighted to see what is happening," Vishniac Kohn said from her home in Santa Barbara, Calif. "[His collection] is a living record of how these communities survived."

Kopelow hopes people will appreciate what Vishniac went through, and how hard he worked to capture a segment of Jewish history largely ignored. Violence and desperation surrounded him, and he witnessed the first signs of tension. As he wrote in 1938 during his visit to the Jewish community in Bratislava, Hungary: "Jews were worried, but did not dare to think that the disaster was so close."

Vishniac tried to help the poor families he encountered by publicizing their plight. Kopelow is motivated by a similar need.

"I have this responsibility to help other people," she says. "And I can't be indifferent to this episode in Jewish history."

To order tickets for Children of a Vanished World, call 416-978-8668 or visit www.harthousetheatre.ca.

[Photo courtesy of the International Center of Photography]

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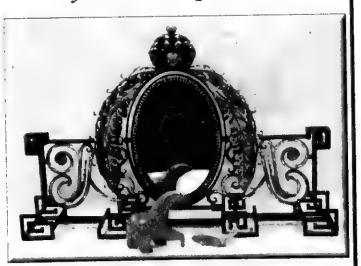

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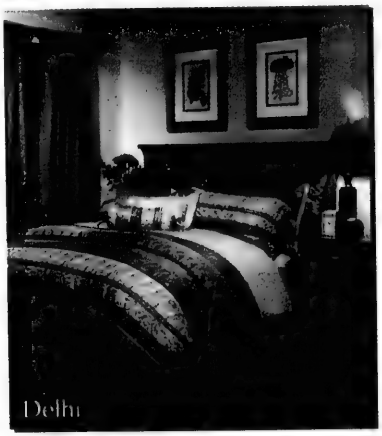
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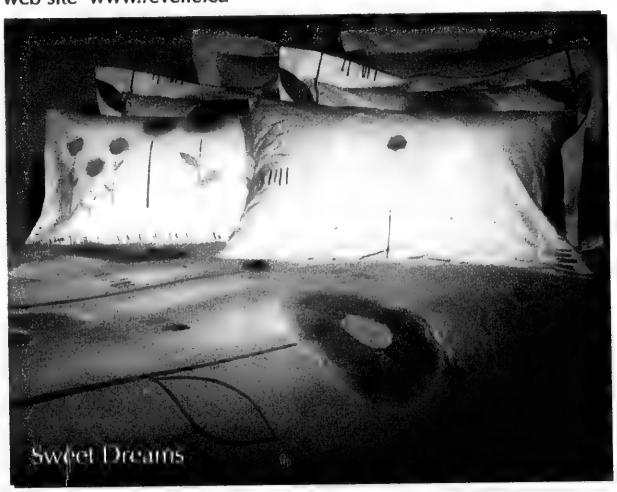
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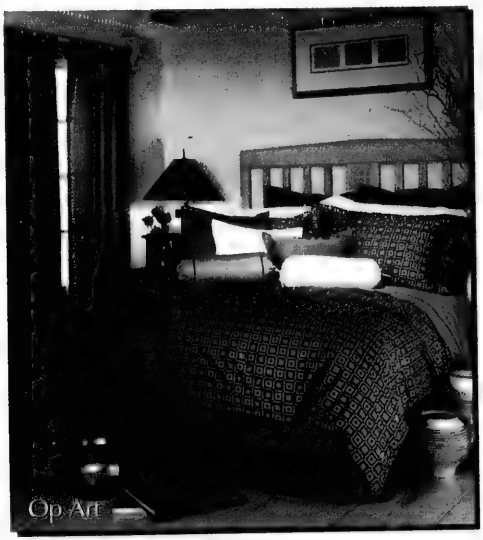
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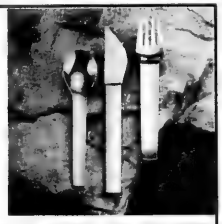

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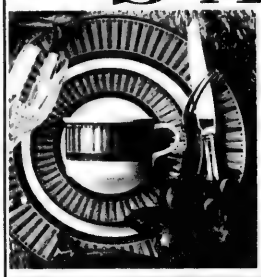

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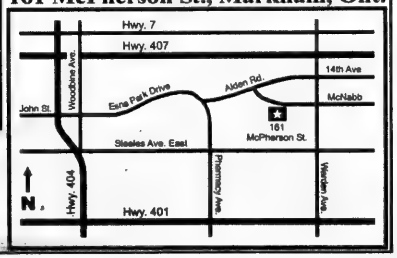

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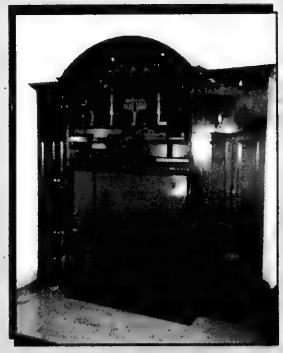

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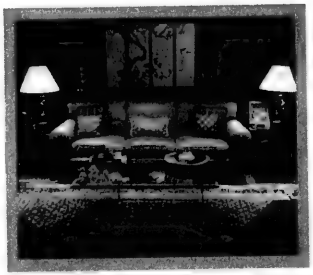

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Health & Lifestyles

Conference aims to help those facing death

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

"With an aging population, the need for end-of-life care is increasing at a galloping pace," says Patti Allen, the co-founder of a new charity that aims to help dying people and their families cope with trying circumstances.

The name of the charity, founded by Allen and her friend and business partner Marjorie Paleshi, is All Our Relations, which is presenting a three-day conference called Living Well-Dying Well: Two Sides of the Same Coin, Oct. 31 to Nov. 2 in Kitchener-Waterloo at Bingeman's Conference Centre and Wilfrid Laurier University.

The conference will feature six keynote speakers and have 30 workshops with leaders from the academic, medical, psychological, physical and spiritual worlds.

Allen says the conference is being held "so that professionals and members of the community may receive current information and understanding about living well and dying well, support and guidance for beginnings and endings, and connection with the community in the fullest sense of the word."

Allen, the wife of Rabbi Wayne Allen of Beth Tikvah Synagogue, studied under Paleshi, who is a post-graduate teacher of the Rubenfeld Synergy Method, a form of psychotherapy that integrates gentle touch and movement with verbal dialogue.

They later formed a company, Pathways to Healing Inc., that promotes ongoing educational and service programs that seek to teach and explore methods of healing and wellness.

Paleshi, a nurse and lay chaplain who is part native, lives in Elmira, Ont., and co-ordinates the holistic health program at Conestoga College in Kitchener. Allen teaches holistic healing at Seneca College in Toronto

Allen and Paleshi are spearheading a campaign to build a $2.5 million, seven-bed residential hospice and retreat centre to care for the dying and their families in Bloomingdale, Ont., near Waterloo.

"We don't like to separate life and death – they are part of the same continuum," Allen says. "Therefore, we have combined a hospice design to include space for workshops, support groups and retreats for family members.

The province does not fund residential hospices, she says. "When you come to the end, dying at home is not an option to many, and although it is available in most parts of the world and welcomed by families, there are only a few facilities here, and there are long waiting lists."

She says she hopes the government will re-examine and support the growing need for residential hospice care, as it can be provided at a much lower rate than hospital care.

"The All Our Relations' conference was planned in order to meet several needs," says Allen. "We want to familiarize people with the hospice concept, to get people to comfortably talk about death and how a brush with serious illness or death gives life more meaning. You re-order your priorities."

Marjorie Paleshi (left) and Patti Allen of All Our Relations are organizing a conference called Living Well-Dying Well: Two Sides of the Same Coin.

The conference's keynote speakers will include Dr. Robert Buckman, a medical oncologist at Toronto's Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre and TV personality; Dr. Stephen Sagar of Hamilton, a radiation oncologist who has a special interest in mind-body medicine; and Dr. Ira Byock, who has been involved in hospice and palliative care since 1978 and has served as president of the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

Other keynote speakers include journalist Michael Enright of CBC Radio; Ann Mortifee, one of Canada's most outstanding performing artists and a committed volunteer in the healing arts and the hospice and palliative care movement; and harpist and singer Therese Schroeder-Sheker, the founder of the palliative medical field of music–thanatology.

Musicians have been included in the conference, says Allen, "because studies find that music can reduce the amount of pain medication. Music speaks directly to our soul but also affects us physically. The conference will culminate with a concert of talented local musicians celebrating life."

For details on the conference or All Our Relations, call 1-888-383-0339 or visit www.livingwelldyingwell.org.

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PENTHOUSE AT THE LUXURIOUS CONSERVATORY ON CLARK. 2 magnificent bedrooms, open concept living & dining room, family room, fireplace, granite & hardwood floors, 180° view from terrace. Approx. 3,000 sq. ft. Million $ recreational centre.

* * *

EXCLUSIVE! 5 bedroom home with splendid kitchen, beautiful hardwood floors, huge family room with walk-out to private garden & pool, all on a breathtaking 100 x 180 ft. lot, $1,850,000.

* * *

ARNOLD AVE. — GORGEOUS LOT WITH MATURE TREES! Choose builder's plans or custom build to your design & taste, from $1,300,000.

* * *

ARNOLD! TREED LOT with brick bungalow, 100 x 180 ft., $500,000.

* * *

ARNOLD! MAGNIFICENT TREED LOT, 100 x 118 ft., $689,000.

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Classified Deadlines:

Wednesday at 4:00 p.m.
8 days prior to issue date.*

*Please note! On a week before a statuatory or Jewish holiday, the deadline will be earlier.. Please call for exact times.

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.
The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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List with us and appear on our Website: www.foresthill.com

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NEW LISTING FABULOUS 50 X 135' LOT
$839,000! Prime location, 4 bedroom, centre hall, move-in, renovate or build. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

JUST LISTED!-CHAPLIN/N. EGLINTON
New house to be built by Greenmount Homes. Spring completion date. For further details call Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

NORTH PROPERTIES

BAYVIEW/#7/YONGE-TOWNHOME
Mint condition, 2 years new, Greenpark townhouse, 3 bedrooms, 3 baths. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

500 GLENCAIRN #310 - $399,900, SUN. 1-3
South-west view, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, granite floors, stunning, renovated. Karin Bordo* 416-488-2875

ENCORE @ CRYSTAL TOWERS — NEW PRICE
Gorgeous 2 bdrm, 2 bath suite. Backing onto park. Marble foyer. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

1ST AD! 135 ANTIBES DRIVE! $219K!
Spectacular 2 bdrm, 2 baths, s/w corner, w/wrap-around balcony! Hi floor! Panoramic views! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

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Stunning 1 bedroom, 1 bath, french doors, extra kitchen cabinets. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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227 TANSLEY RD (BATHURST/CHABAD)
Come one, come all to view this spotless home, large eat-in kitchen, main floor family room, prof finished basement, 2 car garage, backing onto PARK, walk to synagogues, shopping etc. DON'T DELAY Call/view...
ELAINE WITT, Sales Representative - 905-764-7111
Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd.

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DAVID EICHORN REALTY LIMITED

REALTOR

(416) 787-1712

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN

Spacious custom-built 4 + 2 bdrm., approx. 3,000 sq. ft., main floor fam. room + library, sep. entry to in-law suite, double garage, large front porch. **MINT CONDITION! ACT NOW — INCREDIBLY PRICED AT ONLY $549,000.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING!
INVESTMENT PROPERTY! Six-plex in fabulous location! Gross income approx. $80,000, asking $949,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN
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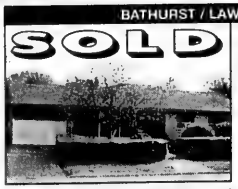
BATHURST / LAWRENCE



Spacious 4 bdrm. ranch bungalow on gorgeous 60 x 132 ft. lot, separate entry to basement apartment, prime central location close to shops, TTC ++. Call Esther Rubenstein, Sales Rep., (416) 787-1712.

SOLD

UPPER FOREST HILL
Spacious custom-built 5 level, 5 + 2 bedroom backsplit, huge family room, ideal for entertaining, cathedral ceilings. Asking $749,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / WILSON — NEWLY RENOVATED!
Store with apartment above, fabulous exposure on high-traffic Wilson Ave., $324,900. Call Richard Cash (416) 787-1712.

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REAL ESTATE Section

HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR

NEW PRICE! REDUCED TO SELL!
$1,790K. Best part of Arnold, within walk dist of private schools & synagogues. Approx. 10,000 sf. of lux. liv. features 7+2 bdrms, 9 baths, Kosher kit. M. Noik* & D. Zaikin** ext. #289/545

WALK TO SYNAGOGUES & SCHOOLS
$689K. Magnificent family home in walk dist to religious schls & shuls, 4+3 bdrms, 4 baths, fin'd bsmnt w/2 bdrms, 3 pc bath, hot tub, outdoor pool. M. Noik* & D. Zaikin** ext. #289/545

BAYVIEW GLEN
New price! $1,290K. Beautiful contemp. home features 5+1 bdrm, 5 baths, fin'd bsmnt w/oak wet bar, gas frpl, mn flr study, hdwd flrs, loads of extras! M. Noik* & D. Zaikin** ext. #289/545

CUSTOM HOME/HILDA & STEELES
$699K. Features 4+1 bdrms, 5 baths, mn flr study, open concept liv & din room, hdwd flrs thru-out main & upper level, fin'd bsmnt w/walk-out. M. Noik* & D. Zaikin** ext. #289/545

1/2 ACRE RAVINE LOT
$925K. Cstm blt natural stone home built by Shane Baghai. 4+1 bdrm, 4 baths, fin'd bsmnt w/2 w/o, magnif. gardens, cedar gazebo, stocked pond++ M. Noik* & D. Zaikin** ext. #289/545

$1,798,000 - YORK MILLS GARDENS
5,900 sq. ft., 10 ft. clngs, shangrila backyard w/pool/waterfall, w/o bsmnt, 3 car garage, grand size rooms, 5+2 bdrm, 9 baths, gourmet kitchen, fab décor. Cheryl Graff* 416-441-3778

$479,000 - HEATH/SPADINA CONDO
2 bdrm + solarium, upgraded eat-in kitchen, treetop southwest view, custom built-in entertainment centre, walk to subway/ Forest Hill Village. Cheryl Graff* 416-441-3778

$3,880,000 - YORK MILLS/BAYVIEW
100 x 180, 8,266 sq. ft., 11 ft clngs, custom built by Joe Brennan, indoor pool, home theatre, 3 car garage, fine detail finishes, timeless elegance. Cheryl Graff* 416-441-3778

BRIDLE PATH/GLENORCHY
$1,329,000. 100 x 133 south lot, updated kit/baths, impeccable 2 storey, charm & character, tucked away in Glenorchy spectacular private gardens. Cheryl Graff* 416-441-3778

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$869,000. Designed for the family who appreciates luxury, 4,200 sq. ft., 4 bedroom, decadent master bdrm, all of the best int. finishes, all the bells and whistles. Bryan Sloss* ext. 280

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2-brick detached bungalow, 150' frontage, over 14,300 sq ft, great land value, A1 location!

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BATHURST-ANTIBES
Super 3 bedroom condo, wrap-around balc., 2 bths., move-in cond. See it - love it!

SAVOY-BATHURST/FINCH
Luxury 2 bdrm. condo, 1600 sf., balcony, fantastic rec center. See it – love it! Move-in cond.

10 FRASERWOOD - RENTAL
Large 3 bdrm., 2 baths, immed. poss., parking, $1250/mo.

Sally Rosen, 905-764-7111
Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd.

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ROYAL LEPAGE R.E.S. JOHNSTON & DANIEL DIV.
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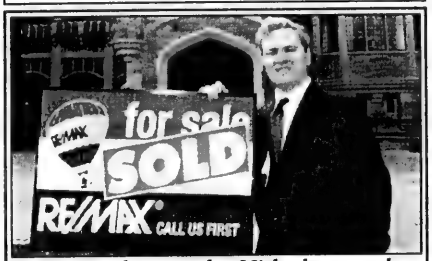

From condos to castles. Michael gets results

HOMES

Bathurst/Lawrence – Renovated bungalow, 3 bdrms, 2 baths, maple kitchen, garage, re-finished hardwood floors, finished basement, must see!! asking $369,900.

Bathurst/Sheppard – Bathurst Manor Bungalow, 3 bdrms, 2 baths, centre hall plan, complete reno, basement apt, lovely deck, asking $379,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – 2 New Custom Homes to be built in fall, 40 foot frontage, approx. 3400 sq. ft., great area, plans are ready, buy now and save money!! Prices start at $789,900.

CONDOS

Bathurst/Glencairn – Exclusive, Rare Offering! 10 Prue Avenue, 3 bdrms, 3 baths, family room, solarium, approx. 2,500 sq. ft., only 2 units per floor, 2 parking spots, luxury layout! Asking $729,900.

Bathurst/Sheppard – Large 2 bedroom unit, 2 baths, south view, parking and locker, indoor pool, asking $229,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – Crystal Towers, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, great view, approximately 900 sq. ft., asking $247,900.

RENTALS

Bathurst/Glencairn – 3 bdrm, 3 baths, fam rm, solarium, approx. 2500 sq. ft., 2 parking spots, only 2 units on floor, luxury layout! Asking $3500/month.

Bathurst/Eglinton – Renovated 2 bedroom suite, approx. 1,100 sq. ft., central location, available immed., asking $1,700/month.

For more info., call Michael Harari at 416-630-0111 or visit my website: www.hararihomes.com
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10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE

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Ideal for professional.
Many special features
Unique location – scenic cul-de-sac
Principals only; by appointment
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Not on Saturday

Campbell/Arnold, 4500 sq. ft., 50x150' treed lot, 6 bdrms., 7 bths., in-law suite on main or sep. den area, and Passover kitchen. $869K. No agents. Call 905-882-6792.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

A beautiful, spacious 4 bed. 3 bath. home. Clark/Bathurst. Nr. shul/school. 905-886-5559.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

Clark/Yonge - Skyrise lux. 1815 sq. ft. 2½ bth., 2 bdr. + solarium. Move-in condit. Prkg., locker. $389,900. 905-731-1043.

Bath./Steeles Townsgate. Priv. sale. 2 bdrm. PH. Call day 416-417-2285, eves. 905-764-0313.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

80 Antibes, 2 bdrm. + sunroom, 3 appl., east exposure. 416-638-0647.

Bath./Centre, Thornhill, 1 bdrm., 1 pkg., locker, $1250/mo. immed. 905-771-6210.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bath./Shepp./Canyon, lrge. 2 bdr. + sol., 2 bths., furn., pool, sauna, $1550. 416-924-7944.

68 HOUSESITTER AVAILABLE

Educated family man, separated seeks house sitting in Toronto. Refs. avail. 416-271-5970.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr.
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

Bath./Wilson, beautif. 1 bdrm. bsmt. apt., new house, superb loc., nr. TTC, shops, bright kit., priv. entr. Call anytime except Fri. evg. & Sat. 416-631-7897.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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Bath./Glencairn, furn. bsmt. apt., priv. entr., nr. TTC, female only. 905-882-2132.

78 SHORT TERM RENTAL AVAILABLE

Clark/Hilda, furnished, 2 bdrm., 2 bath, prkng., rec. ctre. Dec. 1-March 31. 905-889-4382.

80 SHORT TERM RENTAL WANTED

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130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

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SUNRISE, lux. 3 bd. townhme. furn, tennis/htd pool/kosher shopping, n/smking or pets. Shoshana 416-964-1228.

West Palm - House, on water, 3 bed, 2 bth, on secluded cul-de-sac, eat-in area + fam room furn'd. Kosher. For season or yr. rec. fac. incl. Close to beach. 561-351-1452 or 561-714-6445.

Hollywood Beachfront. Efficiency unit on oceanwalk. Long or short-term. 416-992-8995.

West Palm Beach, Lands of the Pres. 1½ bed., 2 bth., 3 mos. min. 905-475-3667, ext. 234.

N. Miami Bch., 1 bdr. + den 2 bths., small condo. bldg., steps to ocean, Jan. 2, Feb. & March, $1400/mo US. 416-665-6419.

N. Miami Beach, beautiful 2 bed. 2 bth. condo. avail. 3 mos. beg. Jan. 14. 514-747-2343.

Longboat Key (west coast), beautiful 2 bdrm, 2 bth condo on beach, pools & tennis. Dec. March & April. 905-731-0880.

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160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT

2 bdrm. furn. apt. in the heart of Netanya. Wkly or Mnthly. 416-787-2818 for more info.

190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE

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232 BUSINESS FOR SALE

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Part-time office secretary for private Jewish girls high school, duties include assisting administration and general studies principal. Work exper. at other school is preferred. Please fax resume to 905-763-7359.

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Cleaning lady avail. to work days, $14-$15/hr, very hard worker, call 416-286-2651.

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For all your cleaning needs call Afcon 905-816-0256. ***No job too big or too small***

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250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE

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Christian lady, seeks f/t caregiver job as HCA, exper. with newborns, willing to travel out of country, have green card & police check. 905-427-1893.

260 BUSINESS PERSONALS

Driver with car avail. for seniors, dr's. appts., etc. No wheelchairs. Call 905-731-2815, leave msg.

273 INTRODUCTION SERVICES

Bringing People Together Inc. It only takes one match to light a fire! Ruth, 905-731-5204.

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330 OBITUARIES

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330 OBITUARIES

BENARROCH, Messod – on Oct. 8, 2002, late of 15 Rockford Rd.
ANISMAN, Louis – on Oct. 8, 2002, late of 15 Romney Rd.
KREVER, Theresa – on Oct. 8, 2002.
KURTZ, Jack – on Oct. 8, 2002.
CHESTERMAN, Saul – on Oct. 9, 2002, late of 94 Monkman Crt.
BAZIYAN, Polina – on Oct. 10, 2002.
GUTFREUND, Hugo – on Oct. 10, 2002.
BORNSTEIN, Yetta – on Oct. 10, 2002, late of 15 Skipton Crt.
ROSENSTRAUCH, Leon – on Oct. 12, 2002, late of 135 Antibes Dr.
GRAUER, Chaim – on Oct. 12, 2002, late of 1453 Eglinton Ave. W.
WORTSMAN, Helen – on Oct. 13, 2002, late of 55 Michael Crt.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
LOUIS FEINTUCH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 27th, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Stopnitzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DORA POSESORSKI ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 27th, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Dufferin St. N. of Major Mackenzie
Beth David Synagogue Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
SAM LAPOWICH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 27th, 10:45 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
CLARA SMITH ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Oct. 27th, 10:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

SERVICE DIRECTORY Section

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Greater Toronto Area

The ultimate Birthright success story

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

After an intense week in Israel in the summer of 2000, Daina Komlos and Richard Bloom came home with more than an attachment to their heritage.

The two Canada-Israel Experience Birthright participants recently became engaged and are planning to marry next year.

"It's the ultimate Birthright success story," Bloom said in an interview.

Growing up in Brampton, Bloom had very little exposure to a Jewish social life. Komlos is the first Jewish girl he's dated.

"I always wanted to go to Israel, but never had the opportunity," Bloom said. So *The Globe and Mail*'s Report on Business reporter took 10 days off work and set out on a trip that he says completely changed his life.

Komlos grew up in Thornhill, attended supplementary Hebrew day schools, Jewish day camps and had been to Israel before.

After completing a B.Sc. at Western University, she applied to go on the Canada-Israel Experience trip before moving on to OISE/UT for a degree in education.

Over 10 days that July, while hiking, swimming and studying, the couple developed a relationship.

Komlos described how they "walked on the beaches, went to Arab shuks and danced in Tel Aviv nightclubs till two in the morning."

It was one of the last trips before the intifadah, so we had the freedom to roam, she said.

After the trip, Bloom went back to Toronto and Komlos stayed on in Israel for a few weeks. They corresponded by e-mail. A month after Komlos came back to Toronto, they started dating and sharing each other's lives.

Richard Bloom and Daina Komlos at the top of the Empire State Building in New York minutes after becoming engaged.

They discovered that they both have brothers named Aaron. Komlos got a chance to meet Bloom's younger brother, David, before he died of cancer in April 2001.

"David was supposed to go on the February Birthright trip to Israel, but he was too sick to go," Bloom said.

The Birthright and Canada-Israel Experience staff members were very supportive during this difficult time in their lives, he added.

Both Bloom and Komlos have since applied to be madrichim on a future Birthright trip and are hoping to go to Israel for their honeymoon next year.

In the meantime, they're remaining active in the Jewish community and planning a fall wedding.

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women seeking men

OPTIMIST

Single Jewish professional woman, would like to meet Jewish male, 45-55 yrs, non smoker. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. Please give me a call. **AD#1172**

LOOKING FOR YOU

Hi I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs. I'm a warm person, honest, very open and out going. I'm a good listener and good to communicate with. I'm friendly, and I enjoy people. I'm looking for a widow 54-62 yrs for friendship first. **AD#1403**

GIVE ME A CALL

This 65 yr old female is a radiant shapely beauty. She's independent, educated, articulate and with a zest for life. She is seeking an easy going witty man to dance, hike and attend the theatre with. **AD#1275**

ARE YOU MY MATCH?

Hi there, I am a feisty, fun, focused, funky, sometimes foolish, flirtatious and perhaps a little fussy female, who has yet to find her match. I am a successful & accomplished 35 yr old Jewish gal who is looking for an equally successful & accomplished 35-40 Jewish guy. **AD#1056**

PASSION & ZEST

Do you have a passion and zest for life & adventure? Hi, I'm a mysterious, European female. I'm 5' 2", 43 yrs mother of 2, with an adventurist spirit & wide range of interests and a very easy going nature. I'm looking man between 38-55 yrs, 5' 10" who's up for friendship leading to marriage. **AD#1113**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Hi, I'm a single female in late my 30's. I'm slim & attractive. I have brown hair,light blue eyes. Some of my interests include swing dancing, biking, hiking, tanning on the beach & nature walks. I'm interested in meeting a single man that is family oriented & attractive, 35-55 yrs. **AD#1160**

LET'S MEET

Hi I am a youthful, 58 yrs old, warm, kind compassionate female. I don't smoke, I'm financially secure and would like to meet someone to share my interests. I enjoy going to movies, theatre, and taking romantic walks. I'm looking for loving partner for enjoying life with. **AD#1032**

DOWN TO EARTH

I'm a Jewish widow and I would like to meet a widower, 55-63. I like music and old movies. I'm a caring, sharing, romantic and warm person. I'm down to earth and like to smile a lot. I have no baggage, and would like to meet someone with similar interests. **AD#1191**

ROMANCE & LOVE

I am a widow in my 50's, and I'm starting over. I'm a non smoker, who's friendly, down to earth, loves cooking and baking, enjoys people, romantic quiet times listening to music and sitting in front of a fire. I would to like to meet a widower, 55-60 yrs. Please call. **AD#1344**

CALL ME

Hi, I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs old. I'm a warm person, honest, very open, out going, good listener and good to communicate with. I also friendly, and I enjoy people. Looking for a widow 54-62 for friendship first. **AD#1403**

MAKE YOU LAUGH

I am a professional woman in my mid 50's. I have been a widow over a year and would like to meet someone. This person must be someone who's single and professional, with whom I can share my interests with. Preferably someone who lives in metro-toronto. I am outgoing, funny to be with and easy to talk to. **AD#1461**

QUIET TIMES

I am widow in my 50's and I'm starting over. I'm a non smoker, friendly, down to earth, love cooking and baking. I enjoy romantic, quiet times listening to music and sitting in front of a fire. I would to like to meet a widower 55-60 yrs. **AD#1344**

WARM SMILE

I am a Jewish widow, and would like to meet a widower 55-63, likes music, old movies. I'm a caring and sharing, romantic, warm person, who's down to earth and likes to smile a lot. **AD#1191**

YOUNG AT HEART

I'm a youthful, 58 yr old single female who's warm, kind and compassionate. I don't smoke and I'm financially secure. I would like to meet someone to share interests with like going to movies, the theatre, walking and other interests. Looking for loving partner to enjoy life with. **AD#1032**

WIDOWS ONLY

Would like to start a widows group social, 50-60 yrs only, no divorcees. **AD#1040**

A REAL FIND

I'm a smart, kind hearted, loyal, very very funny female who's cute, youthful, physically fit, & professionally successful with no strings. I'm looking to meet a wonderful Jewish man 50-60 yrs of age to share, enjoy & enrich our life experiences. **AD#1150**

A MENSCH FOR ALL SEASONS

Michelle is an engaging, fun-loving, energetic, fanatically-fit widow with a zest for life & a passion for work & family. Friends say she is attractive & fun to be with. She is looking for a mensch, (by definition a life loving man of integrity) **AD#1012**

LET'S MEET

Hi, I'm a sincere lady with a warm smile. I'm kind, caring & compassionate. I'm also honest & have a good sense of humour. I love animals & seek a gentleman for companionship between 60-65 yrs. I also enjoy long walks, dancing, theatre & music. **AD#1447**

FINER THINGS

Hi, I'm an attractive professional woman in my early 50's. I'm 5' 6", red hair and have 2 grown wonderful children. I'm sincere, respectful, caring, romantic and fun loving. I enjoy cooking, fine dining, dancing, theatre, opera, travel, walks in the park, and I love to sing **AD#1402**

NEW LIFE WITH YOU

I'm a widow who would like to rebuild a new life with a widower or a single male 54-60 yrs. I'm active, outgoing and down to earth. I enjoy life, non smoker. I like art, adventure & travel. Seeking a mature relationship. **AD#1383**

LET'S MEET FOR COFFEE

Hi, I'm 39 yr old single female. I'm seeking a male 39-49 yrs, who's attractive, hard working like myself, and easy going. Looking for friendship, hopefully leading to a relationship. I like dancing, going out to eat & movies. **AD#1269**

STARTING OVER

I'm a widow in my 50's, who would like to start over. I'm a caring & sharing individual, a good listener, non smoker, positive person w/ a smile. I enjoy life & people and humour. Would like to meet a single man in his 50's w/ similar interests. **AD#1236**

EUROPEAN WIDOW

European, retired widow, is looking for a loving relationship w/ widower or divorced man, loves music, art , swimming, walking & tennis. **AD#1182**

SPEND TIME TOGETHER

I'm a widow looking for a widower between 50-60 yrs. I enjoy music and reading. I'm very open, caring, romantic, enjoy country drives and holding hands. Looking for a warm person with a great smile, and sense of humour with similar interests. **AD#1380**

STREETCAR NAMED...

Hello my name is Stella, looking for a serious relationship w/ a Jewish man who is intelligent & has a sense of humour who likes the outdoors, music, travel & many other things. I enjoy outdoor activities, I'm sincere, outspoken person. Seeks quality time w/ someone. **AD#1460**

PLAY GAMES WITH YOU

Hi, I'm a tall, attractive, Jewish woman, 39 yrs, independent, honest, down to earth, love to read, do crossword puzzles, play scrabble, dance, long walks, I'm looking for a tall Jewish, warm, intelligent & kind man who knows what he wants out of life **AD#1152**

SIMPLE THINGS

I'm a slim, shapely, very attractive, 50'ish, single Jewish female who's 5' 4" tall, dark hair & eyes, a great smile, warm & affectionate. As far as interests are concerned, the simple pleasures of life are the very best. For me it's laughter, good conversation, sipping wine at a cafe. **AD#1029**

SOULMATE SEARCHING

33 yr old female, with long brown hair & eyes, very good looking, out going, charming, loves to have fun. Looking for a down to earth attractive male between 30-40 yrs, non smoker, who shares same interests as I. I'm looking for my soul mate, if your interested please respond. **AD#1406**

DESTINATION: LOVE

Hi, if your interested in meeting a special single Jewish female, baggage free, that air miles & loves to travel you've answered the right ad. I'm a very attractive, slim, shapely, fun loving, 50'ish, single Jewish female with a warm smile, integrity & many interests. **AD#1361**

HIGH CLASS

Larissa is attractive, Jewish, 55 yrs, 5' 3" tall and seek an interesting accomplished, classy gentleman between 55-65 yrs for companionship & more. **AD#1443**

CALL ME

Cindy is a petit, brown eyed brunette, 5' 2", very friendly, intelligent, loving, compassionate looking for a professional gentleman, between 50-60 yrs, who shares similar qualities with whom I can enjoy companionship & happy times. Some interests include movies, theatre & music. **AD#1135**

LIFE PARTNER

Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, petite, cute, attractive, pretty and slim. She enjoys music, dancing, nature, hiking, quiet beach walks, non smoker, non drinker, looking for a life partner, preferably an easy going, single jewish male between 35-55 yrs with similar interests. **AD#1200**

I AM FOR YOU

Unique, Jewish female, attractive, 5' 5", intelligent, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established, male 45 yrs young, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable and over 6 feet tall. **AD#1240**

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP

Attractive, 40 yrs, single Jewish female, seeks male 40-52 yrs who's attractive, hard working like myself. I like to go out to eat, dance, movies & a bit of sports. If you have similar interests, leave me your name & number. I'm looking for a serious relationship. **AD#1037**

KILLER SMILE!

Hi, my name is Debbie. I'm 47 yrs almost, a Virgo—Sept 6th is my birthday, divorced for 6 yrs and very comfortable with that. I'm 5'3" with short brown hair & brown eyes, and a smile that will knock you dead. Little bit overweight but working on it diligently I love the outdoors. **AD#1038**

LOVE CONNECTION?

Jewish female, pretty, creative professional, young lady, 5'5ft, slender, enjoys travel,theatre & fine dining. Seeks an established & fit male, between 40-53 yrs, complimented by sincerity & spontaneity to share in the zest of life. **AD#1151**

SHARE WITH YOU

Marianna is 5' 4", with hazel eyes and dark hair. She enjoys sports, concerts, walks and dancing, and is seeking a male to share those interests. She describes herself as outgoing, friendly, straight forward & easy to talk to. **AD#1382**

RESPECT & SINCERITY

40 yr old honest caring, sensitive female writer, looking for compatible male in his 40's to share meaningful moments, I enjoy long walks, talks, cafes, movies, art, poetry, nature, animals, I'm open minded. I value respect & sincerity, friendships & genuine relationships. **AD#1401**

LET'S MEET

Great personality, easy to please, lovely lady, who's considerate intelligent, good natured and attractive. 53 yrs old, hoping to meet a nice polite gentleman for genuine relationship between 55-73 yrs old. **AD#1136**

WALKS BY THE LAKE

Barb is very young, 50'ish, a single mom w/ 2 grown children. She lives in central Toronto and seeks a Jewish gentleman to develop a friendship with to laugh, cry & grow with. She enjoys walks by the lake out in the country, movies, sharing and cuddling. **AD#1204**

VIVACIOUS FEMALE

Montrealer who now lives in Hamilton. She's vivacious, fit, slim 5' 5", 120 lbs, seeks male for tennis partner. Also for dining, movies, walks & willing to explore a little bit. Looking for a compassionate man for a wonderful relationship **AD#1186**

LOVE, FUN & LAUGHTER

Single female, 44 yrs young, attractive, intelligent, honest, sincere, down to earth, funny & good natured. She enjoys music, dancing, reading, travelling. If you seek love, fun & laughter, call me. **AD#1132**

PEOPLE PERSON

Financially secure, professional female who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a companion to enjoy theatre, sports and fine dining with. If you are between 60-70 yrs please give me a call **AD#1260**

FUN & COMPASSION

Single female from Montreal, 50's, non smoker, fit, classy, kind, sense of humour, conservadox. She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel and the beach. Seeking a male between 51-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, w/ similar interests, willing to travel. **AD#1360**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sensual smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, w/ wide variety of interests. Seeking Jewish male between 65-75 yrs, who's honest & romantic for a long term relationship. **AD#1457**

MR WONDERFUL

Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5", with brown hair & eyes. She's kind, sincere, creative, and lots of fun. Seeking a Jewish intellectualist, over 45 yrs young, handsome, 6 feet tall, gentle, kind, intelligent, a caring smoker, financially stable & humorous to share in life's dreams **AD#1248**

ROMANCE & LAUGHTER

Female in her 60's, romantic, likes walks, talks, country drives, movies, music, books, cards, holding hands, current events, laughter, day trips, candlelight and fireplaces, seeks a compatible male. **AD#1146**

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men seeking women

JOIN THE WAR ON LONELINESS!

33 yr old professional male, seeks recruit 25-35 for Operation: ROMANCE. Must be university educated & preferably spiritual, not religious. Let's be all we can be. For security reasons, all baggage must be left at the door. **AD#1469**

THE WASTED WARRIOR

Seeking a free spirited female, 40-45. No commitments. Take the challenge if you dare. **AD#1475**

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP

Hello my name is Michael. I'm a 41 yr accountant, and have been working for many years. In my spare time during the summer I enjoy playing baseball, bike riding and hiking. I also enjoy getting together with friends. I'm looking to meet a young lady with similar goals, which hopefully leads to long term relationship. **AD#1370**

INCURABLE ROMANTIC

Jewish male, non smoker, in his 70's going on 50. A university graduate, 5' 5", 145 lbs, I have many varied interests including theatre, music, dancing, the arts, tennis, golf, dining, travelling. I'm also an incurable romantic & social drinker with a great zest for life. **AD#1235**

PROFESSIONAL MALE

Hi! I'm a single 40 yr old male, professional, physically fit easy going, who enjoys meeting people and have a joy for life. I'm looking for a female 30-40 yrs, who meets my common interests. **AD#1286**

ROMANTIC MAN

Hi, I'm a Jewish male, late 50's, who's looking for a sharing & caring woman, non smoking, 45-58yrs. I'm a romantic who likes long walks & enjoys nature, quiet evenings cuddling together at fireside. **AD#1478**

DIAGNOSIS: LOVE

I'm 51 yrs and work as a medical doctor. I have 2 daughters that live with me and I'm a devoted father. I'm slim, fit, energetic, and intense. My interests range from art, philosophy to foreign languages & ballroom dancing. I'm looking for a younger female of intelligence, energy and beauty. **AD#1469**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

I'm a man in my 50's w/ blue eyes, dark brown hair, who would like to meet a woman, also in her 50's. She should enjoy travel, museums, the arts & musical theatre. Looking for someone who can share lots of laughs w/ a good sense of humour. Home cooked meals would be a definite bonus. **AD#1234**

HEALTHY WEALTHY

Hi my name is Arnon, I'm a white executive living in Thornhill. I look in the mirror & I see a healthy young 1939 model w/ no deficiencies, I'm told that I'm not bad to look at either. I've got salt & pepper hair, beautiful blue eyes, am 5' 10" and I have a good teeth too. My passions are the sun & sea. **AD#1005**

UNEMPLOYED BUM

Are you looking for a ugly, short, fat, bald, unemployed bum? Well keep looking because I'm none of the above. I'm honest, successful, good looking with no dependents. I love gourmet foods, wine tasting, movies & I'm a very good cook. Seeking a woman between 38-48 yrs. **AD#1227**

LET'S MEET

Hi my name is Marvin, I'm a warm & thoughtful person, single, 60 yrs old and I live in GTA. I'm a romantic, write, self-employed businessman, who loves to travel, watch movies, take long walks, rides in the country. I also enjoy great conversation, nice quiet times at homes, and I love to read. **AD#1074**

DO YOU JUBU?

Physically & spiritually active male, 33 yrs old. Seeks non materialistic female with insight, aged between 25-35 yr old for mind-fulA compassionate relationship. **AD#1315**

FRIENDSHIP & LOVE

Single Jewish male of Indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest. Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family. **AD#1489**

FUN GUY

Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things. Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading, Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands. **AD#1368**

LET'S TALK

I want to enjoy all the things in life like any normal person. I'm not interested in marriage, but would like a steady relationship. If you're slim, good looking, with a nice personality & would like to meet a fun, sensual looking, 70 yr old, 5' 8", slim guy, let's talk. **AD#1055**

PICTURE THIS

I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more. If you find this brief introduction interesting, leave a message. **AD#1442**

EASY GOING

Steve is an easy going Jewish male, fun loving, enjoys walks and good conversation. Seeks attractive female up to age of 39 yrs who's easy going, enjoys the simple things in life, such as going out for dinners and other things. **AD#1390**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Chaim, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs, 5' 8", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family in a wonderful atmosphere. Please call and leave a message. **AD#1239**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED

Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", universalty educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1178**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'

Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook. He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate. **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET

Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female (Jewish preferably), around the same age, who's honest sincere female and shares the same interests. If interested please leave a voice mail. **AD#1070**

MUSIC & WINE

Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-65yrs. He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports. **AD#1280**

AM I ASKING TOO MUCH?

Divorced Jewish male, 47 yrs with 2 teenaged children, seek women 25-40 yrs, thin, good looking, who likes rock n roll, sports, 3 stooges, Howard Stern, partying & swimming because I have a pool. Am I asking too much? Give me a call. **AD#1318**

KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN

Bob is 48 yrs, professional, seeking to meet female who's into cycling and would like to explore the city/country. If you're interested in meeting a very nice guy to have fun with and get a little exercise. **AD#1238**

LOOKING FOR YOU

37 yr old male, 6' 3", 230 lbs, with black hair, brown eyes & goatee. He enjoys spending time with family & friends, likes playing golf and surfing the net, and seeks a nice lady who has similar interests. **AD#1063**

LET'S TALK

Dave is 37 yrs old, slim and handsome, with brown hair, blue/grey eyes, and has a BA. He enjoys the outdoors, travelling, dining, and baseball. He's a good conversationalist, and seeks a Jewish female between 32-38 yrs who is tall & attractive. If you like what your reading. **AD#1158**

WILLING TO SETTLE

Alan is 42 yrs, 5' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes. He's very active, enjoys exercise, boating and camping. He seeks an honest, generous, romantic, female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down. He is honest & straight to the point. **AD#1439**

NEW IN TOWN

Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love. **AD#1051**

A GENTLEMAN

A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1256**

FRIENDLY FELLA

Martin, 48 yrs, is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets. He seeks a friendly good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well. Kids are okay. **AD#1206**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST

Jewish male, 48 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling. **AD#1438**

HONEST AND CARING

Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

COFFEE TALK

Hi, there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you. I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7" nice and good looking - but the the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me. Let's talk over a cup of coffee. **AD#1224**

SHARING AND CARING

Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship. **AD#1340**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!

Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes. Exterior: Tall, handsome, good body. Interior: Compassionate, caring, outgoing - open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink caddie, 1962-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded. **AD#1252**

HEART OF GOLD

Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented. **AD#1177**

KIND & CUTE

46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile. Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating. Also seeking long term relationship. Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park. Kind, caring, waste future family. **AD#1095**

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Taekwondo's fighting chance

By DAVID OBERMAN
Special to The CJN

JERUSALEM — Taekwondo has been developing in Israel since 1977, when Michel Madar, current president of the Israel Taekwondo Federation (ITF) and member of the Israel Olympic Committee, made aliyah from France and established the first taekwondo club in Jerusalem.

Since then, Israel has developed a fair share of top athletes – many of them olim – who have represented the Jewish State at various international tournaments. But with the Athens Olympics only two years away, thoughts are now turning to qualifying for the world's biggest international event.

Preparations are under way to field a team for Athens, but Israel faces major obstacles to the dream of competing at the Olympics. The country is without an Olympic taekwondo training centre and the ITF is also facing a cash shortage that impedes its ability to send the most promising young athletes to enough European and international competitions.

Ten thousand athletes will compete in the Olympic Games, but just 125 athletes will vie for medals in taekwondo, a relatively new Olympic sport – 90 athletes competed for the first time in Sydney, 2000. The athletes will be chosen in the international selection championships, to be held in France in December 2003, and regional championships that will be held in Europe (Spain 2004), the United States, Asia and Africa. A maximum of four athletes, two men and two women, will be chosen from each country, and athletes will have to win a medal at those international or regional championships in order to qualify.

The future of Israeli taekwondo depends a lot on the ability of the ITF to prepare athletes for the Olympics.

Athens could put Israel securely on the world map of taekwondo. Madar believes Israeli success in the Olympics will also contribute to Israel's public relations campaign and, eventually, even towards establishing peace in the Middle East.

One of Madar's first important international activities after making aliyah was to make sure Israel became part of the European Federation of Taekwondo, after it was barred from competitions in Asia because of the Arab boycott. Taekwondo was the first Israeli sport to move from Asia to Europe for this reason.

Other teachers joined Madar in Jerusalem, and in its early years, the sport flourished only in Jerusalem, with clubs in such places as Rechavia (at the Gymnasia), Mevasseret Zion, and Pisgat Ze'ev.

In 1995, Michel decided to concentrate on his dream of setting up an Olympic Taekwondo Centre in Israel, with the aim of sending Israeli athletes to the Olympics. He stopped teaching and started working full-time as president of the ITF.

The recent aliyah from Russia brought many outstanding athletes to Israel, including some very talented young taekwondo specialists. These were responsible for the spread of the sport from Jerusalem to other places in Israel.

Notable among these olim from Russia are Alexei Orochov and his wife Natalia Orochov. Alexei was trainer of Russia's youth team, and now trains and manages Israel's youth team. Alexei has set up no less than eight clubs in Lod, and Natalia proved to be one of Israel's biggest successes, winning the gold medal at the Open Tournament in Holland in March 2001.

Other olim from the former Soviet Union, Boris Berezovski, Vladislav Shwarzgog and Bondo Beniashvili, have established four taekwondo clubs in Petach Tikva and three in Bat Yam, and many or most of the students are also olim.

Maxim Lerner, just 15 years old and an extremely talented athlete, captured the gold medal at the International Youth Taekwondo Championship at Toulouse in France in November 2001 and was ranked the championship's "Best Competitor."

Altogether, there are now some 6,000 students of taekwondo in Israel. More than 1,000 of them have "contestant cards" and have been registered as competitors for places on Israel's national teams.

Madar has been in contact with municipal bodies in Jerusalem and, since the establishment of the Ministry of Sport and Science, with the ministry too.

Taekwondo has been recognized in Israel as a promising sport and the ITF has received government financial support to run training sessions for the four national teams and the national championships. It has also received some funding to send teams to the World and European championships.

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Israel wins Euro 2004 qualifier

VALLETTA, Malta — Israel's ordinary 2-0 win over Malta last week will be remembered only for the end result and the vital three points it yielded.

Two second-half goals, by Pini Balili (56th minute) and Haim Revivo (77th minute), were enough to clinch the result that Avraham Grant's men so desperately needed as they started their Euro 2004 qualifying campaign on a soggy and uneven pitch in Ta'Qali.

Still, based on the team's showing, Israel will only be able to dream of qualification, for their performance was a truly abysmal one, indicating it will have no chance against France and will find it difficult to get past Slovenia for second place.

Malta, beaten 3-0 by Slovenia in their opening match a month ago, appeared determined to contain the Israelis with German coach Siggi Held electing to field five defenders.

Israel attacked early, with a powerful rising shot from Balili hitting the crossbar in the 16th minute.

The Maltese created a good chance of their own in the 22nd minute, but Kaiserslautern's Michael Mifsud missed a golden opportunity when he fired over from in front of the goal.

The visitors enjoyed the lion's share of the second half, forcing the Maltese into some erratic passing and Balili finally found the net in the 56th minute, after being put through by Eyal Berkovic.

Revivo sealed the result, and after that the Israelis killed the clock.

Substitute Avi Nimni might have made it 3-0 in the last minute after being fed by Revivo, but he blasted his close-range shot over the bar with the goal at his mercy.

FLIP OVER FOR ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD

Israel rises to 18th in UEFA rankings

By ELI SHVIDLER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Like a soaring free kick, Israel shot up to the 18th position in the recently published annual UEFA rankings.

The spectacular eight-place rise was the most noteworthy of all the 52 nations who are members of UEFA, European soccer's governing association, and it means Israel will have a fourth representative in European competition next season.

UEFA issued its latest coefficient ranking based on performances over the last five years.

The performance of Israel league champion Maccabi Haifa, which made history by qualifying for this year's Champions League group stage, should help in next year's ranking. Israel is expected to rise still further and could earn two places in Champions League qualifying competition.

In such a case, the league champion would start from the third qualifying round and the runner-up from the second round.

As for the three UEFA Cup participants next season, their involvement in the competition is not yet known because the entire tournament format is under review.

Marriage? Relax!

By JODI KOVITZ

As 20-somethings, we spend a lot of time trying to figure out all sorts of things. We explore our values, desires, behaviours and personalities. We discover our interests and set goals. In addition to figuring out who we are and what is important to us as individuals, we focus much of this part of our lives on building and enjoying meaningful relationships.

A relationship we hope to develop in our 20s is one with a significant other. This is a normal part of this stage of life and is not unique to being Jewish. However, what I think is more unique to our culture is the pressure we feel to either get married young or to at least be scouting out a mate with serious marriage potential while we are in our early 20s.

Where does this pressure come from? I can identify two sources. First, it is passed down from generation to generation. Our parents and grandparents want us to find nice Jewish boys and girls so that they won't have to worry about us anymore. We will build lives of our own and take care of ourselves. Even though their intentions for us are good, this attitude puts pressure on us to hurry up and get things organized. Wanting to honour our parents and be good to them, we find ourselves thinking five years in advance, overanalyzing our relationships and ourselves, and perhaps pushing ourselves to be ready for marriage when we're not.

Second, we feel pressure from our peers. It seems that there is a domino effect in groups of friends – one couple gets engaged, then another and the next. Can all these couples be ready to get married at the same time? It is wonderful in many ways – so many simchahs! But what about the last couple in the circle, the couple who are taking it easy or are at a different stage of life or simply not ready to make the commitment? They might say they don't feel the pressure, but they most certainly do.

As a result of this incredible pressure, a few things happen. People might get married before they are ready. Also, living in an environment filled with couples and marriage-talk, they might feel that there is a stigma, that there is something wrong about being alone.

But you know what? Not being in a relationship, or taking time out from being in one, can be very empowering. It can allow you to spend time focusing on and developing the most important person in your life – you. You will never be too old to find your right partner, so hopefully you will let go of that fear and open your heart to yourself and what the world has to offer you.

For those of us who are in relationships, do we have to think about marriage, children and values? Can't we just think about getting through the week and enjoying where we are in our lives? We can and we should. But it is not easy to fight the "future disease," as I like to call it.

Although it is easy on paper to suggest that we should fight our natural tendencies to plan and think about our future, I constantly struggle with this issue. But I am learning to let go of wanting to control my future and to simply bathe in my present and trust that my future will work out.

A wise friend recently reminded me that it is usually when we don't think about it at all that things work out for us and we are the happiest. So, I am trying to live by this mantra – just be, live and enjoy. Believing this to be true takes the pressure off and allows me to spend my energy being grateful for my present rather than being worried about what will happen later.

I welcome you to share your experiences at jlkovitz@hotmail.com.

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Filling: 3/4 cup nonfat milk
1 egg
2 cups all-purpose flour
3/4 cup sugar
2 1/2 tsp. baking powder
3/4 tsp. salt
1/4 cup Crisco
2 cups blueberries, well drained

Topping: 1/2 cup sugar
1/3 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 cup butter, softened

Heat oven to 375°F. Grease 9" square pan.

In blender, combine milk, egg, 2 cups flour, 3/4 cup sugar, baking powder, salt and Crisco. Blend until mixture is smooth. Pour into pan. Stir in blueberries.

In small bowl, combine 1/2 cup sugar, 1/3 cup flour, cinnamon and butter; mix well. Sprinkle over filling. Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until filling is set.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

What role does Jewish education have in combating anti-Semitism? We have all been witness to the recent ruling of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency taking steps to revoke the charitable status of the Canadian branch of Magen David Adom (MDA). We have also seen the ongoing rejection of the MDA by the International Federation of Red Cross since 1949, while the same IFRC recognized many Red Crescent societies in the Muslim world.

Is there a response to this kind of blatant anti-Semitism in Ottawa and Geneva that is adequate to the enormity of primitive hatred that nourishes it? And will it help solve the problem?

I am reminded of a lecture and protest that took place at my alma mater, Columbia University, in the early '90s. The speaker, Leonard Jeffries, was an overt anti-Semite, and the protesters outside were concerned Jews. A student named Ze'ev Maghen wrote an article called *How To Fight Anti-Semitism*, which caused much more stir on campus than either the speech or the protest.

Maghen argued that as evil as the speech was, the protests were even more debasing to the spirit of Judaism. I quote: "A man calls you a pig. Do you walk around with a sign explaining that, in fact, you are not a pig?... Fellow Jews, where in hell is your dignity?" His answer is that the only valid response to anti-Semitism is Jewish study and its concomitant pride. "We've spent... millions of dollars... trying to teach non-Jews what Zionism isn't. My God: when are we going to start teaching Jews what Zionism is?"

As usual, the answer is Jewish learning – for all of us, students and teachers, adults and children. And what do we do about the MDA? My father, alav hashalom, taught me a nonsense ditty:

Si and I went to the circus
Si got hit with a rolling pin
We'll get even with that circus
We'll buy tickets and we won't go in.

It's an obvious response that stems from Jewish pride and self-esteem. We donate more than we ever did – without a tax receipt!

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

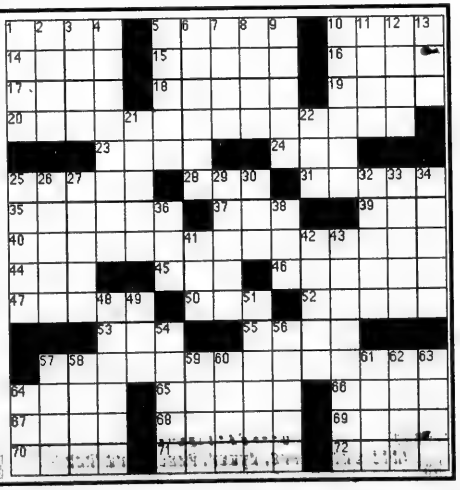
The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 54.)

Music to Our Ears
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Pager sound
5. Fleetwood Mac's ___Green
10. The four compass points
14. Other, in Oaxaca
15. "To wine!", a toast, in Italian
16. Swing off course
17. Give off
18. No-no
19. Depend on
20. Lorenz Hart partner
23. Abie's Jewish rose
24. Japanese monetary unit
25. Upper crust
28. Baseball stat
31. Felix Mendelsohn's father
35. Go out to pasture
37. Year, in Yucatan
39. Wrath
40. "Paul Schaeffer and _____!"
44. Mountain, in Metulah
45. Bar, in London or Dublin
46. Large rock in space
47. Crime
50. Legal matter
52. Private jets
53. Mechanical clean-up tool, for short
55. Concept
57. Nixon aide, produced 1969 Duke Ellington tribute
64. Spore clusters
65. _____ about
66. Jacob's twin
67. Minor Prophet (Heb. transliteration)
68. Andrea _____
69. Alternative, say, to Hwy. 1
70. Loch
71. Getz, Gershwin and others
72. Stalkless leaf adject.

Down
1. Afrikaner
2. Whomever, in Hebrew
3. ___ the Red
4. Miserable, as in performance
5. Mony preceder
6. Elusive Darth?
7. Rome's river, for short
8. Musician from India, in Pacific NW
9. Quarters of an acre
10. Divorce cap., with state first
11. Forecaster
12. Electrics
13. Acerbic
21. Not a noun but _____
22. Opal or ruby
25. Singer Kitt
26. Composer Franz
27. Anatomical passages
29. Beard, in Brest
30. Sort of equivalent of ltd.
32. About the same as 'location 1'
33. Baseball boo-boo
34. Chars
36. Clairvoyance
38. Electrical opposite of Mho
41. First person plural possessive
42. Guy who's looking for 12 Down
43. Those delicacies you find in the flats
48. Geometric forms
49. Poet Cohen of California
51. One whose name is on a treaty
54. Baseball team
56. Works of a certain art period
57. One theme of Jewish songwriters (and others!)
58. Neocene, etc.
59. What animals do to find truffels
60. Plain near Babylon where a golden image was set in place
61. Villa d'_____
62. Scot's negatives
63. They're good for baths or butter



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This Week

National

CJC appalled by Chretien's comments in Beirut. *Page 3*

Bob Rae warns against rise of anti-Semitism. *Page 7*

TVO director says educational TV the way of the future. *Page 13*

On Campus

University students learn to advocate for Israel. *Page 24*

Arts & Travel

Micki Moore dons many hats on stage. *Page 40*

Poems connect the past, present and future. *Page 41*

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Quebec union urges Israel boycott

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Jewish community leaders have blasted the head of one of Quebec's largest labour federations for urging a province-wide boycott of Israeli products and accusing Israel of practising apartheid.

"A union call for a boycott of Israeli products at this time is a call for abject intolerance, blatant revisionism and terrible injustice," the leaders said in a joint statement at a press conference. "We deplore it and invite our fellow Quebecers to do the same."

They were reacting to another press conference held last week by the Centrale des syndicats du Québec (CSQ) and the Coalition for Justice and Peace in Palestine, during which CSQ president Monique Richard deplored the living conditions of the Palestinians and urged a boycott as a way to "mobilize opinion" and to get Canada to pressure Israel to end the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza and find a peaceful settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Jewish community leaders said it was "absolutely unacceptable" for Israel, which has maintained a "determined, difficult and often dangerous adherence to the highest standards of western democracy," to be compared to apartheid South Africa.

Continued on page 31

Israeli survives attack on theatre

By YOSSI MELMAN and DAVID RATNER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — An Israeli woman who was freed last Saturday after Russian troops stormed the Moscow theatre that had been held by Chechen rebels for three days is recuperating in a Russian hospital.

Valeri Lisanskaya, from Nesher in the Haifa area, was the only Israeli held captive in the theatre ordeal, in which some 118 hostages are believed to have been killed.

Most of the hostages died from the effects of a mysterious gas the Russian troops used to subdue the captors in the rescue effort. Lisanskaya, 45, was hospitalized after she inhaled the gas. More than 150 hostages were reported in serious condition in hospital Sunday night.

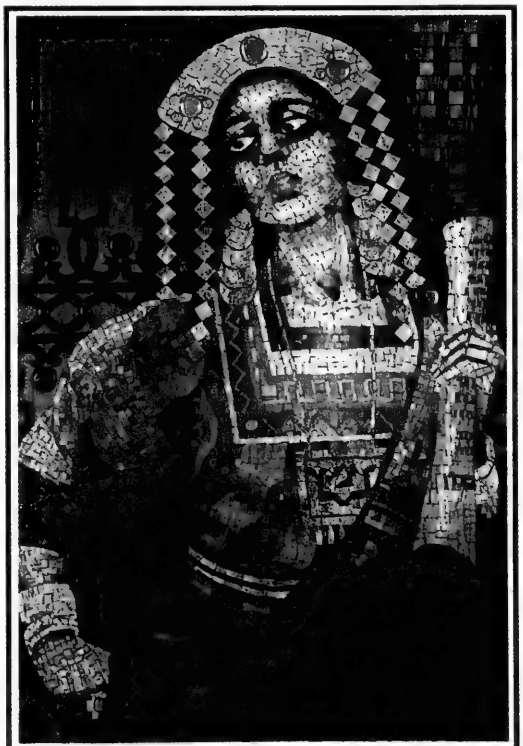
Lisiansky was to return to Israel earlier this week, sources in the Israeli Embassy in Moscow said Sunday after speaking with her by telephone.

Political attaché Alik Milman, who, like other foreign diplomats, was not allowed by the Russian authorities to visit the injured hostages in hospital, managed to contact Lisiansky by phone Sunday morning for the first time since the rescue operation.

She told him she was recuperating and would be discharged after completing her medical treatment, but could not say what treatment she was getting because the doctors did not tell her.

In her first interview since the rescue, Lisiansky told Army Radio that the Chechen terrorists who took over the theatre did not check her identity and therefore she did not feel that her Israeli citizenship put her life at risk.

Continued on page 38



HAMAN'S GUILT: Vancouver artist Lilian Broca's *Esther Holding Evidence of Haman's Guilt* is one of 30 works of art selected from 800 pieces submitted for a national art competition organized by IMAGO, an organization that gives expression to Judeo-Christian understanding through the arts. The exhibition of finalists, called A New Heaven and A New Earth, which includes this glass mosaic, will be on view at the Painted City Gallery, 234 Queen St. E. in Toronto

Shabbat: Chaye Sarah
Candlelighting: 4:51
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Greater Toronto Area

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Three Israelis killed in Ariel suicide bombing — please see page 37

The News in Brief

CANADA

Canadians Elected

TORONTO — Two Canadian women were elected to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's board of directors for three-year terms at the news agency's annual meeting in New York earlier this month. Toronto resident Shira Herzog is executive vice-president of the Calgary-based Kahanoff Foundation and a *CJN* columnist and television host, and Julia Koschitzky, also of Toronto, is a longtime community activist who currently serves on the boards of many Jewish and philanthropic organizations, including the Jewish Agency for Israel, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and *The CJN*. JTA now has three Canadian directors.

ISRAEL

Benefits Extended

JERUSALEM — Immigrants to Israel from prosperous countries, including the United States, will now get the same benefits as émigrés from poorer nations. The decision, made last week by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, is aimed at increasing immigration, Israel Radio reported.

Hotels Prepare for War

TEL AVIV — Hotels in outlying areas of Israel are readying for an influx of guests in the event of war with Iraq. During the 1991 Gulf War, Tel Aviv-area residents fleeing Iraqi missile attacks moved into hotels in areas considered at less risk of attack, such as Jerusalem and southern Israel. Hotels in these areas said they have received recent inquiries about down payments to secure space, *Ha'aretz* reported. At the same time, some Tel Aviv hotels have signed deals with foreign media outlets for rooftop broadcast rights.

Minister Blasts Rabbis

JERUSALEM — Israeli Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said last week he wants to prosecute rabbis who urged soldiers not to obey orders to dismantle illegal West Bank outposts. He said such rabbis "issued similar calls seven years ago that led to the murder of [former prime minister] Yitzhak Rabin." Rabbi Zalman Melamed, head of the Rabbinical Council of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, has issued a religious edict that soldiers must disobey orders to dismantle outposts.

WORLD

U.K. Envoy Criticized

LONDON — The Simon Wiesenthal Center has called on U.K. Foreign Secretary Jack Straw to recall Britain's ambassador to Israel, Sherard Cowper-Coles, after he was quoted last week by *Yediot Achronot* as saying, "Israel has reduced the West Bank and Gaza Strip into a vast concentration camp." In a letter, the centre said if the comments are true, "We urge the prompt recall of Mr. Cowper-Coles for Holocaust revisionism, banalization of the memory of its victims, and endorsement of the most extreme voices of Palestinian anti-Semitism."

Peace Prize Awarded

LONDON — The Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the Church of England, awarded the Coventry Prize for Peace and Reconciliation last Wednesday to Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, Rabbi Michael Melchior; the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem Archbishop Michel Sabbag; and Sheikh Talal Sidr of the Palestinian Authority. They received the prize for their initiative in holding the Alexandria talks a few months ago to promote dialogue between the three faiths in the Mideast.

Canadian Appointed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Moishe Smith of Ottawa has been appointed B'nai Brith International's chairman of the executive, the organization's second-highest volunteer position. Smith will primarily be responsible for liaising with B'nai Brith regional presidents in the United States and for supervising the work of various international cabinets and centres. Smith is past president of B'nai Brith Canada.

Iranian Hebrew Radio

TEHRAN — Iran plans to extend the range of its Hebrew-language radio program. An official at the station told Associated Press last week that the daily half-hour program *Voice of David* would be expanded next week to reach not only listeners in Israel, but also in the United States, eastern Europe and Russia. The radio program began airing in June, when officials said they wanted to counter Israel's "one-sided news monopoly," the report said.

Egyptian TV to Air Anti-Semitic Series

CAIRO — Egyptian television plans to broadcast a 30-part series based on the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, an infamous anti-Semitic tract.

Egyptian television began advertising *Horseman Without a Horse* last week, saying it will air during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, which starts in early November. Israeli media and Jewish groups have criticized the show, which stars and is produced by well-known Egyptian actor Mohammed Sobhi, since plans for its production were announced last year.

The *Protocols* purports to reveal a Judeo-Masonic conspiracy to overthrow the established world order by fomenting wars, revolutions and capitalism that would pave the way for world Jewish domination.

In *Horseman Without a Horse*, Sobhi plays a character who sets out to prove that the book is historically accurate. Sobhi defended the series, telling the Associated Press his show is "an artistic work which only reveals the Zionist schemes to seize Palestine."

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Chrétien assailed for Beirut performance

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) has passed a motion saying it is "appalled" by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's comments during the recent meeting of Francophonie nations in Beirut.

The motion, adopted at an Oct. 20 meeting of CJC's national executive committee, came on the heels of Chrétien's speech at the summit, which he gave while oblivious to the presence of Sheik Hassan Nasrallah of the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah, who was sitting just metres away in the front row.

CJC's national executive vice-president Jack Silverstone said the motion was made "to express serious dissatisfaction with the way the Canadian delegation handled the situation [at the summit]."

"I was flabbergasted that Jean Chrétien would be speaking in the presence of the sheik," CJC president Keith Landy told the meeting. "It boggles the mind."

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien

Landy added that the speech made by Lebanese President Émile Lahoud was "equally serious."

Lahoud opened the Francophonie summit with a tirade against Israel, accusing it of "state-sponsored terrorism." Afterward, Chrétien shook Lahoud's hand.

Later, when asked by reporters how he could shake the president's hand after that remark, Chrétien said, "It's not my opinion. But I say the violence on both sides must stop.

Continued on page 30

'Business as usual' at CMDA

MONTREAL – Despite its legal woes, it's "business as usual" for Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel (CMDA), says national president Joseph Bitton.

In a statement made to reassure the organization's donors, Bitton said many people are confused about what is happening after the recent ruling by the Federal Court of Appeal that upheld the proposed revocation of CMDA's charitable status.

The organization is waiting to see if the Supreme Court of Canada will hear its appeal.

In the statement, CMDA adds: "The minister of national revenue [Elinor Caplan] can also nullify the Federal Court's decision by refusing to publish the revocation notice in the *Canada Gazette*," the official newspaper of the government since 1841.

But "in the meantime, ... we are still a registered charity," Bitton said. "We can receive donations and issue official tax receipts."

On July 10, 2001, the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) notified CMDA that its charitable status was to be revoked because it was in violation of the Income Tax Act.

"[CCRA] alleged that ambulances donated by CMDA to Magen David Adom [MDA] in Israel were operating in Gaza, East Jerusalem [sic] and the West Bank. According to CCRA, this contravened Canadian public policy," Bitton said.

"Without providing any solid evidence, it argued also that these ambulances were not always used for medical purposes only.

"A third issue, of a technical nature, was that CMDA did not retain ownership of the ambulances sent to Israel, as required by the Income Tax Act. In support of that accusation, it mentioned the gift of an old ambulance by MDA to the Israel Defence Forces on June 14, 1999."

CMDA fought that decision in the Federal Court of Appeal. Last month, the Court ruled that operating donated ambu-

Continued on page 26

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Shaul Mofaz was born in 1948 in Iran and immigrated to Israel with his family at the age of nine. He joined the IDF in 1966, volunteering in the Paratrooper Brigade. He held a succession of roles within the Defence Forces over the years, culminating in his appointment in 1998 as Israel's 16th Chief of the General Staff of the Israel Defence Forces.

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Greater Toronto Area

New Israeli writing

In view of the worldwide concerted effort by some in academia and other quarters to isolate Israel and Israelis, we announced last month *The CJN* Book Review Project, aimed at encouraging our readers to read books by Israeli authors. In the last issue of each month, therefore, this space will be dedicated to publicizing new Israeli books.

* * *

The Name, published by Riverhead Books, is Michal Govrin's first novel to be translated into English. Translated by Barbara Harshav, it is a fascinating work written by an obviously talented writer who is also a poet and an award-winning director of experimental Jewish theatre. When it first appeared in Israel in 1995, the novel received wide critical acclaim. In 1997, it won the Kugel Literary Prize. A year later, Govrin was awarded the coveted Israeli Prime Minister's Prize for Hebrew Writers.

From the editor's desk

The Name tells the story of the sad, if not tragic, character Amalia, who appears to buckle under the emotional and psychological burdens that, as a child of Holocaust survivors, she is compelled, or feels compelled, to carry.

Amalia is named after her father's first wife, a woman of great beauty, musical talent and courage who dies a horrible death at the hands of the Nazis. The conferring of her name is the seminal event in the story. We are ever conscious of its literal meaning – "Amalia" means the burden of God – as we witness her frightful struggle with its existential weight and the identity it imposes upon her. It shapes Amalia's troubled destiny.

The Name is not an easy book to read. The narrative is labrynthian in detail, told alternatingly in first and third person, a duality of voices that jump in time between past and present. The novel's key characters are sharply elucidated, each a storehouse of debilitating emotional clutter, each directly affecting Amalia's sense of self and of the world.

The setting of the story, evocatively depicted, is primarily cast in Jerusalem, but it also takes place in Tel Aviv as well as in Europe and America.

It is, however, in the elaborately architectured symbolism throughout the story that Govrin's skill is most on display. The loom on which Amalia is constantly weaving talit or *parochet* (Torah curtain) and to which the narrator continually refers, is merely the most obvious, but also the most complicated of the many treasure-laden symbols Govrin has spun into the text.

The novel is suffused with liturgical, scriptural and historical references that are integral to Amalia's evolving personality and to understanding the state of her mental and emotional balance.

For example, Govrin gives the charismatic, but somewhat sinister character, Rabbi *Avuyah* Aseraf, a name that evokes Abbaya ben *Abuyah*, the charismatic and also somewhat sinister sage of talmudic times. This cannot have been coincidental.

The English translation is enabling and fluid. But even so seamless a translation is ultimately inadequate in conveying the unique nuances and many-layered meanings of the original Hebrew. For example, "repentance" is an accurate translation of the Hebrew word *tshuvah*. But it cannot convey the core meaning of the Hebrew term, namely, returning. Yet, *tshuvah*, or returning – in a number of complicated and intertwined ways – is at the heart of *The Name*, a story that chronicles Amalia's path to the one destination where she believes she will find peace.

* * *

The Same Sea, Harvest Harcourt Books, is Amoz Oz's latest work to be translated into English. One of Israel's most celebrated writers and essayists, Oz has crafted a totally unique reading experience.

The Same Sea is a prose poem that travels the terrain of the inner psyche with deft precision and aching insight. It is all the more remarkable because of the economic and, at times even cryptic, manner of its execution.

The book could almost be described as a cinematographic novel. Free association verse flows into poetry and poetry slides back into prose. Each of the "chapters" – mini-chapters, really – is akin to a scene in a film. By novel's end, the characters are fully formed, the storyline fully realized and the insights fully explicated.

Oz has fashioned a unique, highly imaginative, multi-textured blending of characters and story centred around the people, reveries and accomplishments that comprise the life of a middle-aged, Tel Aviv area widower. He occasionally – mischievously, one might add – intersperses his own contemporary voice into the story.

The story's characters lead thoroughly secular, non-observant, and not always commendable lives. But the book is suffused with biblical and rabbinic allusions, as fits perhaps, a story written in and about modern Israel.

* * *

Next month, we will review *The Crime of Writing* by Haim Lapid.

—MBD

SeeJN

CALL TO ACTION:
Volunteers from Zaka, the rapid-response, emergency rescue organization, search for body parts in the bushes Sunday, following a suicide bombing near the West Bank settlement of Ariel that left three Israeli soldiers dead and 18 people injured.
[Isranet Photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Arab American journalist a strong backer of Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A community rally last week heard a no holds-barred endorsement of Israel that might have made the most diehard Israeli nationalist proud – yet the hardline message came from an unlikely source, a Christian Arab journalist.

In an address that pulled no punches, Joseph Farah discussed "the hard truth about the Middle East," exposing a number of "myths" he said lay at the heart of the present conflict. The Oslo accords, he said, were not a recipe for peace, but rather Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's "Trojan Horse;" Palestine has never been more that an unreal "never-never land;" Palestinians are indistinguishable by language, religion or culture from other Arabs in the Middle East; and Muslim claims that Jerusalem contains Islamic holy sites are bogus.

Farah's analysis of the Arab-Israeli conflict drew a standing ovation from an overflow crowd at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. The Oct. 21 rally was sponsored by B'nai Brith Canada, Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel, Christians for Israel (Canada) and radio host Zelda Young. Farah also spoke at a Montreal synagogue the following day.

Farah, who is the editor and CEO of WorldNetDaily.com, a U.S.-based conservative Internet news site, began by examining the "myth" that the Palestinians simply want a homeland of their own. In fact, he said, prior to Israel's seizure of the West Bank and Gaza in 1967, they took no steps to create that state. What Palestinians really want is to destroy the Jews' homeland, Farah said.

Only one year after the Oslo accords were signed, he noted, Arafat gave a speech that compared the agreement with Israel to one signed by Mohammed with the Quresh tribe, which Mohammed abrogated when circumstances suited him.

Farah, a second generation American of Lebanese and Christian descent, dismissed Arab claims that the Palestinians are the country's indigenous people. A large Arab in-migration from surrounding areas coincided with the Jews' efforts to develop the area's economy. Moreover, since the Olso agreements were signed, more than 400,000 Arabs have entered the West Bank and Gaza from Arab countries, and since 1967, Arabs have built 261 settlements, far more than the 144 attributed to Jewish settlers, he said.

Referring to a 1906 travel guide, Farah noted Jerusalem's Muslim population amounted to only 7,000 out of a (largely Jewish) population of 60,000. This, he said pointedly, in "the third holiest city in Islam."

Farah, who has been a journalist for 25 years, also took aim at a "media bias" that he said favours the Palestinian cause. The BBC, he said, refers to the IRA as terrorists but Palestinian bombers are termed "militants." Associated Press describes Ariel Sharon as "hardline," but the news agency "often calls Arafat a moderate."

Journalists no longer search for truth, but instead strive for balance and end up distorting reality, he said. In attempting to present "balancing views," Palestinian spokespeople who make outrageous assertions that have no basis in fact are presented on par with statements that describe reality. The result, he said, can be found in the *New York Times* balancing Arafat's assertion that no Jewish Temple stood in Jerusalem with Israel's "claim" that it did.

"Arab leaders," he continued, "are determined to fan the flames of hate with Israel," to scapegoat the Jewish state and divert their peoples' attention from their countries' own absence of human rights. Arab states "have done far less for their own people than Israel has [for Arabs in Israel]," he said.

Farah, who has received death threats for his views, concluded by describing Arafat as the inspiration for arch-terrorist Osama bin Laden and warning that Western policy must not allow itself to be held hostage by Arafat, bin Laden and the Saudis. He said the West must wean itself from Mideastern oil, pull back from the Middle East, stop telling Israel what it can and cannot do and hold the Arab states up to the same standards it applies in the rest of the world.

Farah's address was preceded by a special presentation of B'nai Brith's Award of Distinction for Excellence in Journalism to four recipients: Stewart Bell (*National Post*); Rosie DiManno (*Toronto Star*); John Downing (*Toronto Sun*); and Marcus Gee (*Globe and Mail*).

In opening remarks, Israel's consul general in Toronto, Meir Romem, urged Canadian Jews to make aliyah within the next few years. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has set a target of one million olim in the next 10 years, and he suggested 100,000 Canadian Jews should join that proposed immigration in the next five years.

Rabbi Moshe Shulman also addressed the rally, drawing on the biblical story of Abraham's liberation of the city of Shalem, Jerusalem's predecessor, and comparing it to today's situation. The Palestinian leadership, he said, "seeks not our friendship, but our destruction."

Nevertheless, he continued, Jews must not lose faith.

"God will not abandon his people," he said.

Elsewhere in this issue...

Jordanian prince visits Israel

please see page 33

The Changing Role of Women in Synagogue Ritual

In recognition of its 36th anniversary, Beth Tikvah Synagogue is presenting a program of study that focuses on the changing role of women in synagogue ritual.

This series has two tiers. Four study sessions, each led by an academic scholar, will examine the textual sources that relate to women's participation in synagogue ritual and explain the development of Jewish law. Appropriate tracts will be distributed for study.

Three conversational debates moderated by Rabbi Wayne Allen allow guest rabbis with differing opinions to share their views. Lively discussion will offer disparate opinions about the participation of women in synagogue ritual in the Conservative movement.

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Study Sessions	Conversations Hosted by Rabbi Wayne Allen
Mipnei Kavod HaTzibbur: Aliyot for Women? *Analysis of Megillah 23a* Professor David Golinkin WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2002 8:00 PM	**Women and Synagogue Ritual** Rabbi Steven Saltzman, *Adath Israel Synagogue* with Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, *Beth Tzedec Synagogue* WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2002 8:00 PM
Gezerat hakatuv: Maimonides' Approach to Women as Witnesses Professor Martin Lockshin WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2003 8:00 PM	**Women as Witnesses** Rabbi Susan Grossman, *Columbia, Maryland (author of an adopted responsum on women as witnesses by the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Rabbinical Assembly)* Rabbi Herbert Mandl *Kansas City* WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2003 8:00 PM
Ir She-kulo Kohanim: An Imaginative Construct or Legal Precedent? WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2003 8:00 PM	
Obligation for Prayer and Women as Prayer Leaders Rabbi Leonard Levy, *JTS* and *Jewish Center, Forest Hills, NY* MONDAY, MARCH 3, 2003 8:00 PM	**Grappling with Change** Rabbi Philip Scheim, *Beth David Synagogue* with Rabbi Bruce Ginsberg *Long Island, NY* WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2003 8:00 PM

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IDF captain defends Israel in the media

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

As IDF spokesperson for foreign media, Captain Sharon Feingold says she is fighting on a new kind of front line. Part of the problem, she told an audience of 200 women last week, is that Israelis are responding with logic rather than emotion to the current intifidah.

"We know we are right and that what we're doing is just, but we just are not getting it across," she said at this year's UJA Federation Lion of Judah lunch, held at the Four Seasons Hotel.

The Lion of Judah pin is presented to women who make contributions of at least $5,000 to the annual UJA Federation campaign. There were 75 new Lions this year, announced Hinda Silber, chair of Women's Campaign & Advocacy 2003, which has raised more than $6 million this year.

The funds will help provide increased security for Israel's pre-schoolers, critical care for terror victims and essential services for Israel's vulnerable, Silber said.

"I feel very much at home here, something I don't feel often in my current job," said Feingold, who has appeared on CNN and CBC. Yet her belief in her work gives her a great sense of satisfaction, she remarked.

An IDF officer whose task was to train new women recruits, Feingold earned a master's degree in international relations from the University of Amsterdam after completing her compulsory army service. She returned from Europe voluntarily when the situation in Israel "started smelling of war.

"People thought I was crazy to go back to the army, give up my life." Her current position, which she took on two years ago, means a seven-day-a-week, 24-hour-a-day commitment, she said.

"You should be proud of us, proud of Israeli soldiers who are your children and my friends, who have been brought up to value life. In Jewish life, life is the most precious thing, and I'm afraid that the other side doesn't see it that way," she said.

"It's appalling to me to watch the Palestinian TV and see the mother of 10 say that she hopes her other nine children will be suicide bombers. I find that incomprehensible, and I cannot as a woman begin to think what is going through her head."

Unfortunately, noted Feingold, there is only one television station in the Palestinian Authority. "It brainwashes the children's minds and the women's minds. Not being exposed to other sources of information, they buy that."

In the eyes of the world, the Palestinians are the underdogs – the Davids – and the Israelis are the Goliaths, said Feingold.

"We don't want to be in Palestinian areas. We'd much rather be somewhere else, but I know that if my soldiers were not there in Nablus, Qalqilya and Jenin, they'd be unable to stop this lone suicide bomber from entering our cities... In a sense they're our last barrier, our last frontier."

Since the terror attacks on the United States last Sept. 11, North Americans are beginning to understand what Israel is fighting for, she said.

Because Israel is a democracy with free media access, "it's very difficult." In Palestinian-controlled areas, if journalists take pictures that are not pleasing to the Palestinian Authority, they can have their cameras taken or even risk their lives, she said.

The Palestinians have "a good PR machine," said Feingold, "but we have the facts, and we are right. We're human and we are scared, but we're resilient and we're strong."

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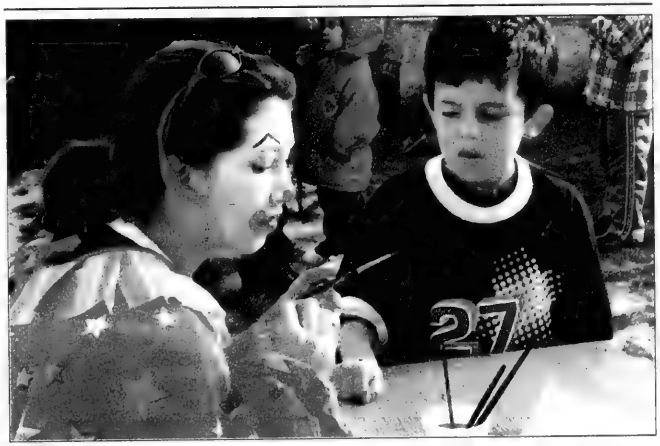

A SUCCESSFUL ROAST: Toronto Jewish Academy Ohr Menachem's first annual barbecue, organized by volunteers and PTA members, provided an opportunity for the parents to socialize, meet new families and chat with the staff, while the children played with their friends. Farco Entertainment supplied a jumping castle and carnival games. The magician amazed everyone and the clown face-painters transformed the children to their delight! Even the fall weather co-operated and contributed to the enjoyment of the day.

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Former premier warns against rise of anti-Semitism

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

With the collapse of Nazi Germany in 1945, civilized people believed the most vicious expressions of anti-Semitism were discredited for all time.

But today, said former Ontario premier Bob Rae, you can find numerous manifestations of anti-Jewish stereotyping in the mainstream media.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has been depicted in a London newspaper with a big hooked nose; in an Italian publication, a cartoon showed the baby Jesus facing Israeli tanks, while in the Arab world the television media present a barrage of images of Jews as inhuman, unfeeling tyrants.

Bob Rae

It is unclear whether today's manifestations of anti-Semitism mark a return to the 1930s, but, said Rae, "we face a particular spectre and challenge that we must face up to and take seriously and ask our government to take seriously."

Rae recently delivered a stirring address about the dangers of contemporary anti-Semitism at a public lecture attended by an audience of 550 at the University of Toronto. The event was sponsored by Canadians Against Anti-Semitism. Prof. Ed Morgan served as moderator.

Rae, the former Ontario New Democratic Party (NDP) leader, was the keynote speaker discussing the riot at Concordia University on Sept. 9 at which anti-Israel protesters prevented former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu from speaking.

"I wanted to be here tonight because... I've been deeply troubled by the way in which the tragic conflict in the Middle East has... given rise to what we can feel and sense is a dramatic increase in anti-Semitism in Canada and the world," Rae said.

Rae acknowledged the right to advance criticism of Israeli policies and leaders. But, he continued, "that's not what's happening."

Instead, he said, many opponents of Israel are taking the position "that Israel does not have a right to exist as a member of the world order and that Jews do not have the right to their own state. Don't tell me that isn't anti-Semitism, because I can think of no greater threat to the life of the Jewish people."

Earlier this year, Rae came down harshly on NDP foreign affairs critic Svend Robinson when he attempted to walk past an Israeli cordon and visit Yasser Arafat in his besieged compound in Ramallah.

At the U of T last week, Rae also was critical of the CBC for reporting on the so-called "Jenin massacre" and for not admitting it had been duped about the story. "Don't jump on every bandwagon every time there's a headline that an atrocity has been committed," he said. Rae was followed onstage by McGill student Yoni Petel, who was a member of the Hillel organizing committee that invited Netanyahu to speak at Concordia.

The riot, he said, grew out of a pre-existing climate of intimidation on campus. "What happened on Sept. 9 has to be seen in that context," he said.

Irwin Cotler

Chants of "kill the Jews" can be heard at anti-Israel protests, while posters critical of Israel are found around Concordia. Information tables (which are now banned at Concordia) have carried "disinformation" claiming Palestinians were subject to genocide and that Israel is an apartheid state, he said.

In another address, *Globe and Mail* columnist Margaret Wente asked, "Why is it that without anyone paying attention, Israel-bashing has become so popular, especially among our academic elites?"

Though tolerance and diversity are valued on campus, "the only hate speech on campus that is tolerated is hate speech about Israel and America, and they are linked."

Wente attributed the anti-Israel "vitriol" to "the way the left has constructed its view on the world and its need for villains."

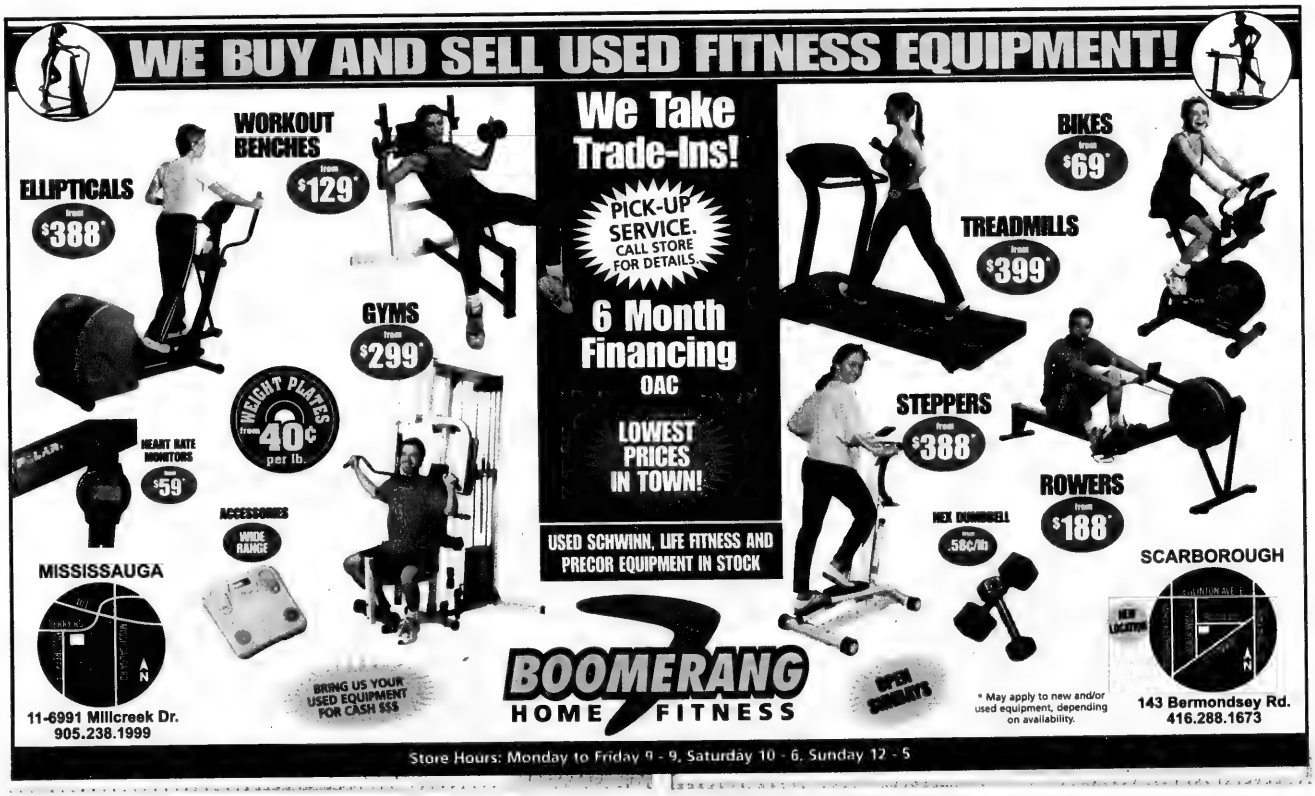
The left, she continued, ignores oppression by non-whites and paints privileged white people as the only oppressors. Israel, full of muscular, privileged white people who are friends of the United States, now has replaced South Africa as its chief villain while the Palestinians now stand-in for blacks.

Montreal MP Irwin Cotler, a professor of law, outlined his perspective on "a global, violent and lethal anti-Semitism."

Cotler, who surveyed various manifestations of anti-Semitism around the world, argued that traditional anti-Semitism – the denial of the right of Jews to live openly in society – is in decline. But it has been replaced by a new anti-Semitism. It denies "the rights of the Jewish people to live as equal members in the family of nations."

The new anti-Semitism also contains a genocidal element, little reported in the media, in which Hamas and other Islamic extremists call for the destruction of Israel and the killing of Jews.

Nevertheless, he said, "2002 is not 1942." A Jewish state exists today and Jews have moral and intellectual resources at their disposal. Furthermore, he added, "there are non-Jews who are prepared to stand by and be counted."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Forgiving Arafat his sins, always

As these words were written, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State William Burns was shuffling between Israeli and Palestinian leaders, trying to secure some measure of agreement between them on merely the approach to considering, and not the actual substance of, the peace proposal by U.S. President George W. Bush called, cautiously enough, a Road Map to a Permanent Two-State Solution.

Even conceding some element of truth in the cynic's derision that peddling a "road map" at this precise juncture is as much an attempt by the president to pave a smooth road toward Baghdad as it is to move toward peace between Israelis and Palestinians, the administration's activism does, nevertheless, warrant commendation as well. For it is, at least, an attempt to bring the two back to the table.

But even this salutary aspect of President Bush's activity has been dismissed outright by the commentators and pundits who reflexively object to American-led peace initiatives in the Middle East. This attitude was typified in a commentary that appeared last week in *The New York Times* by Gareth Evans and Robert Malley of the International Crisis Group.

What appeared to most bother Evans and Malley about the American initiative is that it is predicated upon the need to reform the political structure of the Palestine Authority (PA). "If Palestinians," they argue, "are not offered a clear and credible way for Israel's occupation to end and a comprehensive settlement to be reached, moderate Palestinians will have little to offer."

Where have Evans and Malley been the last two and a half years?

What was the offer by former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak to PA President Yasser Arafat and to the Palestinian people at Camp David, and later at Taba in the summer and fall of 2000, if not "a clear and credible way for Israel's occupation to end and a comprehensive settlement to be reached?"

Not only did Arafat reject the offer, he refused to propose a counter-offer. Not only did he refuse to propose a counter-offer, he unleashed a war upon the Israeli people. Not only did he unleash war, he let loose the anarchic, evil, violent hatred of Hamas and Islamic Jihad. And not only did he let loose Hamas and Islamic Jihad, but, as it has now come to light through statements of various Palestinian officials and in documents found in the PA compound in Ramallah, Arafat's rejection of negotiations and resort to war had been planned from the very start.

Proof of these plans was the decisive factor in the American administration's call for reform of the corrupt, duplicitous, untrustworthy political structure of the PA. And yet, Evans and Malley would ignore the evidence. Instead of holding the Palestinian leadership to account, they prefer an international peace conference "at which the key parties could place a blueprint for a comprehensive settlement on the table."

They would exculpate Arafat and forgive him again for all his deadly treachery.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farhad Saleh, Dani (Hamid) Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

Dry Bones

YOU'RE JUST "SITTING AND WAITING?"
YUP.
FOR AMERICA TO TAKE OUT SADDAM?
FOR THE ECONOMY TO RECOVER?
OR FOR THE PLO TO GET OVER ITS ANTISEMITIC GENOCIDAL FRENZY?
ACTUALLY, I WAS WAITING FOR A SECOND CUP OF COFFEE

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More on the Claims Conference

I was pleased that Eli Pfefferkorn expressed so eloquently the frustrations felt by Holocaust survivors in general, and Jewish Holocaust survivors of Canada in particular ("A survivor's claim against the Claims Conference," *CJN*, Sept 5).

It is true that the Claims Conference was successful in its negotiations with Germany for reparation payments for Holocaust survivors. At the same time, Holocaust survivors have not seen the benefits of the billions of dollars that are available.

In Canada, we Holocaust survivors came to the realization very late that we were not adequately represented at the conference. We also had no idea about how allocations were made or to whom they were made. Even though a number of us were very involved with other Holocaust survivors, none of us received conference reports. Many of us felt strongly that we were being shunted aside by the organizations representing Canadian Jewry.

Last year, we obtained one seat for a Canadian Holocaust survivor at the conference , to be filled by Michael Rosenberg. It is our hope that he will be successful in his efforts on behalf of Canadian survivors, particularly those who are sick and in need of assistance and home care. We wish Rosenberg success. We know he will present our case well.

Elsa Chandler
Toronto

* * *

Lawyer Karas should check facts

Toronto immigration lawyer Sergio Karas should be pleased with his contribution to the decision of Immigration Minister Denis Coderre requiring citizens of Saudi Arabia to obtain a temporary resident visa to enter Canada. But Karas felt the need to disparage the efforts of community organizations in this dossier, an attitude that is as unhelpful as it is factually wrong.

Last February, I wrote to Minister Coderre just weeks into his tenure as Minister of Citizenship and Immigration and said: "We remain concerned that Saudi Arabia is not on the list of countries that require visitor visas. We find this to be a serious omission given the proportion of active members of al-Qaeda who are Saudi citizens and that of the 19 hijackers in the Sept. 11 attacks, 15 were of Saudi nationality. Canada is demonstrating its leadership role in the war against terrorism with the deployment of our troops in Afghanistan. In that spirit, and mindful of the specifications of UNSC Resolution 1373 [Article (2) Section (g)], we respectfully urge you to review Canada's visa policy regarding Saudi Arabia."

I trust this sets the record straight.

Keith Landy
National President
Canadian Jewish Congress

* * *

Two sides to Malev Airlines story?

I am surprised that you would publish the article by Daniel Roth accusing Hungarian airline staff of anti-Semitism ("Anti-Semitism strong in eastern Europe: A personal story of encoutering intolerance," *CJN*, Oct. 10). My wife and I have flown Malev many times, including on connecting flights from Budapest to Tel Aviv, and have been treated with the greatest courtesy. I have done Jewish genealogical research all over Hungary, and received only the best treatment from government officials and librarians. Sadly, there is anti-Semitism in eastern Europe, and it is more common there than in Canada. However, the Hungarian government has made considerable efforts to stamp it out in official circles. I find it hard to believe that the Hungarian airline routinely pursues extreme disciplinary action against unruly teenaged passengers simply because they are Jewish. There are usually two sides to every story.

Peter Spiro
Toronto

* * *

Report on Jewish MPs' silence

I would like to see an article on the lack of response from Jewish MPs and senators to the increasing world hostility towards Jews and Israel. In the United States, you don't have to look far to see Jewish and Christian members of the Senate and Congress speaking out against anti-Semitic and anti-Israel statements and actions. As the Canadian goverment tries to take away the charitable status of the Canadian Friends of Magen David Adom, our MPs and senators are silent.

No one speaks out against the increasing anti-Semitism in our country. I would like to see some strong reporting from *The CJN* about this serious issue in our community.

Steven Feldman
Vancouver

* * *

Give credit where it's due

On Oct. 17, *The CJN* ran a report on Haim and Edna Avraham's recent visit to Canada and Parliament ("Kidnapped soldier's father urges action"). While the caption on the front-page photo read that the Canada-Israel Committee sponsored the trip, substantial credit should also be given to Danni Fine of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, who was instrumental in facilitating the Avrahams' Canadian tour.

The success of the Avrahams' visit indicates what can be achieved when various communal agencies and grassroots activists such as Ra'anana Goldhar join together to make the case for Israel.

Shimon Fogel
Chief Executive Officer
Canada-Israel Committee

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Rabbi W. Gunther Plaut at 90

By RABBI JOHN MOSCOWITZ

This has been a singular rabbinic career: a congregational rabbi in Chicago and then St. Paul from 1939 to 1961; senior rabbi of Holy Blossom Temple from 1961 to 1977 and the senior scholar of the congregation these past 25 years; one of the leading rabbinic figures on the international scene; a major communal figure in Toronto and throughout this country; an advisor on refugee law and human rights to the Canadian government; and author of arguably the most important Torah commentary of the 20th century; and more.

This has been the rabbinic career of W. Gunther Plaut. As he turns 90 years old on Nov. 1, we at Holy Blossom Temple, along with many of his friends and family, will celebrate his birthday with him. As such, now is as good a time as any to ask the obvious question: Why exactly has Rabbi Plaut been such a success over the years? What has allowed him to accomplish so much in one life?

Let me suggest three reasons for Rabbi Plaut's success.

The first reason has to do with the world he left behind, yet managed to bring with him to these shores. Rabbi Plaut emerged from a world that valued knowledge and classical learning, a Europe that cultivated an informed and literate citizenry. When he left Berlin at age 22, he did so with a law degree in hand, and a head full of learning. Raised in a home with books at its centre, he was imbued with the ideas in them.

Though a product of liberal Berlin, he was hardly bereft of Judaism when he arrived in America. Shabbat, kashrut and Yom Tov were staples in the Plaut home. In Albeck, Heschel, Bamburger and Baeck, he had been exposed to some of the great Jewish thinkers and scholars of the 20th century. And so while Rabbi Plaut's Jewish learning was not yet deep, his intellectual foundation was solid and he had learned how to learn. That foundation provided him with a sense of place, even as he prepared to move half a world away. He was already, first, a Jew.

This identification with his people provided Rabbi Plaut with a point of view that would not waver, even in America. "I did not accept tradition as immutable, but neither was I prepared to overlook it or discard it as irrelevant or nearly so," he was quoted as saying in the *Central Conference of American Rabbis Journal* in 1980.

This intellectual position was also an existential one: Rabbi Plaut was steadfastly a Jew, even as the winds of change had begun to gather. The idea of honouring both past and present was also integral to his milieu: the great world of 19th- and early 20th-century Jewish Berlin, a world rich in learning, liberalism and literacy. It was here, too, that Rabbi Plaut's lifelong habits of discipline and productivity were honed.

The second reason for Rabbi Plaut's success is more elusive than his European background, yet no less salient a factor: a remarkably adaptive personality that, nonetheless, does not readily brook compromise with principle.

This personal flexibility within a rather steadily built life meant that Rabbi Plaut became an acculturated and patriotic American, and then a deeply appreciative Canadian – both without losing his European sensibility or his loyalty to either of his host countries. This apparent dichotomy is at the heart of his unique relationships to the countries and lands that shaped him – and which have been, in a small way, shaped by him.

Rabbi Plaut is a European through and through, particularly a 20th-century Middle-European Jew, with the appropriate distrust of the political extremes that ravaged Europe. As a European, he well understands the uniquely European notion of the relationship between community and society: one's intimacy with community allows one to be part of larger society. Few have used the platform of their own community to serve the society as well as Rabbi Plaut.

He is also an acculturated North American. Knowing, as linguists tell us, that a foreign accent is normally retained upon arrival in a new country only after age 13, I was fascinated the first time I heard Rabbi Plaut speak. Here was a man who came to America from Germany at age 22, who had, nonetheless, only retained the broad outlines of his accent – which, even then, is not easily identifiable as German. He tells us in his memoirs that he worked hard to lose that accent in those early days. He sought to accommodate himself to America, so important was the need to be accepted in his new country.

But it is more than that, of course. What may be an aspect of personality – the wish for acceptance – is also a matter of being a refugee from a certain time and place.

Both the desire for acceptance and the distrust of political extremism became clear when he remarked to me in the midst of the 1988 Canadian federal elections: "Given that as a man of the community, I normally keep my personal politics somewhat private, I bet you haven't a clue as to how I will vote."

"Of course I know exactly how you will vote," I told him and he looked at me utterly surprised. "How did you know?!"

I didn't tell him all that I knew from watching and listening closely: that a man of his past and place might be spurred to reconcile differing views and be inclined toward a particular temperament for adjudication – and would therefore prefer the party in the middle. The rational and elegant culture of fin de siècle Berlin, and the poisonous passions that spewed forth from Germany after World War I, have together remained in the shadows of Rabbi Plaut's life. They have modulated his views, providing him with fixed principles and personal flexibility to work for civility, an ordered society for all citizens and a distinct place within it for the Jews.

The third reason for Rabbi Plaut's success is the most compelling. Given his teacher Jacob Rader Marcus's admonishment to him upon leaving rabbinical school that he was "quite unprepared to lead an American congregation," we might wonder how he managed to overcome his illustrious professor's doubts and exceed all expectations. After all, Rabbi Plaut was a greenhorn: his accent in those days was still thick, his grasp of the English language, while extensive, was still awkward, his mannerisms a bit foreign and rough around the edges.

What, then, made the difference? Rabbi Plaut's success in those early years, as well as later, is owed overwhelmingly to Elizabeth Strauss Plaut. Her no-nonsense common sense, her humour, her acute sensitivity to pretence and her love made a scholar also a mensch, a foreigner a native – and most importantly, a rabbi of the word also a rabbi of the deed.

As Rabbi Plaut's anchor, Elizabeth was the one who, in the early days, when adulation grew too great, reminded him not to be taken in by it all. Her ambitions were not for his fame, but rather for his satisfaction and for that of the people he served. Anyone who has watched Rabbi Plaut around Elizabeth knows that she is the private ballast for this public man. Though ill these past three years, she remains his inspiration, and his success is still shared by two.

Finally, a personal note: While I cannot say that Rabbi Plaut dramatically shaped my own views – they were in place when he and I became office neighbours 15 years ago – I can say that he motivated me to speak them differently than I did before, more clearly and passionately, and without fear of consequence.

Not necessarily alike in past or personality, Rabbi Plaut and I are very much kindred spirits in values. My own values – of community taking precedence over the individual, of the requirement to read and to learn, my love for Israel and my deep belief that Judaism is serious business and nothing else – have been reinforced by observing and listening to this unique rabbi. If I say more clearly and passionately what I believe today, it is in part because of Rabbi Plaut. Because my own rabbinate is different, better than it would have been otherwise, I stand in awe and gratitude as one of many who salute him as he turns 90.

Rabbi Moscowitz is spiritual leader of Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto.

Senior rabbi at Holy Blossom from 1961-1977

Blaming the victim

Blaming victims for their own suffering is an old way of diverting attention from the actual perpetrators of the hardship.

The Christian New Testament has long been cited as teaching that Jews themselves should be blamed for being persecuted, and this ancient point of view has recently been an issue in the American press.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Earlier this month, the *Washington Jewish Week* ran an editorial titled "*Washington Times* ad blames Jews as victims." Quoting from the New Testament, the ad in question, which was signed by a Baltimore man, suggested that Jews may suffer persecution because they delivered Jesus to the Romans to be crucified.

There were many complaints. An accusation of bad faith was vigorously denied by the *Times*, as well as by the advertisement's author, who should never have used the disputed language. It was phrased badly enough to allow for either a positive or a negative interpretation. The national advertising editor of the *Times* said he was out of town when the ad was published.

The fact is that American Jews are sensitive when it comes to public relations. In that regard they are no different from their Canadian cousins, who are sometimes accused of being overly sensitive and of feeling less secure than American Jews.

After spending some time south of the border, I am not sure there is any meaningful difference. A minority anywhere is likely to experience some isolation and, thus, often react defensively. That is natural and universal.

Yet, U.S. Jews are, on the whole, a very secure group whose numbers have recently been cited to amount to about five million – a bit lower than the usually quoted figure of six million. I have no way of knowing the correct number, but certainly enough Jews live in the United States to allow for a broad-based and vigorous community life.

Withal, American Jews remain aware that they are a minority, which means they watch their public relations with some attention. In that regard, I found no palpable difference between them and Canadian Jews. That difference may have existed in the past, but it is not noticeable today.

Being both a Canadian and American citizen, I feel thoroughly at home in both countries, something that I consider a special blessing.

Some 67 years ago, I fled Nazi Germany and went to the United States, and from there, 30 years later, I came to Canada. I have been very fortunate in my peregrinations and habitats and often feel that it was my blessed fate to experience the best of all worlds.

How would it have been if I had settled in what was then Palestine? That, of course, is something I will never know.

Powerful film explores hatred and self-loathing

"I hate and I love/ who can tell me why?" – Catullus

After my last column on the emotion of hate and the actions that perpetuate it, I resolved to write of happier matters this time. But the flood of e-mails I received left me unwilling to let the subject matter rest for now.

Barbara Balfour in Calgary

For the most part, my readers seemed to agree with me and the sentiments I expressed. Especially lately, in light of the recent terrorist bombing in Bali, it is not shocking that people find hate, not love, is making their world go around.

"I share many of your feelings… I used to be an eternal optimist but am having a hard time being one these days," wrote one of my readers. "I was in Bali last year… I went to the Sari night club."

Another reader empathized in particular with my account of having been bullied in junior high school, as his children have experienced the same thing.

"If someone hates you, except for very rare circumstances, you will never be able to make them change their mind," he wrote.

"But making them change their mind is not up to you. What is up to you is to make them respect and/or fear you. The elements of respect and fear are very adept at countering the feelings of hate. In the end, they can create a more stable situation."

How interesting, I thought to myself, that what is true for relationships between people can so often be applied to relationships between states.

My own definition of hatred was significantly expanded last week because of a controversial and extremely powerful movie I saw called *The Believer*.

Written and directed by Henry Bean, a Conservative Jew from Philadelphia, the film won a Grand Jury Prize at last year's Sundance Film Festival, but was only recently able to find a distributor due to its explosive content.

It is loosely based on the true story of Daniel Burrows, a member of the American Nazi Party and the Ku Klux Klan in the 1960s who committed suicide when the *New York Times* revealed his true identity.

Though he was a notorious neo-Nazi, he was also a Jew – and a former yeshiva student to boot.

As I sat in the dark theatre trying to absorb the huge mass of contradictions that strangle the life of Danny Balint, the film's protagonist, a mass of questions fluttered through my mind.

For one, how is it possible to live a life where everything you stand for goes against who you are? And of all possible times, do we really need a film about a Jewish neo-Nazi right now?

The film opens with a wrenching, intensely uncomfortable scene in a subway train. A young man wearing a kippah is hunched over a textbook. Balint spots him and deftly crowds into his space, standing above him and trying to squarely crush the Talmudic scholar's toes underneath his hefty black boot.

The would-be victim does not utter a word – the camera focuses on this ridiculous dance of toes for awhile until they both exit the train, with Balint quick to follow the young student. He knocks him down on the ground, savagely punching him in the head, all the while screaming, "Hit me! Hit me!"

Balint desperately wants a Jew to have the opportunity to strike back at a skinhead – even if it's him. Later, he berates a group of Holocaust survivors for not having fought back against their captors.

He defends his ideology and his violent actions through his interpretation of Judaism as a religion that spawns victimhood and helplessness. It is good for the Jews to be hated, he declares to a room full of fellow fascists.

"The worse the Jews are hated, the stronger they become," Balint proclaims.

"Auschwitz created Israel."

At the end of the movie, I left with far more questions than answers, which I assume means the film – and its important message – had achieved its purpose.

Perhaps if we understood hatred's inextricable ties to self-loathing, we would be better able to understand it.

Barbara Balfour can be reached at bbalfour@ucalgary.ca.

A starting point for pro-Israel campus advocacy

Every week for the past few months, I have picked up my campus paper to see what anti-Israel views have made the opinions page. In September, a "report" on the Concordia University riots blamed the police for restraining the Palestinian protesters. Last week, a young woman asked readers how, after watching brutal images of victimized Palestinians on Arab media, she could not feel justified to "spit, attack, throw pennies and swear at an Israeli prime minister responsible for such devastation."

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

As I read these weekly diatribes, I feel sick to my stomach. I find it amazing that ignorance can be so prevalent, especially at a university, supposedly a place of higher learning.

It is incredibly frightening to consider that the media are seen by many as the source of ultimate truth. We have become captivated by images on screens, and rarely do we take the time to consider the validity of what we see.

We struggle to reconcile ourselves to, or at the very least disregard, the biased messages we receive from the other side. We cling to the facts we know, believing we are part of a minority that grasps the reality of the situation. What scares me is that those who advocate against us feel just as strongly as we do. They see a logic in their views that, while oblivious and irrational to us, is wholly irrefutable to them.

It has become habitual for both sides to engage the other in a recycling of ideologies, facts and assertions that in the end only leaves each side assured of its own position. Seeing the process unfold in the campus press each week is cause for insanity. There is a sort of stupidity inherent in the whole process.

Is there a point to discussion when the possibility for open-minded resolution doesn't exist? When you are so secure in your own "facts," how can any question receive more than a dogmatic response?

That was the paradox I found myself trapped in as I prepared for a recent weekend trip to Collingwood, Ont., where I was to work on our campus' Israel advocacy campaign. Despite my deep-rooted feelings for Israel and my desire to defend it in any public forum, I couldn't help but feel restricted by the futility of the cycle. You can only speak to those who are willing to listen, and so few are.

But my perspective on the whole issue evolved that weekend. I had always seen Israel advocacy as a battle to be won, but I now realize I had my eye on the wrong opponent. It's one thing to battle anti-Israel advocates on campus who have nothing but the same rhetoric to spew. Yes, we're trying to counter these people, but they are also the ones who will never even try to see things from our point of view.

We can throw out slogans and print our own thought-provoking propaganda, and it may very well cause some people to give the issue a second thought. And yes, any such accomplishment is significant, but there is something greater we must aspire to.

Avraham Infeld, the founder of Melitz, a Zionist education organization, articulated this in the most beautiful terms. He said we are so engaged in trying to convince others to like Israel that we neglect to foster a love for Israel.

On campus, there are many battles to be fought, and there's no way to fight them all. But for the first time, someone has given me a place to start. Our first obligation must be to Jewish students. How can we hope to affect those with no connection without reaching the very people whose seeds are rooted but are missing the nutrients needed for growth?

I spent 10 years in a Zionist day school and am a passionate spokesperson for Israel, but until that weekend, I couldn't explain the link between my Judaism and my passion for Israel.

We act on an impulse that we don't quite understand, but we must articulate that link.

Before we have any hope of being true advocates on campus, we must reach Jewish students, those who are in most need of an answer. We must understand *why* we love Israel.

The Kirshner File

As war in Iraq looms, U.S. reins in Israel

The countdown to a U.S. invasion of Iraq, with regime change as its primary objective, has begun. The United States is moving troops and equipment to the Middle East. Military exercises have taken place. The House of Representatives and the Senate have given President George W. Bush the green light to take action, if necessary, against Saddam Hussein. Washington is pressing the United Nations Security Council to pass a blunt resolution threatening force if Iraq does not fully co-operate with UN arms inspectors seeking to destroy its conventional and non-conventional weapons of mass destruction. Bush administration officials warn that the United States may act unilaterally.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

But perhaps the surest sign that the region is teetering on the edge of war was Israel's uncharacteristic restraint in the aftermath of the latest suicide bombing, the 79th since the eruption of the second Palestinian uprising.

On Oct. 21, two Islamic Jihad suicide bombers near Hadera drove a sports utility vehicle alongside a bus and detonated an explosion, killing themselves and 14 Israelis. In deference to Washington's concerns that a major reprisal might complicate U.S. efforts to finish off Saddam, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon did not order an immediate retaliation, and one of his advisors, Dore Gold, said that Israel will "certainly take into account America's regional considerations."

After the last Islamic Jihad operation on June 5, which killed 17 Israeli bus riders, Israel struck back within hours. The Israeli army, yet again, besieged the compound of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat. Israel also re-occupied major towns in the Palestinian autonomous area, thereby rolling back territorial gains the Palestinians had made in the West Bank since the start of the now-defunct Oslo peace process.

Sharon's decision to exercise restraint after Oct. 21 was in keeping with Israel's current policy of refraining from actions that might inflame the Arab world as the United States readies itself for a historic military campaign in Iraq. The toppling of Saddam's totalitarian government, the sooner the better, is clearly in Israel's long-term national interest, as Israeli Interior Minister Eli Yishai remarked last week. Iraq, which fired scores of Scud missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia in the 1991 Gulf War, in an unsuccessful bid to break up the international coalition arrayed against Baghdad, is a menace not only to Israel but to its Arab neighbours as well. Israel, therefore, understands the necessity of keeping its military impulses in check, for now at least.

Israel, certainly, has accounts to settle with undying enemies such as Islamic Jihad and Hamas, both of which vehemently oppose its very existence. Since the outbreak of the intifadah, close to 300 Israelis have fallen victim to suicide bombings, a terrible toll for a country Israel's size. But Sharon, his hawkish views notwithstanding, realizes that it would be foolhardy and counter-productive to lash out at this incredibly sensitive moment, when the United States is manoeuvring Iraq into its cross hairs.

Cognizant that Israel should lay relatively low for the time being, Sharon has indefinitely postponed a planned invasion of the Gaza Strip, which is rife with Islamic Jihad and Hamas cells. But he has not put a stop to minor incursions into Gaza.

Since last spring, when Israeli armour stormed into the West Bank in Operation Defensive Shield and Operation Determined Path, there has been talk in Israel of uprooting the terrorist infrastructure in Gaza. In early October, in a prelude to such an invasion, Israel struck the town of Khan Yunis, leaving 17 Palestinians, many of them civilians, dead.

The United States, having previously turned a blind eye to Israel's practice of raiding the West Bank and Gaza, was "deeply troubled" by the Khan Yunis incident. Yet Washington's reaction was anything but surprising. Last year, in an attempt to mobilize Arab and Muslim support for its intended invasion of Afghanistan, the Bush administration adopted a two-pronged strategy. It called on Israel to curtail its raids into the Palestinian autonomous areas and stepped up efforts to end the intifadah through diplomatic means.

With the United States poised to invade Iraq unless Saddam disarms to its complete satisfaction, this pattern has become apparent again.

In recent weeks, Washington has expressed misgivings about the growing number of Palestinian civilian casualties caused by Israeli fire. Since June, the Israeli army has mistakenly killed almost 50 Palestinian civilians, about half of them children, in the West Bank and Gaza. Amnesty International has accused Israel of reckless shooting and shelling of Palestinian neighbourhoods. B'Tselem, the Israeli human rights group, claims that 15 Palestinians have been fatally shot in the past four months by soldiers enforcing curfews.

In tandem with this criticism, the United States has scolded Israel for violating a promise to relieve economic and social distress among Palestinians. Due to American pressure, Israel agreed to transfer tens of millions of dollars in tax revenues to the Palestinian Authority. Israel froze these funds, collected from Palestinian workers, out of fear that they would finance the intifadah.

Washington has also urged Israel to withdraw from Palestinian towns in the West Bank, just as it forced Israel on Sept. 29 to end its 10-day siege of Arafat's headquarters. Though empathizing with Israel's resort to closures and blockades to combat terrorism, the United States believes that Israel should ease its restrictions. Complying with Washington's wishes, Israel, on Oct. 18, moved out of the centre of Jenin, a hotbed of Palestinian militancy. But on Oct. 25, Israel swept back into Jenin, in an operation designed to arrest wanted men and capture munitions.

On another front, Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, bowing to American requests for calm and burnishing his sagging fortunes in the Labor party ahead of a Nov. 19 leadership primary, has begun dismantling illegal outposts in the West Bank.

Ariel Sharon

Consisting of caravans, tents and containers, these encampments were erected by Jewish zealots after 1996. Ironically, some were established during Sharon's brief tenure as foreign minister under the premiership of Benjamin Netanyahu. Sharon, it will be recalled, incited settlers to seize hillsides to fortify Israel's claim to the West Bank. Of 30 such unauthorized settlements Ben-Eliezer has vowed to remove, 21 have been taken down so far. More than 70 remain in place, clearly tolerated by Sharon.

Another arena where the United States seeks tranquility is Lebanon. With Iraq in mind, Washington has defused a row turning on Lebanon's unilateral diversion of the Wazzani River. A tributary of the Hasbani River, the Wazzani flows into the Jordan River, which, in turn, spills into the Sea of Galilee, Israel's biggest body of fresh water.

About a month ago, Sharon warned Beirut not to divert the Wazzani, saying that a diversion would be grounds for war. Defiantly, Lebanon ignored the warning and began pumping the river. Israel gritted its teeth, having been restrained by the United States.

The dispute, which revolves around the permissible quantity of water that Lebanon is legally entitled to, could spiral out of control if Israel bombs Lebanese facilities and if Hezbollah, its arch foe, gets involved.

In the hope of winning Arab acquiescence for an invasion of Iraq, the United States has presented a plan, yet another one, to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict. Last week, William Burns, the U.S. undersecretary of state, was in the Middle East promoting Bush's "road map" for a peace agreement.

The "road map" imposes obligations on both sides. The Palestinians would submit to a truce and reform the Palestinian Authority. Israel would pull back to pre-intifadah positions and freeze construction in settlements. The Palestinians would be granted provisional statehood with temporary borders, and final status negotiations would be completed in 2005.

How this scheme squares with comments made by David Satterfield, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary for Mideast affairs, is difficult to ascertain. Recently, Satterfield disclosed that the Arab-Israeli dispute will not be Washington's "top priority" after a war in Iraq. The post-Saddam era, he noted, would be used to foster stability and democracy in Iraq and the Arab world.

All these concerns notwithstanding, the most pressing issue facing the United States in the runup to a war is what Israel will do if attacked by Iraq. In a White House meeting with Sharon earlier this month, their seventh in less than two years, Bush said he fully expects Israel to answer an unprovoked Iraqi strike. But in essence, the United States wants Israel to sit out a war, as it did in 1991.

Two weeks ago, in a *New York Times* interview, Sharon said that Israel will "show sensitivity" to U.S. needs. But in a caveat, he declared, "If our citizens are attacked seriously, by a weapon of mass destruction, and suffer casualties, then Israel will respond."

And so Sharon has thrown down the gauntlet.

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Holocaust exhibit captures survivors' lives

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The recently installed gallery of Holocaust survivor portraits along a 75-foot corridor at the UJA Federation Holocaust Centre of Toronto is one-of-a-kind.

Titled We Who Survived..., the exhibit, which opened in September, tells the stories of 69 of the centre's survivors/speakers with large hand-crafted photographs, archival photographs and memorabilia. Uniquely mounted biographies behind the photographs tell the details of the survivors' lives before, during and after the war.

Survivor Elly Gotz, the project's installation designer, recognized the challenge of a small exhibition area. His sliding wall design, with a complicated series of rails that move the photographs into position revealing the biographical boards, is creative and makes effective use of the space.

Visual artist, sculptor and painter David Abecassis, the exhibit's installation artist, said as viewers interact physically with the work and expose the biographical information, they educate themselves about the Holocaust.

"The work is designed to address ignorance and apathy about the reality of the Jewish Holocaust," he said. "I felt it was important that young people who visit the Holocaust Centre see actual documents and photographs from the time."

Abecassis' brother, graphic designer Nick Abecassis, designed and produced the layout of the exhibit's storyboards.

To add another unique element to the exhibit, photographer and documentary filmmaker Leib Kopman, who spent a day with each survivor, produced large black-and-white photographs that depict the personal interests of each individual rather than the usual headshots.

"The creative aspect of this project was life defining for me," Kopman said. "I wanted to communicate just how amazing and dynamic the survivors are. It was a spiritual endeavour being connected and sharing life's cherished moments with these survivors."

The exhibit, which uses the selenium and Giclee processes for archival quality photographs and high resolution digital images, was curated by Carla Shapiro.

Survivor Judy Cohen, who thought of the idea, chaired the 18-month project.

After its official opening last month, several participating survivors expressed appreciation that "we mounted the exhibit while they were still alive," Cohen said.

"They told me that they could share it with their children, grandchildren and the community and they enjoyed the tribute," she said.

Five of the original survivors have died since the project began.

"When I became aware that five speakers had died, I realized that if we wanted to create a permanent tribute, we would have to do it now," Cohen said, adding that the exhibit emphasizes survival and renewal.

Survivors Elly Gotz, the installation designer of the recently opened exhibit, We Who Survived..., and Judy Cohen, the exhibit's initiator and chair, in the corridor at the exhibit.

More than 25,000 schoolchildren visit the Holocaust Centre each year. They view a half-hour video of the Holocaust and meet for an hour with a survivor. Some survivors volunteer to visit schools to tell students their stories.

"These [testimonies] have made their audiences more aware of the terrible consequences of hate," Cohen said.

Howard Driman, the centre's chair, said the exhibit "is of tremendous educational value. I think it could be seen as a response to Holocaust denial. In this exhibition, you see hope and vitality – the survivors have gone on to be creative people – artists, writers, sculptors, business people, educators and many other wonderful people – the backbone of the Holocaust Centre."

The Holocaust Education and Memorial Centre of Toronto is located on the fourth floor of the Lipa Green Building at 4600 Bathurst St. We Who Survived... is a permanent exhibit unrelated to Holocaust Education Week. For more information, call 416-635-2883.

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IsraelNOW

The Israel Now consortium is made up of more than 100 community organizations united in solidarity with Israel, under the auspices of UJA Federation and The Consulate General of Israel.

TVO director says educational TV way of the future

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

In an Isaac Asimov science fiction story, a computer provides individualized lessons to schoolchildren in the comfort of their home.

Ellen Cole, TVOntario's director of communications, says that while only the human touch of a teacher can impart a love of learning, educational online and on-air programming is "the way of the future."

Ellen Cole

In its mandate to act as an adjunct to the province's formal education and training system, the broadcaster has integrated current technologies into its education wing – the e-learning centre (TVO.Org) – and now provides several online programs for high school kids, university and college students or anyone interested in learning, Cole said.

Cole, who is also national chair of community relations at Canadian Jewish Congress, is very excited about the new education wing introduced by TVOntario last spring.

There are currently four different e-learning programs available. One option, TVO.org/eureka, allows students to access live teachers five nights a week. The Eureka program also provides practice tests for provincial literacy, math and science exams.

"Around the time of provincial competency tests, use of the site bumps up practically 300 per cent," Cole said.

Other programs work in tandem with university and college classes and are required viewing for various credit courses.

"We are now in the degree and diploma granting business," which means that TVO will be well positioned to help address the double cohort crunch expected next year, Cole said.

Courses will be offered online so that students can take them in their homes if there isn't room in the classroom.

"They can download classes at their leisure," she said.

Another e-running product, Job Matters (careermatters.tvo.org/job matters), is a Web site that examines about 350 different job opportunities.

It helps anybody – high schoolers, university students, or anyone returning to the workforce – plot an educational path to the career of their choice, Cole said. High school credits and post-secondary classes for different careers are presented, as well as available apprenticeship and training programs.

The fourth product is a life-long learning site that provides access to programs to learn job skills in the nursing, automotive construction, restaurant and hospitality sectors.

Cole, who speaks four languages, studied at Forest Hill Collegiate, the University of Toronto and the University of London, before beginning her career in the communications industry at the the Royal Shakespeare Company, where she became head of publications.

After eight years working with actors such as Ben Kingsley, Allan Rickman and Judy Dench, Cole said she moved back to Canada to pursue an appointment at Centre Stage.

"I was their manager of theatre communications when they amalgamated with Toronto Free Theatre to become Canadian Stage."

From there, Cole moved on to the Stratford Festival in Ontario, where she was director of communications for six years.

"I am really a very lucky girl," Cole said, as she described her background, adding that her work at the Canadian Stratford Festival was under John Neville when he took them from a $4-million deficit to a $3-million surplus in less than two years.

While negotiating her way through the public relations difficulties that resulted from the production of *The Merchant Of Venice* at Stratford, Cole became involved with Canadian Jewish Congress and began volunteering.

The two worlds complement each other she said, adding, "It's simply a matter of giving 150 per cent of my time – whether dealing with anti-hate eduction, reaching out to other communities or repositioning a multi-million-dollar not-for-profit charitable organization."

legacy of life

Dora Wilensky Salsberg 1911 – 1959

a presentation of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto

She was smart, sophisticated and elegant and he was caring, passionate and dashing. Together they made the perfect couple, drawing others close with their warmth and vitality.

"I never asked my brother-in-law what struck him about **Dora,**" says her secretary and sister-in-law **Rene Salsberg** of labour unionist, Yiddishist, politician and journalist **J.B. Salsberg.** "It was obvious. She was a beautiful, dignified woman with brains and a terrific sense of humour. She became a mentor to many women because she had integrity, was passionate about her work, and was articulate and knowledgeable."

Dora Wilensky Salsberg was born in Russia around 1911. Shortly thereafter, the family settled in Toronto's east end, where Dora's father worked at a cap factory and her mother stayed home to run the household. They had little money, but Dora and her three sisters were showered with love and grew up happy and fulfilled.

The girls were also extremely ambitious, with one becoming a doctor and three carving out successful careers as social workers. Given her passion for people, Dora took the social work route. Her devotion to those in need went on to earn her much praise.

"There was something about Aunt Dora that made me feel she was very interested in what I had to say," says niece **Sharyn Salsberg Ezrin.** "She always put me at ease. I enjoyed spending time with her very much."

Dora's training and dedication to her profession produced many advances in her field. According to Rene, Dora was instrumental in urging the University of Toronto, her alma mater, to launch a post-graduate course in social work "so future social workers would not be just do-gooders." She was among the first to hire a psychiatric social worker and one of the first to introduce play therapy as part of patient treatment.

Dora and J.B. Salsberg at Camp Naivelt, July 1943.

"When a client once threw an inkpot at her, Dora asked herself how she had failed her client rather than get angry at being abused," says Rene.

But where Dora truly shined was as executive director of Jewish Family and Child Services (JF&CS), a position she held for more than 15 years.

"Dora was constantly on top of all the advances being made in social service agencies throughout Europe and the United States and yearned to introduce these leading-edge programs and services to Toronto's Jewish community," recalls **Jerome D. Diamond,** who succeeded Dora at JF&CS.

Among those innovations was working with entire families during times of crisis rather than just with the mother and one or two of the children. Jerome describes it as the beginning of family therapy, with Dora encouraging fathers to take active roles during treatment. Dora was also keen on improving the training of social agency employees and Jerome committed himself to this project once he took over her post.

All this hard work earned Dora a starring role among the Jewish women of her day. **Rose Wolfe,** who did her social work field placement and later her case work at JF&CS during Dora's reign, says Dora was one of few women at the time to hold such a senior position and consequently was a great influence on many people.

"As a young student I was in great awe of her," says Rose. "My most vivid recollection is that of her sailing down the corridors of the agency with that wonderful poise, that sense of purpose and always that half smile. Her staff was completely devoted to her and she, in turn, returned that loyalty. This respect and admiration were reflected in the Board and the community at large. Everyone adored her."

Yet even with all the prestige that came with being a role model, Dora's first love was still her beloved J.B. When she died of cancer in 1959, J.B. was devastated, as were both the Jewish and non-Jewish communities. To honour Dora's memory, J.B. established a memorial fund in her name that has allowed JF&CS to offer scholarships for graduate students in Jewish communal services, host volunteer appreciation events, and fund other vital services. Dora would have been proud.

If you have a suggestion for future Legacy of Life profiles, please call Perri at the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto 416.631.5728.

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto
UJA Federation

Author to discuss 'Jewish' films at book fair

By STACEY STEIN
Special to The CJN

He's written a book about 55 films with Jewish content, but Bill Stern insists he's not a movie critic.

"I'm not a film critic, I just love films," says Stern, whose passion for film and theatre inspired him to write *You Don't Have to be Jewish: A Film Buff's Commentary on Selected Jewish Content Films*, from Lugus Publishing.

Stern will discuss the book at 3:30 on Sunday, Nov. 3 at the Leah Posluns Theatre as part of the 26th Annual Jewish Book Fair. He will be joined by Morley Torgov, author of the novel *The Outside Chance of Maximilian Glick* and folk singer Jerry Gray, as well as Gerald Pratley, who worked as a film critic for the CBC. The program is being sponsored by *The Canadian Jewish News*.

After chatting about his book, Stern will show a brief clip from the movie *The Outside Chance of Maximilian Glick* and a clip from the film *The Travellers*, a documentary about the folk band of the same name. Gray is the band's lead vocalist. Torgov and Gray will discuss the films, which are both profiled in Stern's book.

Stern's book surveys a wide range of films, including both well-known and obscure titles. The book is divided into five sections, and 11 films are featured in each category.

The first section deals with Canadian Jewish content films, such as the movie *Spadina*. The second category focuses on Yiddish films and the third discusses Israeli films. The fourth section is about Jewish content films, such as *The Life of Emile Zola* and the fifth section deals with Holocaust-related films such as *The Wannsee Conference*, which is based on minutes from the infamous 1942 meeting in which the final solution was conceived by 15 high-ranking Nazi party officials.

Stern said the 55 films he discusses in his book were chosen because "they're excellent.

"Some of them you never hear about and they deserve to be seen," he said.

All the films profiled in the book are available at the Jewish media centre, on the second floor of the Lipa Green building.

Trained as a social worker, Stern developed a love for theatre and film as a child, when he used to accompany his father on outings to the Standard Theatre, a now-defunct Yiddish theatre in Toronto.

"A lot of people read books, but more people go to see films," he said. "Films are like love. We love them, we hate them."

The book is the culmination of two years of research and writing. Stern hopes it will do more than just expose readers to some wonderful Jewish films.

"I hope the book will be a resource for Jewish cultural understanding and that it will expand readers' familiarity with Jewish values," he said.

For more information on this or other book fair programs, call 416-636-1880, ex. 368.

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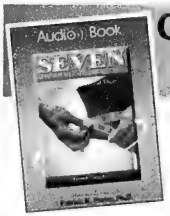

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Greater Toronto Area

'This is a time of crisis:' Dershowitz

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Students facing anti-Semitism and the delegitimation of Israel by faculty members should confront their professors, advises Alan Dershowitz.

The Harvard Law School professor and prolific author will be in Toronto Nov. 4 to speak at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's campaign closing event at the Sheraton Centre Hotel. He told *The CJN* in a phone interview it's shocking how cowardly some professors are.

Alan Dershowitz

"They want to be loved by their students... Some are ignoramuses with PhDs. Most are cowards who will sign [a petition] and run but won't debate."

Through his writing and speaking, Dershowitz feels he is making a dent in the ignorance and bigotry that he said is behind the anti-Semitism and anti-Israel sentiment that has proliferated to such an extent he believes it is the most significant issue facing the Jewish community today.

Students who consult him about their concerns over anti-Semitism on campus, tell him they now feel empowered, he said.

Dershowitz' academic colleagues are generally positive about his efforts, he said, "but they wish I would shut up. I'm not going to.

"The new big lie on campus is that all criticism of Israel is seen as anti-Semitic," he said, adding that he himself is critical of Israel in many respects.

"What *is* anti-Semitism," he clarified, "is singling out Israel and saying only Israel is worthy of divestiture."

Dershowitz said he is prepared to criticize Israel – he's against the settlements, for one thing – but only to criticize it in comparison with other countries.

"Israel has the best human rights record in the world, far better than France did in Algeria. Israel's record on human rights, although imperfect, is something people should praise not condemn."

In the 1990s, nobody could have anticipated the kind of anti-Semitism that is manifesting itself on university campuses in Europe, the United States and Canada today, said Dershowitz.

"This is a time of real crisis for peace-[loving] and democracy-loving people," he said.

His latest book, *Why Terrorism Works*, paints a potentially dire picture of the future based on current limitations in terrorism prevention. In the five months since he finished writing it, Dershowitz says the situation has worsened.

"I think terrorism is coming to Canada and the United States. I think events in Bali demonstrate that." He is pushing for an independent commission to look into the causes of the Sept. 11 bombings and also to get Israel to present its case more effectively, he said.

"The prospects are daunting. This is a great challenge."

In association with UJA 22nd Annual Holocaust Education Week

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Musical direction by Sabatino Vacca

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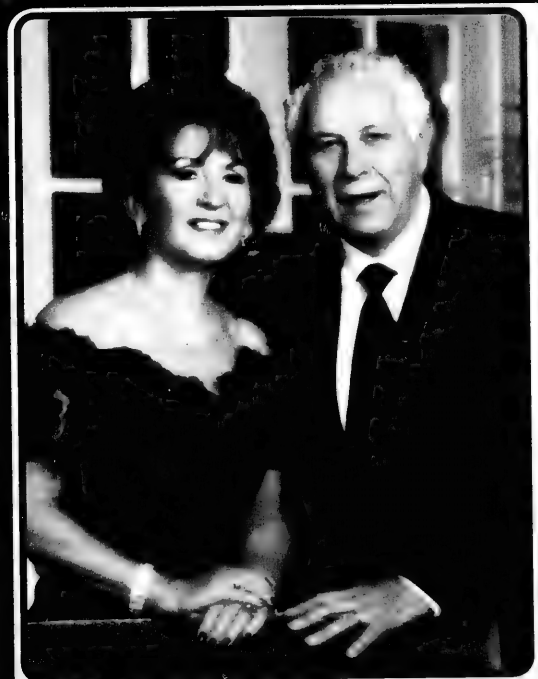

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Jewish Life

Sifting through the ashes of Auschwitz

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

The adjoining death camps of Auschwitz and Birkenau together comprise "the best known site of suffering and murder in human history," says Teresa Swiebocka, an official of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum.

Auschwitz-Birkenau played a pivotal role in the Final Solution, Nazi Germany's attempt to systematically destroy the entire Jewish population of Europe. From 1.1 to 1.5 million people, mostly Jews, were killed there during the Holocaust era.

No records were kept of the prisoners that arrived daily by train under severely inhumane conditions of transport; most were selected immediately for destruction in the gas chambers. About one in four were judged sufficiently healthy to be sold as slave labourers in factories, mines and other local projects. Obsessively bureaucratic, the Germans kept detailed records of these prisoners and sometimes augmented their records with photographs.

The Germans were almost as obsessive about making lists as they would later become about destroying them. As the war neared its end; they attempted to cover up their crimes by dismantling the gas chambers and burning most of their incriminating paperwork.

But some records survived, often because prisoners managed to steal them and hide them in latrines, bury them or smuggle them out. Even now, documents are still occasionally being unearthed.

The Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum was established in 1947 to preserve the site of this unprecedented atrocity; it was designated a UNESCO world heritage site in 1979.

"The museum attempts to go beyond presenting these people as anonymous victims or camp numbers or statistics," Swiebocka said during a talk at the recent Jewish genealogical conference in Toronto.

"We are trying to find their names and show their faces. They were not just people behind barbed wires, wearing striped uniforms or crowded into the gas chambers. We want to show them not just as dead bodies in fields strewn with ashes, but as people in all of their fullness."

The museum has recovered various records related to camp operations and the constant incoming flow of doomed people. For instance, 48 volumes of the Auschwitz Death Books are still in existence, containing death certificates for 69,000 prisoners between late 1941 and late 1943. They were found in KGB archives in 1991 and given to the museum. Many certificates were falsified to make it seem as if prisoners died in the town of natural causes. Even a camp execution witnessed by thousands was recorded as a heart attack.

Before June 1942, camp officials scrupulously registered 400,000 prisoners and gave them camp numbers; a few of these number books have survived. About 7,000 prisoner questionnaires, which camp officials used to allocate workers efficiently, have also surfaced.

For purposes of identification, the Nazis took "mug shot"-type photographs of many prisoners from three angles. The museum holds 39,000 such photo sets, mostly of Polish political prisoners but including 1,600 Jewish subjects. Beginning in 1943, the Nazis switched to a system of tattooing numbers on prisoners' left arms.

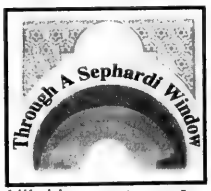
The Germans made lists of prisoners who were too weak to work any more and were dispatched to the gas chambers. On paper, they sometimes referred to the lethal Zyklon B gas pellets as "material for special treatment" or "material for the resettlement of Jews."

Numerous other types of records were among the relatively small quantity that somehow escaped Nazi destruction. Information about former Auschwitz prisoners, if available, may be obtained either in person or by e-mail correspondence. Send e-mails to muzeum@auschwitz.org.pl and put "Archivum" at the top of your request.

On organ donation

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

One of the macabre byproducts of the terrorism of the intifadah and its suicide bombers is its link to organ donations. We have been seeing that the families of the victims of these tragic attacks have been willing to offer the organs of their loved ones to save the lives of individuals urgently awaiting replacements for their own failing organs. No case has caused as much interest as that of Jonathan "Yoni" Jesner.



Yoni, a Jewish Scottish youth studying at a yeshiva in Israel was 19 years old when he was killed by a bomber last month. His family opted to donate his organs in order to save lives. The irony that one of Yoni's vital organs went to save the life of a seven-year-old girl, a Palestinian from east Jerusalem, escaped no one. In fact, this was front-page news virtually around the globe.

Yoni's family cited his commitment to Judaism and his medical aspirations in justifying their decision. "Race, religion, culture and creed," they said, "are not important."

The issue of organ donation has been both a sensitive one and an evolving one. Sensitive, because at first Judaism would have nothing to do with it. It was forbidden, period. Evolving, because the very science of organ transplanting itself was being perfected. As it moved from the realm of theory and experimentation into that of routine life saving, the religious view of it also changed and became more accepting. Halachah – Jewish law – it must be stressed, does not change. Its application, on the other hand, may vary according to the circumstances.

The first and most serious issue our religion had in not sanctioning the donation of organs was the question of harvesting them. Organs are only valuable if they are alive. The problem, then, arises when an organ is taken from an individual – for example, a heart. A heart that must be alive and beating. Is removing this heart from the individual not the same as killing the individual?

The answer to this depends on determination of the time of death of the donor. Is it when the brain and body cease to communicate – when the person is brain dead – or is it when the entire body ceases to function – the individual is no longer breathing? Or is it when the breathing continues, but only artificially with the aid of a respirator? How to determine the exact time of death is a question beyond the scope of this piece.

Essentially there are three other issues that must be considered with regard to organ transplants: One is making use of, or deriving benefit from, a dead person. Another is the duty to bury a loved one – all of a loved one – raising the question of whether organ donation leads to noncompliance with this duty on the part of the family. The final concern is the possible desecration of the human body, an item of holiness.

While all these issues are being hotly debated, individual desperate cases present themselves daily. Sensitivity is being exercised in balancing God's law, the acute need of the recipient whose own time may be running out and the dignity of the donor whose time has come.

Jewish Life

Heading down Judaism's spiritual path

***A Book of Life: Embracing Judaism as a Spiritual Practice*, by Rabbi Michael Strassfeld, Schocken Books, 2002, $42.00**

Books
Bernard Baskin

About 20 years ago, many Jews – mostly young ones – were strongly influenced by *The Jewish Catalogue*, an innovative, hands-on guide to Jewish ritual and practice. It became a surprising best-seller. One of its authors was Rabbi Michael Strassfeld, now the leader of the Reconstructionist Society for the Advancement of Judaism in New York City.

A Book of Life is an outstanding and singular achievement. The author is convinced that Judaism is meant to be a spiritual discipline and this comprehensive guide to all aspects of Judaism is enhanced with apt selections from Talmud and midrash, as well as with insights from Chassidic and mystical sources.

The author expounds on the three fundamental pillars upon which the world rests: Torah, prayer and deeds or loving kindness.

In stressing the supremacy of right-eous deeds he writes, "A life of Torah or of prayer is not enough. A life of caring is necessary. Torah can help infuse difficult decisions with wisdom. Prayer can help remind us that we are on a spiritual path and can give us strength to engage in the struggle for justice. However, neither can change the world. Only deeds of loving kindness can help bring about God's vision for the world."

A detailed survey of Shabbat and the holidays, and how they are variously observed by traditional and liberal Jews, is followed by this reference to ecology. "Rabbi Tanhum ben Hiyya taught: The sending of rain is an event greater than the giving of the Torah. The Torah was a joy for Israel only, but rain gives joy to the entire world, including animals and birds – as it is said: "You take care of the earth and irrigate it."

For Rabbi Tanhum, the simple and "natural" phenomenon of rain that constantly recurs is greater than the unique event of the giving of the Torah. Why? Because it affects the whole world, especially birds and animals, who presumably don't benefit from Torah, and also perhaps because rain sustains and gives life to the world.

At the book's end, the author discusses his own approach to God, the validity of scripture and the need for honesty and truth in religious belief. He refers to a daring Talmudic account in which Jeremiah and Daniel deny to God his attributes of "awesomeness" and "might" as established by Moses in the Torah.

Rabbi Strassfeld insists that "In the face of their experience, Jeremiah and Daniel could not resort to the pious descriptions about God. God most of all "wants" truth from us. God wants what we believe, not what we think we should believe.

"Unlike my ancestors who believed with a perfect faith, *ani ma'amin be-emunah shevurah*, 'I believe with a broken faith' – yet with a belief that somewhere the Heart of the world is waiting for all the holy sparks to find their way home."

The book's conversational tone and openness, its quest for spiritual meaning and its life-wise concerns make it a valuable work.

Children's Jewish books, part 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Unless you are fortunate to have a wonderful Judaica store in your neighbourhood or a local book fair to celebrate Jewish Book Month, you might never know about all the new and wonderful books being written for young Jewish readers. But if you have access to the Internet, you can track new releases, purchase books online and occasionally sample entire books. Today, a look at Jewish books for children on the Internet.

There are many sites that not only tell you about new releases for kids, but also include mini-reviews. The Internet School Library Media Center has compiled an extensive bibliography reflecting trade books that have been reviewed in "professional reviewing sources." This list is supplemented by online comments that readers have contributed to the Amazon Web site **[http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/muljewhol.htm].**

Since some review sites are produced by publishers or online bookstores, it is in their best interests to rave about their products. That's why I like Wendy Betts' site. Betts is the editor of *Notes from the Windowsill*, an online book review journal. She emphasizes that her reviews are independent and that she receives no payment from any bookstore or publisher. Here's what Betts says about Janice Cohn's *The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate*. "An overly didactic but powerful true story about how the people of Billings, Montana, fought hate crimes by putting pictures of menorahs in their windows." You can read dozens more of Betts' mini-reviews of Jewish books at her site **[http://deeptht.armory.com/~web/jbooks.html].**

I also highly recommend the Jewish Education Center of Cleveland's Web site. The centre has created what it calls "Holiday Helpers." These are very helpful book (and other media) lists that parents and teachers can consult for gift and classroom suggestions. There are lists for the High Holy Days, Sukkot/Simchat Torah and a timely one for Chanukah. In addition, Linda Silver, the centre's librarian, has provided several annotated bibliographies of Jewish children's classics along with annual lists of Notable Children's Books from the Association of Jewish Libraries **[http://www.jecc.org/edres/medtech/abv.htm]**.

Speaking of the Association of Jewish Libraries, do you know a writer who should be honoured for his or her books for Jewish children? The Sydney Taylor Book Award is presented annually "to encourage the publication of outstanding books of positive Jewish content for children." Previous winners include Isaac Bashevis Singer, Marilyn Hirsh and Barbara Cohen. You can find details about this award and the related Sydney Taylor Manuscript Award at the Jewish Libraries' Web site **[http://www.jewishlibraries.org/ajlweb/awardsscholarships_files/taylor_book.htm].**

It's also not too late to sign up for the Fourth Annual Jewish Book Writers' Conference, being held at Manhattan's 92nd Street Y on Nov. 24. You'll find details at the New England Society of Book Writers and Illustrators Web site **[http://nescbwi.org/article.php?sid=110].**

Anyone who understands the importance of reading may want to take a page from the book of the Jewish Coalition for Literacy **[http://www.jclread.org/bookdrives.htm].** The San Francisco based coalition has organized book drives for Bay Area public elementary schools that don't have libraries or the money to buy new books. During last year's Chanukah Book Drive, the JCL collected almost 1,000 brand new books and over $4,000 in cash donations.

Another book drive is being planned for Chanukah 2002.

Happy reading.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

CORRECTION

In last week's Rabbinic Reflections column, "There is danger in mocking warnings" (Oct. 24), all references to Abraham after the first one should have read Lot. We regret the error.

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Jewish Toronto

Innovative women's philanthropy launched

Earlier this week an important new UJA Federation program was launched with the intention of making a positive difference in the lives of women.

Chaired by Rhonda Richer and Karen Basian, the Jewish Women's Venture Philanthropy Fund (JWVPF), a Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative, is made up of 30 committed, passionate women who, together, will learn about issues close to their hearts before pooling their dollars to help.

Karen Basian (left) and Rhonda Richer

"I'm very excited about this initiative being launched," says Basian. "I honestly think we're pioneering a whole new area of philanthropy. The 'venture' aspect of philanthropy is particularly exciting because it focuses on systemic issues which will have long-term benefits for women, young and old."

"I'm exhilarated by the level of interest and concern for women's issues demonstrated by the women I spoke to at the launch," says Richer.

Each JWVPF partner is investing a pre-determined amount in the initiative. Requests for proposals to be funded will be going out to community organizations. The partners will then evaluate submissions based on agreed upon criteria.

While UJA Federation's annual campaign raises funds to support and sustain core services, JWVPF raises "risk capital" to be invested in innovative and cutting-edge initiatives which partners hope will generate a significant "social return on investment."

Calculated risk-taking, an entrepreneurial spirit, and community responsibility are at the heart of this philanthropic endeavour.

At the launch celebration, the women were addressed by Leslie Gales, Vice Chair of the UJA Federation Board of Directors.

She'arim Hebrew Day School grows at BJCC

September 2002 marked the one-year anniversary of a very "moving" experience.

It was one year ago that the Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School, Canada's only day school for Jewish children with learning disabilities – moved into its new home at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre with the generous financial assistance of the Hennich Family.

She'arim students are all smiles at their new home in the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre.

Before the move, She'arim, which was established 23 years ago, was housed in Toronto's Beth Emeth Synagogue. Transition to the new headquarters was facilitated by UJA Federation's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative.

Since its move from cramped quarters at Beth Emeth, She'arim's enrollment has risen dramatically, from 70 to 92 students.

"It's been just a total win-win situation for everybody involved – especially the children," says She'arim President Murray Shore. "The school was probably one of the best-kept secrets in Toronto, but now, our exposure is much better and the result has been a 25% enrollment increase already. The children and the teachers are very happy at the BJCC," adds Shore.

"In the other location, we were literally bursting at the seams," says Gerald Goldberg, She'arim's Past President. "The school had one office for the principal and vice-principal, and that office also served as a meeting place, photocopy room and library. The move to the BJCC has worked out very well for everyone involved."

Faigie Davids, She'arim's Executive Director for the past nine years agrees.

"It's been such an upbeat experience moving to the new school," she says. "It's bright, spacious, and overall, just a better environment for the kids to learn in. You look out the windows here, you actually see something. The kids all feel like they're more connected here, that they're part of the bigger picture."

visit www.jewishtoronto.net

Something old, someone new

The Ontario Jewish Archives of UJA Federation is going through some serious changes these days.

This month, Ellen Scheinberg, a 38-year-old Montreal native was named as its new Director, replacing Dr. Steve Speisman, who is now the Executive Director of Toronto Hebrew Memorial Park.

The fact that Scheinberg chose this particular line of work as a career is really no surprise.

"History is our family business," says Scheinberg. "My father is a history professor at Concordia University and my brother is a high school history teacher in Hull, Quebec. Ever since I was young, I've had an interest in history."

Ellen Scheinberg

Graduating with a BA and an MA in history from Queen's University in Kingston, Scheinberg began a stint with Ottawa's National Archives where she worked as the archivist for 10 years.

She was also involved in several prominent committees and has published several articles on archives and women's history.

Two years ago, Scheinberg moved to Toronto with her husband, Jack and son, Cory, now three-years-old.

Her first Toronto position was with the Ontario government, but when she found out about the opportunity at the Ontario Jewish Archives on the Internet, she knew she had found her match.

"I thought it would be a good position for me based on my background and experience," she says.

"My primary purpose here is to try to create a new environment that is modern and updated. I think with some renovation of the facilities and digitization of our collections, the Archives can be much more user-friendly and accessible to people who may not really know about us. Ultimately by putting some of our rich holdings on-line, I'm hoping that people will be able to view our records from the comfort of their own homes."

An avid runner, Scheinberg says she has little time to take to the streets of Toronto these days because her spare time is limited. For good reason. Aside from putting in long hours at the Archives, Scheinberg has spent the past five years working on her Ph.D. in – what else – history, focusing on women and immigration.

"The Archives hold a wealth of information and treasures about the history of Ontario's Jewish community," she says. "I'm excited about the possibilities here. Part of what appealed to me about this job was the opportunity to meet new people and get involved in Toronto's Jewish community."

For more information about the UJA Federation Ontario Jewish Archives, call 416.635.2883 ext. 170.

JEWISH TORONTO IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Canadian funds help save Israeli lives

Canadian Jewry is playing a vital role in assisting Israeli hospitals through contributions raised during UJA/CJA Israel Emergency Campaigns.

Israel's health system is hard-pressed to respond to the need for more equipment and supplies.

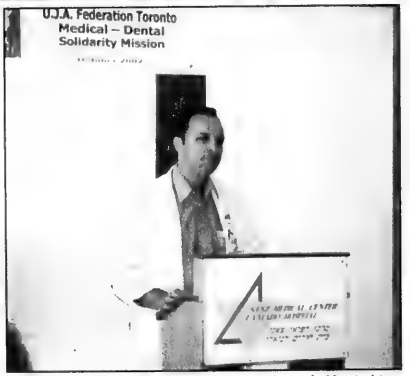
Nearly $6.5 million has been contributed by donors throughout Canada.

"The Jewish communities of Canada have responded..."

"The Jewish communities of Canada have responded speedily and generously to Israel's urgent medical needs," says Howard Weisband, Director-General of the UIA Federations Canada office in Israel. "Raising funds for the purchase of state-of-the-art equipment saves and sustains the lives of thousands of innocent terror victims."

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto has already allocated more than $1.7 million to Israeli hospitals for the purchase of emergency and trauma equipment from Israel Emergency Campaign 2003. The funds are being dispersed to several hospitals in Eilat, Haifa, Jerusalem, Netanya, Tel Aviv, Tiberias, Hadera, Afula, and Safed, and to organizations dealing with trauma.

Israel's medical needs are prioritized by the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), Toronto's overseas partner, after consultation with Israel's Ministry of Health, to ensure that allocations correspond to national health policies.



Dr. Claude Picard, Director of Pediatrics at Laniado Hospital in Netanya, addresses members of UJA Federation's recent Medical-Dental mission.

"Israel's medical needs are prioritized..."

CHAT Richmond Hill thriving three years later

What began in a cloud of controversy three years ago has become a first-class addition to Toronto's Jewish education system.

After an initial enrollment of 180, the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) campus in Richmond Hill today boasts close to 500 students from grades 9 to 11.

In June 2000, CHAT opened its Richmond Hill campus for grade 9 students in order to ease overcrowding on the Wilmington campus. Many parents were very concerned.

"Now, looking back at the establishment of the Richmond Hill campus, I want to pay particular credit to those students (now in grade 11) who pioneered the new school," says Paul Shaviv, who is now CHAT's Director of Education. "I also want to credit their parents who, after their initial surprise, shock, and even anger, quickly pulled together as partners in this exciting move for CHAT and for the entire Jewish community of Toronto."

Today those same students look back at the experience with pride. They were, in retrospect, pioneers.

"I think there was a natural and understandable concern on behalf of the parents, especially with the lateness of the announcement three years ago," says Gary Levine, Principal, Richmond Hill campus.

"There is a real sense of involvement and cooperation by the parents of our students. They've been very happy with the progression here. After all, in the end, we were still CHAT. Maybe we were technically a new school three years ago, but we still had the CHAT template in place and we knew what was expected of us."

CHAT students surf the web

Shaviv says that he is working hard with CHAT leadership and UJA Federation's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT) to ensure that by September, 2005 CHAT Richmond Hill will move to a new state-of-the-art building on JTT's Vaughan Campus.

Lunching with Lions

UJA Federation Women's Campaign & Advocacy held its annual Lion of Judah Luncheon, "*Hats and High Tea*" last week at the Four Seasons Hotel. The event was a huge success with more than 200 women in attendance, making it the largest lunch yet. A "Lion of Judah" designation is awarded to women who make a minimum annual contribution of $5,000 to the UJA Federation campaign. There are currently 456 Toronto Lions, including 76 new members since April. The event, chaired by Sarena Koschitzky and Ray Rubin was highlighted by Captain Sharon Feingold, a spokesperson for the Israel Defence Forces, as keynote speaker. Captain Feingold, who is responsibile for formulating media and public relations policies, has appeared on CNN, Fox News, and CBC. The event also featured a medley from the hit musical "*Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh.*" Women's Campaign & Advocacy recently surpassed the $6 million mark in funds raised for UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003. To this point, the Campaign is closing in on $58 million.

Pictured below (left): Women's Campaign & Advocacy Chair Hinda Silber with Captain Sharon Feingold. Pictured below (right): Event Chairs Ray Rubin (left) and Sarena Koschitzky.

Kelman family pay tribute to their mother

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

As a tribute to the memory of Rebbitzen Mirl Fish Kelman, her children recently published a book, *Mother's Memoir and Family Recollections*, in which they describe her influence on the Toronto Jewish community and tell how she overcame adversity and raised a family of communal leaders.

The life of the matriarch of the Kelman family reflects the history of the first generation of Canadians who fled from persecution and struggled to establish a loving family and a traditional home. It is also the story of a woman who reached out to help friends and strangers in need.

Rabbi Joseph Kelman, rabbi emeritus of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue and one of the children of Rabbi Zvi Yehuda and Mirl Fish Kelman, told *The CJN* the book was published because "we thought that it was important for our children and grandchildren and for generations to come to know what an outstanding woman and role model our mother was."

The book, written as a joint venture by Mirl Kelman's four surviving children, records their memories of their mother and their life in Toronto. These recollections, Rabbi Kelman said, paint a picture of their mother as "a *baalat chesed* with exceedingly fine *midos* – a woman who was an extraordinarily selfless person and engaged constantly in the pursuit of noble goals."

The book is based in part on Mirl Kelman's diary, which was written in Yiddish and translated into English. It records the first 18 years of her life in Galicia, her family's travels and her life in Vienna up to her marriage.

In the preface, her children write that they regret that she recorded only her early years. "But even from her short Yiddish memoir, we get a clear picture of her eloquence and abilities."

Mirl Fish was born in 1900 in Linsk, Galicia, when it was part of the Austrian Empire. After the outbreak of the war in 1914, the country was overrun by the Russians. The Fish family fled the Cossacks and finally settled in Vienna.

Rabbi Zvi Yehuda Kelman was born in 1896 in Wishnovchik, Galicia. His family was also forced to join the exodus and also settled in Vienna. In 1918, Mirl married Rabbi Zvi Kelman in Vienna in an arranged marriage.

In 1928, he came to Canada, where he taught and served as rabbi for several congregations. In 1930, he brought his wife and five children – Abraham, Wolfe, Celia (Silber), Joseph and Tobie (Silverman) – to Toronto. A sixth child, Claire (Goldstein), was born in Toronto.

Mirl Fish Kelman

In their home at 408 Markham St., the rebbitzen became an activist, an inspiration and a model for others.

When her husband died in 1936, she continued, despite hardship, to open her home and heart to young students, soldiers and the needy.

She became a surrogate mother for many boys who had been interned in Canada and were studying at a yeshiva across the street.

In addition to the story of the rebbitzen's life, the 93-page book also contains the Kelman family tree, letters and other documents, photographs, and tributes by community leaders and journalists.

Also included is an account of the Kelman family reunion in 1999, which took place in Stamford, Conn., and was attended by 185 descendants.

Despite the hardships that their mother faced, her children recall in the book that she played a vital role in the development of the Toronto Jewish community. She organized and served as the first president of Mizrachi Women in the city and was a founder of the Shomer Shabbos Organization. She regularly organized oneg Shabbat gatherings.

"Our home became an institution," Rabbi Kelman said.

Mirl Kelman was determined to bring the Shabbat message to the community. She spearheaded a campaign that included marches to Kensington Market and distributed leaflets and published advertisements in the local Jewish paper explaining the sanctity and central role of Shabbat.

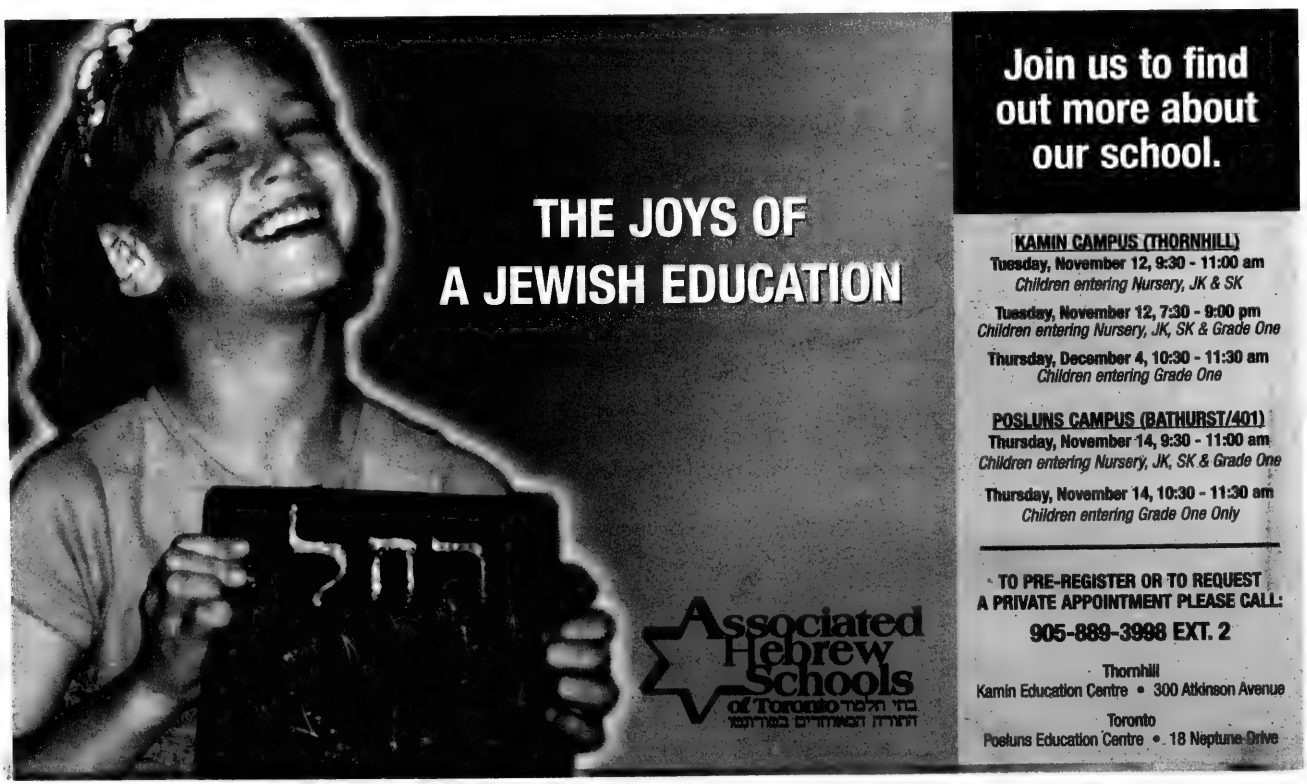
One result of her campaign was that some bakeries and grocery stores began to close on Saturday.

Mirl Kelman died in 1983 at the age of 83.

All of her children are involved in Jewish communal service, and this is continuing into the next generation.

"I believe that her 20 grandchildren, 79 great-grandchildren and 22 great-great-grandchildren are influenced by my mother," Rabbi Kelman said. "Her extraordinary traits left their mark on all of us, for which we are indeed most grateful."

The book, published with the help of the *Reporter*, the weekly Jewish newspaper of Binghamton, N.Y., is available at the Jewish Book Fair and at Judaica stores.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Children entering Grade One
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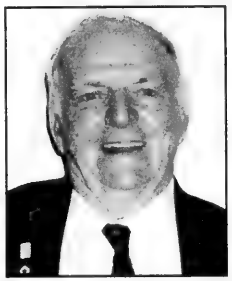
Lest We Forget...

Join the community in remembering these historical events during Holocaust Education Week

"ECHOES OF KRISTALLNACHT IN OUR TIME"

Saturday, November 9 – 8:00 pm
Beth Tikvah Synagogue
3080 Bayview Ave., Toronto



PROFESSOR IRWIN COTLER, Member of Parliament for Mount Royal in Montreal, will join the community in commemorating the 64th anniversary of Kristallnacht, when on November 9-10, 1938 a massive, coordinated attack was carried out against Jews throughout Germany and Austria. Professor Cotler, an internationally-renowned human rights advocate, will review developments leading up to this horrific event and compare them with what he observes around the world today.

Admission Free.
For more information, call 416-221-3433.

This program is generously co-sponsored by The Sarah Pasht Holocaust Memorial Fund

"168 JUMP INTO HELL"

Monday, November 11 – 8:00 pm
Beth Sholom Synagogue
1445 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto

A Remembrance Day event featuring **ED CARTER-EDWARDS,** who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. He, along with 167 of his colleagues, was shot down over France, captured by the Gestapo and sent to Buchenwald concentration camp. The atrocities he witnessed there were so unimaginable that few believed his account. Following the screening of *The Lucky Ones: Allied Airmen and Buchenwald,* Carter-Edwards will recount this remarkable and little-known story.

Admission Free.
For more information, call 416-783-6103.

This program is generously co-sponsored by Allan and Hinda Silber in honour of Godel and Cilka Silber

UJA FEDERATION

Holocaust Education Week, October 31-November 11, is coordinated by The Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation. For a brochure of all Holocaust Education Week events, call 416-631-5689 or visit www.jewishtoronto.net

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Nov. 4, is deadline for Nov. 14 issue and Monday, Nov. 11 is deadline for Nov. 21. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 461-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, Oct. 31

SHOAH AND THE VATICAN

Shoah and the Vatican: A Very Uncomfortable Past, 8 p.m., Adath Israel Synagogue. **David Kertzer**, responds to Vatican and Catholic criticisms of his book, *The Popes Against the Jews: The Vatican's Role in the Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism*.

Saturday, Nov. 2

SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

Saturday Night Live at Shaarei Tefillah, 4 motza'ei Shabbat programs start with When One and One Don't Equal Two: Siamese Twins and Jewish Law, with **Rabbi Moshe Yeres** of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, 7:30 p.m.

HOLOCAUST VIDEO

The Morris Winchevsky School and UJPO, as part of Holocaust Education Week, screens the documentary *Sobibor, Oct. 14, 1943* at 8 p.m. at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. 416-789-5502.

Sunday, Nov. 3

U.S. ARMY CHAPLAINCY

A Rabbi's View of Chaplaincy in the U.S. Armed Forces, with **Rabbi Howard Morrison**, presented by Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Brotherhood, 9:15 a.m. Breakfast served. 416-633-5500.

HABONIM BREAKFAST

Congregation Habonim features musicologist/composer **Bill Wescott** who demonstrates and speaks about Piano Music: Ragtime-Blues and Barrel music. 10 a.m., Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. Breakfast.

JEWELRY, GIFTWARE SALE

Temple Kol Ami pre-Chanukah jewelry and giftware sale, of one-of-a-kind items made by Israeli artisans **Dov** and **Vered Levi**, 1-4 p.m. at 8777 Dufferin St., 905-731-4316.

BROTHERHOOD BRUNCH

At the Beth Emeth Bais Yehudah Brotherhood brunch guest speaker **Dr. Harold Grossman** of York Central Hospital discusses advances in medical treatment of depression, following services at 9:15 a.m. 416-633-3838.

A HEALING SERVICE

Toronto Jewish Healing Project Healing Service led by **Rabbi Martin Berman** of Shaar Shalom and composer/arranger **Ken Rabow**, 3-4 p.m., Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. **Etta** 416-944-3359.

HASIDIC COMMENTATORS

Kehillat Shaarei Torah series continues with **Rabbi Charles Grysman** speaking about Chassidic Commentators on the Torah, 8 p.m., 2640 Bayview Ave. 416-229-2600

BAGELS AND BOOKS

At the Jewish Book Fair's Bagels and Jewish Folklore, sponsored by Morris Winchevsky School, UJPO and Oraynu, author **Bennett Muraskin** discusses his book *Humanist Readings in Jewish Folklore*. 10 a.m., Leah Posluns Theatre. 416-789-5502.

EICHMAN IN MY HANDS

Shaar Shalom Synagogue's Holocaust Education Week program features Israeli intelligence legend **Peter Z. Malkin** speaking about Eichmann in My Hands, 8 p.m. 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill. 905-889-4975.

WIERZBNIK MEMORIAL

Wierzbnik Annual Memorial Program, 7:15 p.m., B'nai Brith Centre, 15 Hove St. Survivors, second and third generations are invited.

Continued on page 23

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Dept. of Kinesiology and Health Sciences, York University

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Bathurst Campus, 1700 Bathurst St.
Bayview Campus, 3080 Bayview Ave.
Richmond Hill Campus, 9711 Bayview Ave.

What's New

Continued from page 22

BOOK DISCUSSION

The Red Tent by **Anita Diamant** is discussed by the Feminist Book Discussion Group. Older Women's Network, 1:45 p.m. at Barbara Frum Library, Bathurst & Lawrence. **Ruth Goldsmith**. 416-782-6414.

Monday, Nov. 4

THE MIDDLE EAST

Adath Israel Synagogue presents a 3-lecture series by **Prof. David Dewitt** of York University titled The Middle East in Global Politics: the Legacy of the Past and the Shadow of the Future. Series starts with Putting the Middle East in Context. 8 p.m.

JEWISH GENEALOGY

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) monthly meeting, part of Holocaust Education Week, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Speaker is **Eleonora Bergman** of Warsaw's Historical Institute. Topic is Reconstructing the Past and Preserving Our Heritage.

HOLOCAUST LOOTED ART

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada (Toronto) and UJA Women's Campaign & Advocacy present Looted Art of the Holocaust with art historian **Irene Szylinger** and lawyer **Bonnie Czegledi**, 8 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. RSVP 416-633-5100.

ANNE FRANK TULIP BULBS

Students of Brown and Deer Park public schools plant 1,200 Anne Frank Tulip Bulbs in Amsterdam Square, 525 Avenue Rd., 11 a.m.

STAGED READING

Medina Theatre Ensemble stages a reading of *Hanna Senesh* as part of Holocaust Education Week. Written by **Aharon Megged,** directed by **Ralph Small**, 8 p.m., Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. **Fran** 416-785-1074 daytime or **Morris** 416-785-0344 evenings.

THE LODZ GHETTO

Toronto Workmen's Circle Holocaust Education Week program features a talk in Yiddish by **Henia Reinhartz** titled Yankele Hershkowitz: The Street Singer of the Lodz Ghetto. Introduction in English by **Irene Kohn**, with songs from the Lodz Ghetto by **Cantor Deborah Staiman**. 7:30 p.m., 471 Lawrence Ave. W. 416-787-2081.

Tuesday, Nov. 5

HELPING CHILDREN

Lecture titled Helping Children Meet the Challenges and Opportunities of Life with **Rabbi Noach Orlowek**, 8 p.m. at the Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. RSVP 416-785-1107, ext. 294.

ENHANCING A MARRIAGE

Sara Chana Radcliffe talks about Enhancing a Marriage, 7:30 p.m. at Pride of Israel Synagogue. 59 Lissom Cres. 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

A MECHAYEH!

A Nachas, a Mechayeh! B'nai Brith Dr. W. Filderman Lodge presents A Collection of Jewish Gems: Yiddish, Chassidic, Israeli, Broadway and classical songs with **Vladimir Radian**, 6 p.m., 15 Hove St. 416-631-0634.

Thursday, Nov. 7

A MORAL RECKONING

Historian **Daniel Goldhagen** discusses his new book *A Moral Reckoning: The Role of the Catholic Church in the Holocaust and Its Unfulfilled Duty of Repair,* 7:30 p.m., at OISE. 252 Bloor St. W. 416-924-6211.

CHANUKAH GIFT SHOW

At Temple Sinai 6:30-10 p.m. Something for everyone on your list.

And What Else Is New

THE MAGIC PAN

Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School's Sara and Sam Hennick Education Centre presents The *Magic Pan*, based on the book *Latkes, Latkes Good to Eat* by **Naomi Howland**, Nov. 5 and 6, 10:30 a.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Recommended for children in Grades 1-6. For tickets, Jewish Book Fair, 416-636-1880, ext. 368.

JOURNEY OF THE SOUL

At Beth Tzedec Congregation with **Rabbi Howard Addison**, Nov. 8-9. Friday dinner Nov. 8, The Origins of the Soul. Kabbalat Shabbat Service, 4:50 p.m. Pre-paid reservations required by Tuesday, Nov. 5. 416-781-3511.

Saturday, Nov. 9. Services at 8:45 a.m. Pulpit lecture: The Sacred Mission of the Soul. After pulpit interactive program, The Unbroken Communion of Souls. Pearl Gertrude Brody Annual Memorial Lecture.

SELF-EMPLOYMENT

JVS Toronto Self-Employment Assistance Program seminar on Market Research for Small Businesses, Monday, Nov. 11, 1:30-3:30 p.m., at 1280 Finch Ave. W., Suite 607. Call **Nicole Jacobs** at 416-661-3010, ext. 317 to reserve.

HOLLYWOOD MORALITY

Hollywood Morality: What is Hollywood's Influence and How Does It Affect Our Life, a 3-part series with **Rabbi Ahron Hoch**, Saturdays, Nov. 9, 16, 23, 11 a.m., at the Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. Call 416-785-1107.

ONE SPECIAL WOMAN

Chana: Mother of Samuel, an in-depth examination of one special woman, with **Chana Weisberg**, dean of JRCC Institute of Torah Study, Rockford Rd. Mondays at 7:45 p.m. and Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m. Register. 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

MOM & TOTS PROGRAM

At the Village Shul Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-11 a.m. Call **Elise Gasner** at 416-785-6638 for more information.

BETH EMETH BAIS YEHUDA

A 2-part program in conjunction with Holocaust Education Week.

Tuesday, Nov. 5, **Joseph Berger** of the *New York Times* speaks on his memoir, *Displaced Persons: Growing Up American After the Holocaust*, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 6, a screening of *The Pawnbroker* starring **Rod Steiger,** 8 p.m.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. Information/registration. **Shawna Sidney,** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Living With Teens, 6-session group for parents of teenagers dealing with normal teen issues, starts Thursday, Nov. 7, 7:30-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

Single Farthers' Group, 6 sessions for single fathers wanting to strengthen their relationships with their children, starting Thursday, Nov. 7, 7:30-9 p.m., the Promenade Mall, Suite 7:30-9 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tzedec Congregation Senior Haverim Program features **Robert Shechter**, lecturer, and his travel/writer wife **Myriam Shechter** presenting a slide lecture, A Journey through Jewish Spain, Monday, Nov. 4 at 1:30 p.m 416-781-3511.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Get ready for the Chanukah dance party Nov. 30, 7 p.m. Nov. 7, bingo; Nov. 14, supper out; Nov. 21, video movie; Nov. 28, free evening for stories and discussions. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Trip to Atlantic City, Nov. 3-6; Casino Rama, Nov. 6, 20; Saturday dances Nov. 9, 23; Sunday dances Nov. 3, 17; Pre-New Year's party, Dec. 29.416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Young at Heart Seniors holiday at glatt kosher Saxony Hotel. 2 weeks and up, free breakfast, cocktail party and entertainment every day. Partners available. Efficiency or with meals. **Helen** 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Personal eye care consultant: a licensed optician checks and adjusts eyeglasses, Tuesday, Nov. 5, noon to 1:15 p.m. Facilitator **Nadine Walman.**

Arthritis Management Clinic, individual assessments by a registered physical therapist by appointment, Thursday, Nov. 7. Facilitator **Bev Tobe**. Call ext. 131

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking people meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Nov. 5, movie; Nov. 12, sing-a-long; Nov. 19, lecture, Nov. 26, bingo. **Anna** ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211.

Special program for children, aged 9 and up, and adults, Sunday, Nov. 3, 10:30 a.m. **Karen Levine** reads and shows slides for a presentation of *Hana's Suitcase.*

The Toronto Jewish Film Society screens *Angry Harvest* (Germany, 1984), the story of a Polish farmer who harbours a Jewish woman during World War II. At the Jackman Hall, Art Gallery of Ontario, Sunday, Nov. 3. at 5:15 p.m. (members only) and 7:45 p.m.

The Holocaust: A Cultural Perspective, Saturday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. Information/tickets 416-924-6211.

Hebrew (beginner) starts Tuesday, Nov. 5, 8-9:30 p.m. Instructor **Nirit Gruber.**

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

The Bookmark Project of artist-designed bookmarks, held in conjunction with the 26th annual Jewish Book Fair, Nov. 3-10, Leah Posluns Theatre lobby. Opening reception Sunday, Nov. 3, 2-4 p.m., Koffler Gallery lobby.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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Adath Israel Congregation

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Professor David Dewitt
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The Middle East in Global Politics: the Legacy of the Past and the Shadow of the Future
Monday Evenings at 8:00 p.m.
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November 11 - *The Middle East after The Cold War*
November 18 - *Israel's Options: Who gets What, When and How?*

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SINGLES EVENTS

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For rates or to place an ad call 416-391-1836

The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries on events to the event's organizers

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On Campus

University students learn to advocate for Israel

By SHIRA ZELIGER
Special to The CJN

Participating in the Jewish Campus Services' Israel advocacy retreat were, from left, York University students Michael Ferman, Jesse Paikin and Rina Goldberg; Carleton University student Eric Lowenstein; and York student Hilary Edelstein.

A recent Israel advocacy weekend gave students across Ontario the tools they need to continue promoting Israel on campus as the intifadah rages on, its organizers say.

"The goal of the retreat was to educate students about Israel and provide them with the tools and skills necessary to represent Israel on campus while being able to effectively and proactively combat anti-Israel sentiment and anti-Semitism that exists," said Jordana Ballas, Israel affairs co-ordinator at Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS), which sponsored the second annual Israel advocacy retreat in Niagara Falls, Ont., earlier this month.

Since the event, which was attended by one hundred and twenty-five students, the JSF: the Centre for Jewish Campus Life at York University has set up a table with petitions and information about Israeli soldiers missing in action.

Ballas organized the weekend retreat as a joint initiative between JCS, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS), the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and the Jewish Agency.

Leadership training sessions led by Neil Lazarus, a Middle East and Israel advocacy expert, and Mike Schneider of Rhino International, a training and development company that works with university students, "taught us about establishing relationships with other on-campus organizations that have no particular stance on Israel and finding our similarities with them in order to reach out and educate them about Israel, especially the cultural side, through joint programming," said Bram Bregman, a 21-year-old engineering student at the University of Toronto.

Lazarus provided students with debating tips, such as relaying details and personal accounts instead of facts, numbers and clichés. He also taught the students to use "pre-packaged advocacy" – prepared messages – and to speak the language of the people they are trying to reach by relating the topic of Israel to their own experiences.

Lazarus suggested using a key phrase, what he called the "emergency exit," when confronted by people with an anti-Israel bias: "Yes, but you need to remember that's not the issue, the issue is…"

Daniel Held, JSF's Israel affairs co-ordinator, spoke following a group of young Israelis.

"By understanding what our peers in Israel are going through each day, we are better equipped to advocate on their behalf," Held said. "On campus we are fighting for the right of Israeli students to study and live in peace, to attend classes without the threat of violence and terror, and to enjoy a free life just as we do here in Canada."

The students participated in brainstorming sessions to come up with ways to advocate for Israel successfully and to bring the skills they were learning back to their schools.

On Sunday morning, the students participated in a closing session with Lazarus that explored the connections of Israel advocacy with Jewish identity and continuity and the importance of Israel in tying Jews with their past, present and future.

"After participating in this retreat, I have come to appreciate the common bond that Jewish students from all over the world share," said Eric Lowenstein, a 21-year-old Australian exchange student at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Karen Beniluz, a first-year student at York University, expressed a similar sentiment. "I would not have been nearly as prepared as I am now to stand up for Israel if I hadn't attended the advocacy retreat," she said.

Jared Sarfin, a third-year student at York University's Schulich School of Business, said the "content of what we learned at the retreat was far better than any media source, including those from Israel, could provide."

"Not only were the skills obtained a critical aspect of the retreat, but the connections formed with Jews on our campus as well as various campuses across the province provide us with a strong network of support," said Jesse Paikin, a 19-year-old psychology student at York.

JCS, which is planning a follow-up, week-long "Israel Fest" in late January to be organized by Jewish students and held simultaneously at university campuses across Ontario, hopes to continue holding such retreats "for years to come," Ballas said.

"This retreat is only a kick-off to a variety of other programs to be held in Israel, Ottawa and across university campuses over the course of the year that will build on the theme of Israel advocacy, awareness and education," she said.

Shira Zeliger, who participated in the retreat, is a first-year student at York University in Toronto and serves on JSF's Israel Affairs Committee.

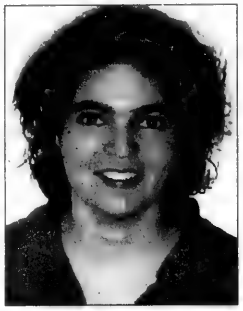
On Campus

Two Canadians among this year's Wexner fellows

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

When Yael Ben-Dat and Tali Hyman complete their graduate studies in Jewish Education, they will be alumnae not only of their respective institutions but of the fifteenth "class" of graduate fellows of the Wexner Foundation.

The Ohio-based foundation funds Jewish men and women pursuing full-time graduate studies leading to careers in professional Jewish leadership. Tuition and a living stipend are granted for two years and may be renewed for up to two additional years.



Tali Hyman

Although this year's fellows are spread out from New York to L.A., they meet twice yearly, along with all current Wexner fellows (their own class and the three ahead of them). They also connect online weekly with their own class to share divrei Torah and any Jewish issues that may be on their minds.

"It's lovely," said Ben-Dat. "We have a very nice constant building and growing together. [The Wexner fellows constitute] a pluralistic, very open, stimulating and exciting community."

Ben-Dat, 23, who along with Hyman is one of two Canadians in this year's Wexner class, is working on a Master's degree in general and special education at the Bank Street College of Education in New York. She hopes to pursue a second Master's in Jewish Education and eventually combine the two fields.

An alumna of Associated Hebrew Schools and the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Ben-Dat (daughter of *CJN* editor Mordechai Ben-Dat) said her first exposure to special education within the Jewish community was at Camp Ramah.

"Working in Ramah's Tikvah program gave me insight [and taught me that] all people regardless of disability are capable of developing strong, beautiful Jewish identities... The primary way of doing that is through the Jewish educational system."

After completing a B.Sc. in Psychology with a second major in Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto in 2001, Ben-Dat spent a year teaching Hebrew and Judaic Studies to special needs students at the Solomon Schechter Day School of Westchester.

"Ultimately my goal is to make Jewish education available to more people," she said.

Hyman, who was born in Calgary and raised in Vancouver, was ordained from Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion in Los Angeles earlier this year. She is working on a PhD in Jewish Education at New York University's Steinhardt School of Education.

Although she hasn't ruled out the possibility of congregational work, she is leaning toward teaching Jewish Education at a seminary or other institution. "We need lots of interesting, passionate Jewish professionals working from all different angles," she said.

Yael Ben-Dat

Hyman, 28, whose parents are in business together as publishers of government directories, comes from "a very long line of non-rabbis." In fact, until her second year at the University of British Columbia, where she received a BA in Sociology, she thought she was headed for law school.

A conversation with a social work student doing a clinical practicum eventually steered her in a different direction. "Tali," she said. "It's so interesting that you're teaching religious school and leading junior congregation services, and that you're vice-president of Hillel. Have you ever considered rabbinical school?"

"I laughed," recalled Hyman. "It was like someone saying, 'Don't you think you should be a national league football player?' ...[Then] it struck me that she was suggesting I make a profession out of my identity."

The thought was scary, she recalls, but she couldn't get it out of her mind. It "percolated" for months before she decided that it was the path she wanted to pursue.

Hyman's background in education dates back at least to 1995, when her rabbi asked her to become involved in a new pluralistic Jewish high school program in Vancouver (TAG, the acronym for Torah Avodah Gemilut Hasadim), for which she became the founding assistant director.

When she was a student at Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles, a semester course called Introduction to Jewish Education whetted her appetite to continue in that direction.

Before rabbinical school, she didn't know what her options were in the field of Jewish Education. "That is one of the problems in recruitment," she said. "When you think of Jewish professional life, you generally think, 'Rabbi.' There's a lot of prestige bound up in the title. Education doesn't have the [same] institutional history."

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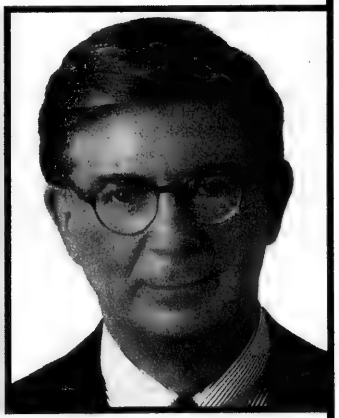

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MINI-SCHOOL CONFERENCE: Florence Melton (left), founder of the Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, is seen with Loretta Tanenbaum, director of Toronto's Florence Melton Adult Mini-School (FMAMS) at the annual international FMAMS Directors Conference, held this year in Chicago. The conference's theme was Educational Leadership: Fulfilling our Mission. Representatives from North America, Israel, Australia and the United Kingdom shared information about the FMAMS, a project of the Hebrew University that today operates in 63 different sites with over 5,500 students worldwide. This is an international network of community-based schools that give adults the opportunity to acquire Jewish literacy in an open, trans-denominational and intellectually stimulating learning environment. The school is in its second year in Toronto, with a total enrolment of about 60 students. For information on the school, call Tanenbaum at 416-789-7400.

'Business as usual' at CMDA

Continued from page 3

lances in the disputed territories of Gaza, eastern Jerusalem and the West Bank "does not violate any Canadian policy, because such a policy doesn't exist," said Bitton.

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Coast to Coast

Na'amat Israel president to fight for women's rights

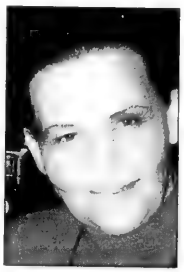
By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Talia Livny, the newly elected president of Na'amat Israel, plans to spend much of her five-year term attempting to eliminate "dangerous gaps" in Israeli society.

The 59-year old lawyer, who has worked as deputy adviser to the Minister of Defence, legal adviser of Histadrut, Israel's national labour union, and as a shlichah for the Zionist Federation in New York, says that in the last 20 years, these gaps have become widespread.

"There are gaps between the religious and non-religious, between varying political groups, and between the rich and the poor," she says.

In Toronto recently for Na'amat Canada's 13th triennial convention, her first official visit to the Diaspora, Livny says that a gap of which she is seriously concerned is the 40 per cent wage difference between men and women.


Tal Livny

"We have to find ways to make changes that will help women find not only jobs, but careers, and to have the same promotional opportunities as men."

It is also important for the women's labour force to "raise its voice," she says.

Livny, a divorced mother of two children, says she plans to organize workplace sessions to encourage women to become active in trade unions.

"I believe that when women get together they can make an impact," she says. "I want them to get involved in collective agreements and be part of the decision-making process."

She is very distressed about the cutbacks the government is planning in 2003.

"As things are now, single mothers with children under age seven get a type of insured income," she says. "The government intends to cut that income, however, by about one-third. That should put another one million women and children under the poverty line."

The government also plans to change the amount of time workers need to be on the job in order to collect unemployment insurance, from eight months to one full year, she says.

"Women are heavily affected by that because many of them work in schools or day-care centres that are only open eight months of the year."

Na'amat is expecting thousands of women to participate in a rally to protest these cutbacks on Oct. 29 in Tel Aviv, she says.

"There are other ways to cut expenses that would not affect the delicate structure of Israeli society, and I have confidence we can put a stop to these changes; they are absurd."

Taking on the presidency of Na'amat is something to which she intends to devote "250 per cent of her time," she says.

"We have 5,000 people, mainly women, who work in day-care centres, technical high schools, and centres for women's rights which offer legal advice related to the workforce or family as well as in rabbinical courts, if necessary.

"The organization has led a big fight in order to guarantee the nomination of rabbis in these courts who support women and are sensitive to our problems. We have seen cases in which battered women are convinced to return home," she says.

"We are trying to shout it out – to make all kinds of protests, that women have options and do not have to return to an abusive home."

She is attending the convention, she says, because "I know Canadian members of Na'amat are very warm and devoted, and sponsor about 25 facilities across the country.

"I feel we are united, and at this time especially, the ties between Israel and the Dispora are more important than ever. Israel can be strengthened by the Diaspora, and the Dispora can be strengthened by a strong and just Israel."

Diaspora Jews must support Israel: CIC leader

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Too many Jews in the Diaspora lack the confidence to stand up for Israel, says Marra Messinger, director of community development at the Canada-Israel Committee.

"The conflict is being fought in Israel as well as in the international community, and it is manifested in the court of public opinion. Israel desperately needs help fighting that battle," she said at a panel at Na'amat Canada's recent 13th triennial convention.

Also on the panel was Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, and moderator Mordechai Ben-Dat, editor of *The Canadian Jewish News*.

It is vital for Jews to advocate on Israel's behalf, said Messinger.

But some people may think it's not "cool" to be associated with the cause, others may not want to make waves and still others may not know how to answer anti-Semitic rhetoric, she said.

"You don't have to be an encyclopedia in order to be an advocate. Do you think Palestinians or Arab supporters know every fact?

"Look at the Palestinian public relations campaign. They repeat their slogans over and

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Na'amat holds convention

Continued from page 28

over and over. We don't have to become propagandists, but we must [learn] to promote our agenda rather than defend it. Our message has to get out, and it does not have to be complicated."

Criticism of Israel is not necessarily anti-Semitic, Ben-Dat said. "We can define Israel's enemies as most of the Arab world and anyone who believes Israel should not exist as a Jewish State.

"Any coverage that assists in that fact is anti-Zionist, but we have to be careful when we point our finger. We cannot just say it is anti-Semitic; it depends on the context."

Ben-Dat said we have the right to question a story if it alleges that Jews control the military and the media or oppress the Palestinians or if it promotes Holocaust denial.

Farber agreed that there is a fine line between a concerned critic of Israel and an Israel hater. "Is a critic prepared to admit that Israel is the only democracy in the area? If not, he is an Israel hater."

We need to acknowledge that anti-Semitism is erupting, Farber said. "We have seen trade unions adopt nasty resolutions about Israel with no talk of the suicide bombers, and we have seen an OISE professor circulating a petition denouncing Israel. That is nothing short of outrageous."

He said he has no problem receiving disturbing anti-Israel or anti-Semitic e-mails because they help him formulate ideas.

"Many people do not know about how venomous attacks on Israel [can be]. It is important to know who our enemies are in order to respond."

In other Na'amat business, Anita Blanshay of Montreal was installed as president, Na'amat Canada, for a three-year term.

Blanshay is the third member of her family to head the organization. Her mother-in-law was the first national president after the organization's separation from the United States, and her sister-in-law held the position 12 years ago.

Her late daughter, Rhodie Blanshay Benaroch, was an active member of the organization before she died suddenly about 1½ years ago, said Blanshay.

"In my term, I would like to see more young women become involved in Na'amat, and take part in leadership seminars to Israel.

"I want them to see firsthand where their fund-raising dollars are going," she said.

Her daughter had helped raise money for a playground at a woman's centre, said Blanshay, and they have now dedicated a room in that centre to her.

Student enrolment up at BGU

The 2002-2003 academic year at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev opened with an overall increase in the number of students enrolled in both undergraduate and graduate programs.

Sixteen thousand students enrolled this year compared to 14,000 last year, with a 45 per cent increase in the number of graduate applications, making admission more competitive.

The significant increase in the number of students interested in BGU only proves "that we have a fantastic product – an excellent academic institution with wonderful students and a dedicated academic and administrative staff," says university president Prof. Avishay Braverman.

Three new academic programs are being launched this year. The department of Middle East studies is opening a new master's program. The faculty of engineering sciences is offering a bachelor's degree in structural engineering, making BGU the first in the county to confer an academic degree in this field. Students will also be able to earn an MA in an interdisciplinary program in Jewish studies under the auspices of the faculty of humanities and social sciences.

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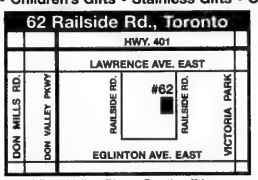

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Chrétien assailed for performance in Beirut

Continued from page 3

Call violence by one name or another, for me it's violence."

The motion passed by CJC said it was "particularly dismayed" by Canada's failure to properly respond to Lahoud.

When CJC passes a motion, it becomes official organization policy and is communicated to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Silverstone said, adding that the communication of this motion was still in process.

PMO spokesperson Thoren Hudyma did not return a call to *The CJN*, but she reportedly has stated that Chrétien was "not aware" of Nasrallah's presence, and that the Canadian government was "not in a position to be vetting invitees or guests of the host government."

Landy said it would have been "inappropriate" for Chrétien to have left the proceedings while Nasrallah sat among the first-row dignitaries.

But Chrétien should have known Nasrallah would be there in the first place, Landy said.

"A little forward-thinking by the government would have avoided the problem."

In an Oct. 19 *National Post* report, Landy said the government should have protested Nasrallah's attendance at the summit in advance.

Landy said such foresight prevented the recent United Nations World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa, from "turning into a Durban," a reference to the anti-Israel tone that pervaded the UN World Conference Against Racism September 2001.

"Advance lobbying by us prevented Israel-bashing" from taking place in Johannesburg, he said.

But past CJC president Moshe Ronen said that what happened in Beirut was the "Durbanization" of the Francophonie summit and Canada must account for its "total ineffectiveness" at the conference.

Prior to the vote on the motion, Ronen said Canada "failed the test" with regard to Middle East policy.

The prime minister's performance was not just another gaffe or blunder, but a "reflection of Canadian policy," executive member Manuel Prutschi said.

Also at issue before the meeting was Chrétien's refusal to condemn the ouster of French-Jewish journalist Gideon Koutz from the summit for having filed a report to Israel. Koutz is a correspondent for one of France's best-known monthly Jewish publications, *L'Arche*.

It was shameful, one executive member said, for Chrétien to say that it was up to France to respond to Koutz's removal, not Canada.

Dorothy Zalcman Howard, CJC's national executive committee chair, also noted that Israel continues to be "systematically excluded" from the Francophonie group of nations.

Other delegates to the Francophonie summit were accompanied by translators since their countries have no true francophone ties, yet "Israel is still not in," Zalcman Howard said. (Israel has one million French-speaking citizens.)

In other Israel-related business, the meeting was told that media mogul Israel (Izzy) Asper will be among several prominent Jewish Canadians overseeing a new "cabinet" to advocate for Israel.

Because Israel advocacy competes with many other community projects for funding, the CIC and United Israel Appeal Federations Canada (UIAFC) will work together on the new advocacy project.

Landy also told the meeting that continued funding of the Quebec regional branch of the Canada-Israel Committee lobby group is currently "being discussed" within the Jewish community. He did not elaborate.

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Jewish leaders blast union call for Israeli boycott

Continued from page 1

"How, in good conscience, can a major Quebec public figure use such absurdly inaccurate and inflammatory language?" the statement read. "It is unworthy of our own standards of fairness and equity in Quebec, and it is deeply unworthy of a major union, which claims to defend the rights and privileges of tens of thousands of Quebecers."

Among those at the press conference were Steven Cummings, FEDERATION CJA president; Thomas Hecht, president of the Canada-Israel Committee, Quebec region; Casper Bloom, acting community relations chair, Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region; and David Bensoussan, a Communauté Sépharade du Québec vice-president.

Hecht called the boycott part of the "collective [international] attempt to delegitimize the Jewish people," but Cummings stated emphatically that the Jewish community is not accusing the CSQ of anti-Semitism.

From Oct. 6 to 18, the CSQ and the coalition organized a tour of Israel and the disputed territories for 10 people who represent Quebec "civil society."

Besides Richard, the tour's participants included François Crépeau, a Université de Montréal international law professor; Elaheh Machouf, of the Fédération des femmes du Québec; Benjamin Desautels, of the Fédération étudiante collégiale du Québec; Paul Lévesque, of Médecins pour une justice sociale; Gervais L'Heureux, president of the Association québécoise des organisations de coopération internationale; and Robert Silverman, a member of the Jewish Alliance Against the Occupation.

The group visited Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Be'er Sheva, Hebron, Jenin, Bethlehem, Gaza and Ramallah, where they met Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, and consulted with Palestinian and Israeli organizations, international rights groups and other NGOs.

In its preliminary report, the delegation denounced the "humiliation and suffering" of the Palestinians due to Israeli "repression." It described harsh restrictions on movement, arbitrary curfews and detentions, rude soldiers and settlers, land confiscation, destruction of homes, lack of basic services such as water, electricity and sewage, collective punishment and blocked or vandalized Red Crescent ambulances.

Though it called for Canada to exert pressure on Israel to respect international law, it did not mention a boycott.

The coalition says its final report, which is to be issued in a month and will also include photos, will be submitted to the House of Commons foreign affairs committee.

CSQ represents 145,000 members, of whom 100,000 work in education and most of the remainder elsewhere in the public sector.

The Jewish leaders denounced the report as "blatantly one-sided" and criticized its authors for "falsely and maliciously portray[ing]... Israel as a rogue state unworthy of its legitimate place amongst the family of nations."

They criticized the delegation for ignoring the daily threat Israelis live under while maintaining an open, democratic society, and argued that the Palestinians' hardship is due to "the tragic corruption and oppression imposed by the Palestinian leadership."

The delegation, they noted, did not meet with any Israeli officials.

Silverman, who attended the press conference as a representative of McGill's CKUT radio station, said the delegation had plans to meet with the president of the Histadrut, Israel's labour federation, but the federation cancelled the meeting the night before.

But attaché de presse Annie Myara said that the Israeli Consulate in Montreal had arranged the meeting with the Histadrut before the trip and that it was the delegation that changed the plans. She said Consul General Shlomo Avital was hoping to meet with Richard this week.

Sandra Winston, the Montreal representative of the Israel Trade Commission, said she doubts a boycott would have any significant effect.

"The people who might be interested are not buying Israeli products anyway," she said.

The total value of Quebec's imports from Israel in 2001 was $186.4 million, mainly from the industrial, high-tech and medical sectors, Winston said.

But Richard's urge for a boycott drew criticism from D'Arcy McGee MNA Lawrence Bergman. "[It's] bigotry, pure and simple. Her call for a boycott could only generate intolerance."

The CSQ, formerly known as the CEQ, has supported the Palestinians for at least 30 years, as has another large federation, the Confederation des syndicats nationaux. Last March, the latter's president Marc Laviolette called Israel "a terrorist state" and compared Ariel Sharon to Slobadan Milosevic and other "gruesome personalities."

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Concordia moratorium eased

MONTREAL – Concordia University's board of governors has eased somewhat the moratorium imposed Sept. 9 following a violent demonstration against former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The board lifted the ban on all information tables in the mezzanine of the Henry F. Hall Building, except for those related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But no information tables are allowed in the building's lobby.

The board, which is the university's highest decision-making body, said it came to the unanimous decision Oct. 21 at a special meeting, acting upon the recommendations of Rector Frederick Lowy.

In another unanimous decision, the board established a review committee to look at possible revisions of the university's Code of Rights and Responsibilities.

"Concordia security continues to examine the tapes of the event to identify those responsible for the violence, and the university is taking action under the existing Code," the board said in a statement.

Pending the committee's report, the disciplinary powers given to Lowy by the board on Sept. 9 will remain in effect. Those powers include taking immediate action against violators of the moratorium. Sanctions can range from a written reprimand to fines of up to $500 to expulsion. Temporary suspension can be extended for a fixed period of time if there is non-compliance.

The board says it is also encouraging ongoing discussions between the administration and student leaders on the Israeli-Palestinian issue, and dialogue between the principal student groups involved in the Middle East debate.

"With today's actions, the board recognized the positive steps that have already been taken to lower the level of tension on campus," the statement said. "Based on these steps towards mutual understanding, the board will evaluate the suitability of progressively easing the conditions of the resolutions passed on Sept. 18 [which detailed what was banned under the moratorium and the sanctions for violation].

"Until that time, the cooling-off provisions set out by the board remain in place."

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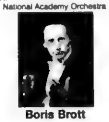

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יום הולדת ל"יונבות"

כותרת קצת שונה, אולי אפילו משונה, אבל היתה חפרטים. בתחילת שנות התשעים, אחרי כעשר שנים בקנדה, גברו מאוד נענועי ליצור שוב תיאטרון לילדים. מאחר ואני מבלה את רוב חיי בבית חולים לילדים, חשבתי שיהיה נחמד לבנות תיאטרון שבו הצוות הרפואי יופיע לפני הילדים בחצובה טיפולית. כך נולד המחזמר "יונבות", שהועלה לראשונה ביולי 1992. שנתיים מאוחר יותר בנה בית החולים עבור "יונבות" תיאטרון מפואר בתרומות של משפחת קימלמן וחבריהם, להציגיה את מארני קימלמן שנהרגה בחוף תל אביב מפצצה של מחבל. מאז חלפו עשר שנים, ובימים אלה חגגנו את ההצגה ה-500 של "יונבות". חשבתי לספר לכם כמה סיפורים קטנים שאולי יצליחו לשתף אתכם בחוויה החזקה הזו.

בן, ילד בן ארבע, היה מאושפז חודשים ארוכים בגלל מחלת כבד קשה. מידי יום חמישי היתה אימו מביאה אותו להצגה. כשהיה חלש מידי, היתה היא מסיעה אותו כשהוא עומד על עמוד האינפוזיה. יום אחד היה בן כל כך מאושר ועידני בהצגה, שעלה והצטרף לצוות לשיר הסיום. כעבור שבוע נפטר בן באמצע ניתוח מסובך להחלפת כבד. בטקס ההשכבה השמיעה אימו מתוך טייפ את השירים העליזים של "יונבות". "זה מה שהוא רוצה לשמוע עכשיו" היא הסבירה.

יום אחד הגיעה להצגה אישה שלא היתה מלווה בילד. היא השתתפה בשירים, בריקודים, ובשאר הפעילויות של "יונבות". בסוף ההצגה היא סיפרה לצוות שהגיעה במיוחד מונקובר, שם היא חיה כיום. ביתה נפטרה בגבת החולים שלנו מסרטן, וכחלק מן הטיפול הנפשי שמקבלת האם, הציע לה המטפל שלה לחוות שוב חמישה מקומות

מה יהיה

מקריאת העיתונים בישראל עולה שהמלחמה בעירק היא עסק גמור וחתום. בימים אלה, אחרי שהנשיא בוש קיבל תמיכה רחבה משני בתי הקונגרס לצאת למלחמה- קשה לראות מה יעצור אותו. נשיא צרפת מיהר להכריז שאין כל הוכחה לקשר בין עיראק ואל קאידה. יש בהכרזה הזאת לבטא את חוסר הרצון הגמור של אירופה לצאת למלחמה מדקדרת, לאחר שלפני שנה נסתמו הפילקטרים של הטנקים הבריטיים אחרי ארבע שעות של תמרונים במדבר.

וברדיו שמעתי ראיון מעניין עם פוליטיקאי פלשתינאי מפתח בָאלאקטה שהודה שמאמצי צה"ל והשב"כ בשכם עולים יפה, ושלושׁ מאות אנשי האמאס וארגון סאלאח א דין הוסלו, דבר שהחליש באופן ניכר את יכולתם לצאת לפיגועים בישראל. אין מה להגיד, לתקופה כזו אריק שרון הוא קרוב לוודאי המנהיג המתאים. האם הוא יוכל גם לעזור למשק הישראלי ששריר במצב קשה? לשם כך צריך קרוב לוודאי כישורים שונים. אבל שישאר בינינו.

למה מכרתי את הבנו שלי

רבות כתבתי על האנטישמיות הגואה באירופה. השבוע שלח לי חברי, ד"ר אלי טסבאום מלוס אנג'לס את מכתבו של צעיר גרמני נערץ, שמוכיח את חומרת האנטישמיות בגרמניה. הינה תמצית מחמסמך המצמרר הזה:

"אינני יהודי ואף אחד במשפחתי לא נהרג במלחמה. עבורי אנטישמיות היתה דבר שאינו עולה על הדראר שלי. אני עובד וגר במינכן, מקום שכל פינה וחיוב קשורים בהיטלר. האנשים מנומסים מאוד ואדיבים, ממש שיא התרבות. זה התחיל בדברים קטנים. אני נוסע לעבודה באוטובוס ורואה ילד של בית ספר תיכון מעביר לחברו את "מיין קאמפף" של היטלר, וחבר אומר לו שוה "קוואל". כעבור חודש, בפגישה עסקית עם ארבעה אנשים צעירים בעלי השכלה גבוהה, מתנהלת שיחה מנומסת ורכה. עד אשר מוזכרים עיסקה עם איש עסקים מניו יורק שעונה לשם רובינשטיין. חנחזים שלהם מתרחבים, טון השיחה עולה, ואחד מהם אומר: "כן, וכל מה שאכפת ליהודים זה כסף".

מפעם לפעם אני שומע גרמנים שאומרים ש"מאז חבל שארית"ב וגרמניה נאלצו להילחם במלחמת העולם, כי תאוצ תאמאיס של שתיהן וזיכה רוסיה", וש- "כן, חנאצים הנזימו, אבל במלחמות קורים דברים נוראים, וחשוחאה מצטיירת בתנומה רבה במדיה האמריקאית שנשלטת על ידי יהודים", וש "רוב הגרמנים חתנגדו לנאצים, ושאף אחד בגרמניה לא ידע על רצח היהודים, ויהיהודים בעצמם אחראיים למה שקרה להם בשואה", ו"אריאל שרון יותר גרוע מהיטלר וארה"ב תומכת בישראל רק משום שהיהודים שולטים בתקשורת האמריקאית".

מה חשתנה בגרמניה בחמישים ושבע חשנים חאחרונות? כלום: אין לגרמניה את חכוח חבצאי שהיה לה לכפות את דיעותיה הנוצעיות, אבל אותן דיעות עדיין קיימות ושום דבר לא חשתנה."

Jordanian prince brings message of peace

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Prince Hassan of Jordan stressed the need for security for Israel and justice for the Palestinians in order to achieve a lasting peace during a visit here earlier this month.

The Cambridge-educated younger brother of the late King Hussein was the inaugural speaker in the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice's new Sol Kanee lecture series.

Hassan began his Oct. 9 lecture at the University of Manitoba's St. Paul College by calling for a moment of silence in tribute to all victims of "senseless" violence in the Middle East over the past half century.

"I am in the business of promoting the noble art of conversation," he said.

He noted that there are many people in different parts of the world who are not as fortunate as Canadians to have control over their own lives.

In discussing the looming American conflict with Iraq, Hassan took hope from U.S. President George W. Bush's statement that war would be a last resort.

In addressing the Israeli-Palestinian issue, he noted that two years ago he was invited to visit Auschwitz.

"People in my part of the world thought I was touched in the head," he recalled, "but I felt it was necessary for me to go. I feel a certain degree of hope that over time Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs will come to internalize each other's suffering. Bridges of trust that were broken can be rebuilt."

Hassan spoke of the need for more dialogue in this post-Sept. 11 world. As an example, he cited a conference he attended in Germany two years ago with participants from Israel, Turkey, Libya, Egypt and some western countries.

"The conference took place in an atmosphere of academic objectivity," he said. "We need to encourage more communications between peoples. It helps humanize the conversation."

Hassan also spoke of a new initiative, the Parliament of Cultures based in Istanbul, that hopes to bring together youth from the West and the Middle East.

"I have been asked what I think of Osama Bin Laden," he said. "I say that it is not for me to judge him. That is for God. Hundreds of Muslims also died on 9/11."

He noted that many Muslims feel that the world is ignoring their plight. "Seventy per cent of the world's refugees are Muslim," he pointed out, adding that the Arab world should be spending more money on education and less on weapons. "Our own governments' mismanagement, however, is one reason for Islamic extremism."

While America and the West are concerned about security, Hassan observed that the most effective way to deal with the roots of terrorism is by reaching out to the other side and trying to establish a dialogue.

He called for an Arabian version of the Marshall Plan, the Allied effort that was instrumental in rebuilding western Europe after World War II.

"In 1994, at a meeting of Middle Eastern and North African leaders in Casablanca, we proposed a $35 million investment in infrastructure in our part of the world to provide clean drinking water and improved roads," he said.

"We approached the European Union and were turned back. A stable peace in our region requires economic well-being and an intrain-dependence where each side recognizes and respects the other's identity."

In response to a question from a Jewish student, Hassan stated that Jordan has no designs on the West Bank or Jerusalem.

A Muslim student asked how people in the West can distinguish Muslims and Islamic extremists.

"There is an enormous amount of work to be done," Hassan replied.

"Right now we have a leadership vacuum in our part of the world. It can be filled by people of goodwill who want to better society or left to sloganeers to fill. All religions have blots on their history. The biggest impediment to conversation is a tendency for people to religious and cultural self-righteousness where they pass off their own suffering as more sacred than the other's."

The Kanee lecture series is funded by a major grant from the Winnipeg-based Richardson Foundation and named in honour of Jewish leader Sol Kanee. Kanee, who was present for the speech, is a past chair of the University of Manitoba's board of governors.

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CJA campaign off to good start

WINNIPEG — Winnipeg's annual Combined Jewish Appeal campaign is off to a great start.

As of Oct. 11, the amount of money pledged was $1,565,000 – almost 40 per cent of this year's target of $4 million, and $158,000 more than last year at this point in the campaign.

CJA campaign director Gerry Koffman, says that is up over nine per cent, card for card, and has reached over $480,000 – 60 per cent of its goal.

"Altogether, we have processed 2,266 cards including 99 new gifts," he says.

"Some of them are from people who are new to the community, while others are from people who have not contributed in years. For a city our size, it is a wonderful campaign."

One matter that is raising concern among some Federation/CJA board members, however, is that a large percentage of the money is being earmarked for Israel and overseas rather than local needs.

Winnipeg is the only Jewish community in North America with a two-line card, which allows donors to choose where they want their money allotted.

Thus far in this campaign, 67 per cent of the money has been designated for the local community and 34 per cent for Israel and overseas, as compared to 70 per cent and 30 per cent last year. In addition to the monies directed to Israel this fall, the community raised $1,235,000 for Israel in the emergency campaign in the spring.

At the same time, local Jewish fund-raising needs are growing as the Federation/CJA has taken on some new beneficiaries, and added a major new program to try to increase the size of the Jewish population here.

In other communities, the funding raised in CJA campaigns is split 50-50 between local and Israel/overseas needs, Koffman says, and when the campaign falls short, the larger amount stays in the community.

"Different views were expressed at our Sept.30 board meeting about what to do about the two-line card system," Koffman adds, "But no decisions were made."

Among the suggestions, were moving to a one-line card; having a third line in which donors could opt to allow the CJA decide how to split the gift; and putting more money into the federation's financial reserve fund.

"We decided to revisit the issue after the campaign," says Koffman.

His personal view is that the two-line card system should be maintained.

He points out that the local line in the 2002-2003 campaign is up six per cent thus far over the same period last year,,and the campaign is raising more money overall. – M.L.

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Rethinking assumptions on terrorism

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The horrific terrorist attack in Bali earlier this month has led some, including members of the media, to rethink their basic assumptions about the nature of such atrocities.

The always engaging Australian-born writer Clive James, writing in the *Guardian* (Oct. 16) under the title "Don't blame the West," tore a strip off those journalists and others who, before the Bali attack, had accepted as a given "the prepared text" that American foreign policy was to blame for the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

"A concept basic to the 'prepared text' was that there could be no end to all this deplorable but understandable Islamist outrage until the Palestinian matter was settled. Not just the majority of the intellectuals, academics and schoolteachers, but most of the face-workers in the media, share the view that terrorism is to be explained by the vices of the liberal democracies."

Questioning the "capacity for analysis" of those who hold the perceived "blame American foreign policy" wisdom, James wonders whether now, after the Bali nightmare, they will give up this consensus view, as he calls it, and see that "the true instigation for terrorism might not be the vices of the liberal democracies, but their virtues."

The terrorist attack in Bali also revealed a major inconsistency, yet again, in the media's application of the words "terrorism" and "terrorist." Surely, part of this "capacity for analysis" involves some journalists coming to terms, finally, with the use of these words, and coming to terms with the double standards some major media organizations are guilty of in Israel's case.

For instance, CBC senior management has argued that, in accordance with its journalistic guidelines, the term is not to be used, and that where it has been employed – as in reports on the Sept. 11 attacks and the trial for Ahmed Rassam, who was convicted for conspiracy to bomb the Los Angeles airport in December 1999 – it has been done in error.

Yet, interestingly, the CBC's own ombudsman's office disagrees, noting correctly that nothing in the CBC's guidelines prevents a journalist from calling a spade a spade and thus using "terrorism" where it properly applies. CBC journalists, both in TV and radio, did not shy away from calling the deliberate mass slaughter of civilians in the Bali nightclub "terrorism" and those who perpetrated the horror, "terrorists." Neither did journalists from the BBC and the *Guardian* – both of whom, like the CBC, generally refuse to apply the term to the slaughter of Israelis.

The contrast to Israel's case, then, could not be more stark. In many journalists' reports, including the CBC's Paul Workman's, about the horrific Oct. 21 attack on a bus near Hadera that left 14 Israelis dead and scores badly injured, the word "terrorism" is nowhere to be found.

Paul Michaels is director of communications of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Coast to Coast

Calgary mourns the death of Rabbi Seth Binus

By JUDY SHAPIRO
Jewish Free Press

CALGARY — When their son was born two days after the death of Rabbi Seth Binus, Leonard and Kim Bercovice chose to name the baby Michael Shays (Hebrew for Seth) after the man they considered to be a tzaddik, a righteous person.

The rabbi of Congregation House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel (HOJMI) was a friend, a spiritual leader and a teacher for the Bercovices – and for many other people in the Jewish community of Calgary who are still mourning his death.

"You want to name your children after great people, and if our son could be like Rabbi Binus, he will be a great person," Leonard Bercovice said in an interview.

Rabbi Binus died on Sept. 27 at the age of 30. Although his life was too short and he lived in Calgary only a few years, the rabbi touched the lives of many in this community. He is remembered with fondness and respect.

"The only way I can describe him is that he was a mensch," said Nelson Halpern, a personal friend who served as president of HOJMI during the rabbi's tenure. "He never had a bad word to say about anybody. He was very careful not to criticize anyone. He never raised his voice and always expressed positive thoughts."

Rabbi Binus was born and raised in Newton, Mass. He attended the Solomon Schechter Day School from kindergarten to Grade 8. Although his family attended a Conservative synagogue and was not particularly observant, Rabbi Binus chose to attend the best Jewish high school available in the area – the Orthodox Maimonides High School. He discovered how personally satisfying the Orthodox way of life could be.

In an interview upon his arrival in Calgary, Rabbi Binus said, "I liked the lifestyle, I liked the consistency of belief and practice; it made sense to me."

While still in high school, Rabbi Binus decided to make it his life's work to bring his love of Judaism to others. He studied in several yeshivot in Israel and attended Yeshiva University in New York, where he received a BA in psychology and then graduated with his rabbinic certification (smichah) as well as an MA in Jewish education.

Rabbi Binus met his wife Deena in New York and they married in 1996.

He took up the position as rabbi of House of Jacob-Mikveh Israel in 1998. It was his first full-time pulpit.

In January of this year, Rabbi Binus travelled to New York, and while there, was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumour. He then went to Boston, where his parents live, for radiation treatment. He spent his last six months in New York with his wife, children and in-laws.

His illness and his death at such a young age shook the entire Jewish community of Calgary, many of whom were influenced by the way Rabbi Binus lived his life.

Leonard Bercovice, for example, said that Rabbi Binus practised what he preached in "seeing things through Torah-tinted glasses." This was an expression Rabbi Binus himself used in his teaching, and it is a concept he tried to impart to others.

"He was a brilliant man," Bercovice said. "In conversation, he put a Torah perspective into everything. You could tell it was his life."

Bercovice respected the rabbi's skills as a "great teacher," and spoke with admiration of his habit of leaving the pulpit on Shabbat or holy days to teach young people or smaller groups of adults.

As a frequent guest at the Binus's Shabbat table, Bercovice was also struck by how much the rabbi enjoyed Shabbat and how much he loved spending time with his young family.

Herb Rosenberg, an active member of HOJMI, said that "Rabbi Binus possessed an amalgam of many strengths crowned with a sincere, humble, honest disposition."

Welcoming and discreet are other adjectives used to describe the rabbi, and several members of HOJMI remarked that he was a very good listener.

"He'd always try to understand before he'd open his mouth and say anything," Halpern said.

Rosenberg commented that Rabbi Binus was very easy to work with and "no matter how thorny the issue, he always took the high road."

Halpern agreed. "He was thrust into challenging situations and always manoeuvered them admirably. Considering that he was 27 years old when he came to Calgary and that this was his first big job out of school," he accomplished a great deal, Halpern said.

Among those accomplishments was the resolution of a community kashrut concern. To address the issue, he had to work with other local rabbis. Perhaps because of his own personal religious journey from Conservative to Orthodox, Rabbi Binus enjoyed excellent relations with the other rabbis in the city.

"I consider this a loss of a friend, not just a colleague," said Rabbi Moshe Saks of the Conservative Beth Tzedec Synagogue. "It is a great loss to the community and we grieve with his family.

"He was dedicated to community. Our community is so special because all the rabbis talk and co-operate and he was instrumental in making that happen."

One of Herb Rosenberg's fondest memories is of Rabbi Binus's talent as a storyteller.

"Whenever he gave a class or d'var Torah, he would often include a story drawn from our sages or related to his own personal experience," Rosenberg said.

Rabbi Binus is survived by his wife Deena and his two daughters, Sarah Devora, 4, and Shulamis Yaffa, 3.

Holocaust Education Week

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About the performers:

Yaelle Wittes is a student in the International Baccalaureate program at Champlain College – St. Lambert concentrating on theatre and psychology.

Dave LaPommeray recently graduated from the department of theatre at Concordia University in Montreal and aspires to a career in theatre, film and television.

"Very impressive and very moving" – Odette Oginski, director of Moral and Religious Education, English Montreal School Board

UJA Federation

Holocaust Education Week is coordinated by The Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation.

Prior to the play, there will be a short program called "Tales from Kristallnacht," hosted by Anne Golden.

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Three Israelis killed in Ariel suicide bombing

By JONATHAN LIS and AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Three Israelis were killed and at least 18 people injured Sunday morning in a suicide attack on a gas station at the entrance to Ariel, the largest Israeli settlement in the northern West Bank. All of the fatalities were IDF reservists.

At least 18 injured in the blast

Both the militant Hamas organization and the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, which is affiliated with Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the the bombing, the second in Israel in the last seven days.

Maj. Tamir Massad, 41, from Kfar Masarik and 1st Lieut. Matan Zogron, 22, from Itamar, were killed in the Ariel attack, Israel Radio reported. The name of the third victim was not immediately released.

At least 18 people were injured in the blast – three of them seriously – which occurred at around 11:30 a.m. A fourth body, originally believed to be another victim of the blast, was later confirmed to be that of the bomber.

The bomber arrived at the gas station, and was spotted by a worker at a nearby cafeteria who informed her boss that the man looked suspicious, Channel Two television reported.

The owner of the cafeteria and an attendant at the gas station approached the bomber, and, identifying him as a terrorist, wrestled him to the ground and held him down.

The two men then shouted, "Terrorist! Terrorist!" which summoned the soldiers. The troops opened fire at the bomber, hitting him three times.

"They called on him and approached him," Rami Sonnenfeld, a police commander at the scene, told Israel Radio. "As they were trying to overpower him, the terrorist blew up and a number of people were injured."

It was not clear if the bomber or the bullets detonated the explosive device.

As a result of the explosion, there was a small fire at the gas station, which firefighters quickly extinguished.

"The terrorist was still burning when we got there, and we extinguished the fire immediately," a fire brigade official said.

Yeruham Mendola, a spokesperson for Magen David Adom, told Israel Radio that the injured were evacuated to Beilinson Hospital, Rabin Medical Centre in Petach Tikva; Sheba Medical Centre, Tel Hashomer and Meir Hospital in Kfar Saba.

"Once again, the vicious agenda of Palestinian terrorists has taken its toll," said David Baker, an official in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's office. "Like spectators, the Palestinian Authority stands by and does nothing while Palestinian terrorists continue to wage a campaign of terror against Israeli civilians."

Ariel, some 35 kilometres north of Jerusalem, was the scene of another suicide attack in March – the first the settlement had known – when a bomber blew himself up in the lobby of the Eshel Hashomron hotel, injuring 14 people.

In a separate incident Sunday evening, an Israeli suffered light-to-moderate wounds from shots fired at his vehicle as he was travelling between the Gaza Strip settlements of Morag and Atzmona.

Sharon: we accept 'road map,' but not settlement freeze

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday that Israel accepts the principles presented in the United States' road map for Mideast peace, but he added that a total settlement freeze would be unacceptable, Israel Radio reported.

Ariel Sharon

Speaking before the Knesset's foreign affairs and defence committee, Sharon said exceptions need to be made in order to provide for the natural growth of the settlements.

This was the second time that Sharon had commented on the U.S. road map given to him two weeks ago during a visit to Washington D.C. The first time, last week, Sharon said the plan was not "credible" and there was "a danger Israel will face a timetable that only it is required to keep to."

The six-page plan was worked out by the "Quartet" – the the United States, the European Union, the United Nations and Russia. The Americans are now collecting Israeli, Palestinian and other regional comments on it before a final draft is approved by the Quartet in December.

Among other things, the plan calls for Israel to withdraw to pre-intifadah lines, dismantle illegal outposts and cease military operations in Palestinian Authority areas.

The Palestinians are required to name a prime minister, reorganize their security forces into a single entity and reinstate security co-ordination and co-operation with Israel.

A new security co-operation agreement is also envisaged. The plan would put Quartet supervisors in the territories to judge when the sides have reached each stage, so that they can move onto the next one.

The American plan proposes convening an international conference that would lead to setting up a temporary state at the end of 2003. By 2005, the "final" permanent settlement is due to be signed, but it is doubtful whether the parties will meet these target dates.

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Three Iranian Jews released from prison

By MICHAEL JORDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — Three of eight Jews imprisoned in Iran on charges of spying for Israel have been released, raising hopes that the remaining five will be set free soon.

Released last Thursday were sporting goods merchant Javeed Beit Yakov, 42, who had been sentenced to nine years in prison; and religion teachers Farzad Kashi, 32, and Shahrokh Paknahad, 24, who had received eight-year sentences.

The men had served three and a half years of their sentences on charges of aiding the "Zionist regime." Israel has said the charges are baseless.

U.S. advocates for the Jewish prisoners, who over the years have been outspoken in their defence – and harshly critical of the Iranian government – did not comment on the release.

Their silence seemed to stem from the hope that the other five would be released soon, and a fear that gloating might discourage Tehran from freeing them.

There was no official word from Iran on the release, which analysts said might be due to a supposed power struggle between relative moderates in the Iranian regime who favour detente with the West and conservative clerics who have maintained a grip on power since the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"Due to the extraordinary circumstances surrounding this release, we at this time choose not to make a comment," Pooya Dayanim, spokesman for the Council of Iranian American Jewish Organizations in Los Angeles, said in a statement. "We are in contact with the U.S. State Department – which has shown a great commitment to human rights and religious freedom in Iran – to formulate a response over the next few days."

Two other activists at the forefront of the campaign to free the Jewish Iranians – Malcolm Hoenlein, executive vice-chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and Sam Kermanian, secretary-general of the Iranian American Jewish Federation in Los Angeles – also declined to comment.

And Israeli President Moshe Katsav, himself Iranian-born, was said to be muted in his reaction.

Prior to the release, he was quoted in the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* as saying, "To my delight, no evidence has been found against them, and most of the [imprisoned Jews] will be released in the near future."

But there was no official statement from Katsav last Thursday.

For months, analysts have suggested that several factors may be pressing Iran: U.S. President George W. Bush's statement lumping Iran with Iraq and North Korea in an "axis of evil," the prospect of a U.S.-led war against Baghdad, and the possibility that Iran may be the next target of America's year-old war on terrorism.

But Iran is not only feeling the heat from Washington.

Europe, a significant economic partner, reportedly has cited Iran's disregard for human rights and its treatment of minorities as impediments to improved relations.

Some U.S. activists had hoped that the eight Jews would be pardoned on the eve of the Jewish New Year in early September, but that failed to materialize.

According to analysts, the tension between Iranian hardliners and reformers influenced the original arrests, and may determine the fate of the five still in jail.

Thirteen Jews were arrested in January and March 1999, but three were found innocent of the espionage charges and released. The other 10 were sentenced in July 2000 to jail terms of four to 13 years.

The men appealed, and Tehran reduced the sentences from two to nine years in September 2000. Two men already were released after serving out their terms.

Israel has flatly denied that the Jews were its spies. Advocates for the men say that what really bothered Iranian authorities was the men's increasingly fervent brand of Orthodox Judaism.

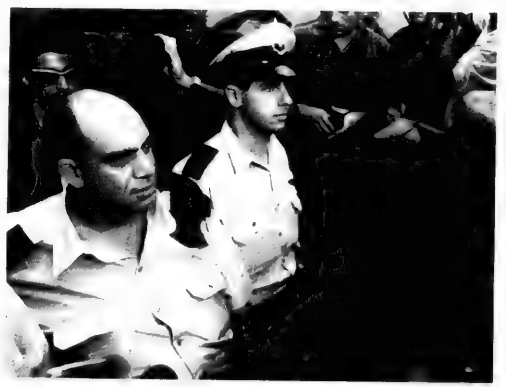
Most of the men were religious leaders from the southern Iranian city of Shiraz, a bastion of religious conservatism.

The arrests were perceived as a warning to the rest of the community, and initially there was fear the men might be executed.

In addition, observers say, inciting the public against the "Zionist enemy" and "collaborators" in their midst is an easy way for the mullahs to distract the masses from their economic hardship and lack of freedom.

In May 2000, after more than a year in solitary confinement, the 13 gave "confessions" for Iran's Revolutionary Court. But their advocates – and media, diplomats and human-rights experts from around the world – pronounced the closed trial a fraud.

Only 22,000 to 25,000 Jews remain in Iran today. The community stood at about 100,000 before 1979.



COURT APPEARANCE: A special military court in Tel Aviv last week remanded in custody Lieut.-Col. Omar al-Hayeb (seated, left), one of 10 people suspected of handing sensitive information to a militant Lebanese organization in exchange for drugs and cash. Al-Hayeb, from the Bedouin village of Beit Zarzir, was charged with having illicit contact with an enemy agent, espionage, treason and importing and exporting drugs. The other accused men formerly served in the Israel Defence Forces. The suspects are accused of trading information to Hezbollah for a prolonged period in exchange for drugs and cash payments totalling millions of dollars. Five others, also suspected of spying for Hezbollah, were charged the same day in the Nazareth District Court. The Shin Bet security service and the police recently uncovered the Hezbollah-operated spy ring in Israel, the largest of its kind since the IDF pulled out of southern Lebanon 2½ years ago. [Isranet photo]

October 21

• Thirteen Israelis were killed and more than 45 injured when a jeep laden with explosives plowed into a bus near Hadera in northern Israel. Israel did not retaliate immediately and Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer attempted to quash media speculation the United States was pressing Israel to restrain its response.

October 22

• U.S. Assistant Secretary of State William Burns urged Lebanese leaders to exercise restraint along the border with Israel in case of a U.S. attack on Iraq. Israeli officials have warned that if the United States strikes Iraq, Hezbollah may open a second front with Israel.

October 23

• An ambulance donated by Florida Jews was the first rescue vehicle to respond to the terrorist attack in northern Israel on Monday. The Magen David Adom ambulance was put into use hours after its arrival in the country.

October 24

• Israel's Supreme Court ordered a parole board to review its decision to release a man convicted in the 1983 murder of a Peace Now activist. The court upheld a state appeal, which argued that Yona Avrushmi still poses a threat to public safety.

October 25

• Israeli forces left the West Bank town of Hebron, withdrawing troops and removing military vehicles. Hours earlier, the army began a large-scale operation in Jenin to apprehend terrorists. Six members of Fatah were injured in the operation, and 20 were arrested.

Files from JTA

Israeli freed from Moscow theatre

Continued from page 1

Lisiansky also said the terrorists, who stormed the theatre last Wednesday night with threats that no one was leaving the building until Chechnya was liberated, didn't give the hostages any food.

"Food we didn't get," she said. "We got water and went to the toilet but it wasn't really a toilet, it was stairs."

She said she was feeling well and thanked the Russians for taking care of her.

Lisiansky, who immigrated to Israel with her son and mother from Moscow 11 years ago, works for the Haifa Municipality. She was visiting her father in Moscow and went with several friends to the Melnikova Street Theatre, where she was taken hostage along with some 750 people. It was Lisiansky's first visit to Russia after moving to Israel.

Close to midnight last Wednesday, the terrorists allowed the hostages to make brief phone calls to their families. When Lisiansky's relatives told the Israeli Embassy in Russia and Foreign Ministry that she was in the theatre, they were instructed to keep her whereabouts a secret for fear the Muslim rebels would find out.

During the crisis, Lisiansky managed to send messages via Short Message Sevice (SMS) to her 14-year-old son Stas, her husband Alexander, 46, and mother Viktoria, 66, in Israel. In her first message, she tried to calm her family down. In a later message, she gave her son her bank account number and told him that he and her mother would be her beneficiaries.

Information about Lisanskaya's presence among the hostages was leaked last Thursday by the Russian television station NTV, owned by businessman Vladimir Gusinsky. But apart from a Friday report in *Yediot Aharonot*, Israeli media outlets heeded the Foreign Ministry's requests not to release information about the Israeli hostage.

Last Saturday afternoon, a family relative in Moscow called the Lisianskys in Nesher and reported that Valeri was in city hospital number 13, in good condition.

Describing the ordeal, Stas, Alexander and Viktoria said, "Everyone knows about the connection between the Chechens and the Palestinians," said Alexander, explaining why news of his wife's situation had been kept secret. "Clearly, it would have been very dangerous had the kidnappers known there was an Israeli woman in the theatre."

"I'm very happy it ended this way," said Stas. "I had a feeling this would end well."

— With files from news services

Labor appears ready to quit coalition government

By YOSSI VERTER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — With the Labor Party Central Committee's unanimous decision on Sunday for its Knesset faction to vote against the 2003 budget, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is considering cobbling together a narrow government because he is against elections now, Likud sources said.

The sources said Sharon does not feel that with a looming U.S. war on Iraq and the economy in dire straits, the time is right for an election. Furthermore, they said, Sharon is not eager to face Benjamin Netanyhu in a Likud primary race, which would be forced on the prime minister if he "goes to the president," meaning if he calls a snap election.

Sharon considers his options

But the appearance for the first time on Sunday of a clear majority in the Labor Party Central Committee to vote down the budget – if its demands for NIS 710 million to be cut from the settlements' allocations are not met – could likely lead to Sharon firing the party from the coalition and to new elections.

Sharon would have to draw the National Union-Yisrael Beitenu bloc into the coalition if he wants to guarantee it at 60-plus seats, bringing the government further to the right.

Sunday night, after Labor chairman and Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer won a resounding approval for his plan to vote against the budget if Labor does not achieve what it wants in negotiations with the treasury, sources close to Ben-Eliezer were saying that he won't hesitate to go back to the Central Committee with the recommendation to stay in the coalition.

The opposition to the budget combined with the heated race for the Labor party leadership, as Ben-Eliezer and his challengers, Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna and MK Haim Ramon delivered keynote speeches.

Ben-Eliezer criticized Sharon's earlier call for all the parties in the coalition "to demonstrate national responsibility" and vote for the budget.

"All those preaching to me about unity and responsibility should stop preaching," said Ben-Eliezer. "What kind of unity is it when most of the population is required to give and give and a minority that has a lot of power gets more and more? What kind of unity is it when there's an economic war and the finance minister refuses to cut the settlements' budgets? If it's war, why do you draft only part of the people and give exemptions to others? That is not how to conduct a war, Mr. Finance Minister, that's not how to build a budget and that's not how to rehabilitate the Israeli economy."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, speaking during a ceremony marking the seventh anniversary of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, spoke about the economic growth brought by the peace process under Rabin, compared to the current economic distress with no peace process, and said the budget should be reapportioned. Labor sources said they expect Peres to make efforts in the coming days to find a compromise on the remaining budget disputes which, in addition to the settlements issue, include pension cuts and cuts to subsidies for students and single-parent families.

As the Labor Party inched closer to bolting the government in a crisis surrounding the vote over the 2003 budget, the far-right National Union-Yisrael Beiteinu alliance met Monday to discuss backing the government on the budget in exchange for a commitment to oppose the United States' road map for Mideast peace.

Members of the far-right Knesset faction fear the plan will lead to the creation of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The secular Shinui party also met Monday to discuss providing the government with a safety net on the budget, should Labor go through with its threat to vote against it.

Prague conference eyes anti-Semitism

By MAGNUS BENNETT
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PRAGUE — Failure to combat Holocaust denial could lead to the failure of civilization, a survivor told a conference here.

Czech Jewish writer Arnost Lustig was one of a number of speakers from Israel, the United States, France and the Czech Republic who gathered recently to discuss anti-Semitism in central and eastern Europe in the years since the fall of communism.

The conference covered the beginnings of modern anti-Semitism in the region as well as issues relating to the current extremist scene.

In his speech, Lustig said the issue of Holocaust denial was not simply about the truth of the Holocaust, but whether mankind would allow lies to be presented as truth.

"We are witnesses to an attempt at colossal deceit over history," he said, arguing that if mankind believed the lies it would doom itself to a repeat of history.

"The fate of human beings," as well as the meaningfulness of human history, "is at stake," he said.

Lustig also warned that people should not underestimate what appears to be an innocent joke at the expense of Jews.

"Jews are first defamed and denigrated and then killed," he said. "To underestimate that is tantamount to suicide."

Holocaust denial was also raised by a Czech political science student, Vaclav Nekvapil.

He argued that while there was little sympathy in the Czech Republic for anti-Semitic prejudice, there was the "burning problem" of the spread of easily accessible incendiary literature, such as the works of Holocaust denier David Irving.

"It is in my opinion, extremely dangerous when a pseudoscientific – basically anti-Semitic – study by an author unknown to the readers is presented without any explanation whatsoever, giving the appearance of a serious historical work," Nekvapil said.

He added that Czech extremist groups on both sides of the political spectrum use anti-Semitism as part of their rhetoric. The more subtle, left-wing anti-Semitism is often overlooked, he said.

The two-day conference was hosted by Radio Free Europe and held under the auspices of Czech Prime Minister Vladimir Spidla and the president of the Czech Senate.

Improving Hebrew literacy

NEW YORK — With a recent study reporting the decline of Jewish students' affiliation with Judaism, Read Hebrew America/Canada 2002 (RHA/C) aims to reconnect them with their heritage by providing them with one of the most important tools in Judaism – Hebrew literacy.

The fifth annual RHA/C campaign, organized by the National Jewish Outreach Program (NJOP), began October and continues through November, with 1,550 classes offered at more than 735 locations across North America. NJOP will teach more than 15,000 unaffiliated and marginally affiliated Jewish students at 34 Hillels how to read Hebrew free of charge.

A study published this past June by Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life, reported the following statistics revealing the level of religious practice among incoming college students:

- 57.5 per cent of Jewish students spend zero hours in prayer and mediation, compared to 31.7 per cent of non-Jewish students;
- 15.9 per cent of students spend more than one hour per week in prayer, compared to 33.8 per cent of non-Jewish students;
- 13.3 per cent of Jewish students in first year reported "frequent" attendance at religious services during the year prior to university, compared to 46.6 per cent among non-Jews.

On a national level, there is evidence of a significant decline in Jewish affiliation and identity among American Jewish adults. According to the 2001 American Jewish Identity Survey, only 68 per cent of the core Jewish population said their religion was Judaism, down from 80 per cent in 1990. Additionally, 33 per cent of Jews are married to non-Jews, compared to 28 per cent in 1990.

"These statistics show that more and more Jews are leaving the faith and that the future of Jewish continuity in North America is at risk," said Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald, founder and director of NJOP.

"NJOP believes that one of the main reasons people are leaving the faith is that they do not know how to read Hebrew. This year, we are specifically targeting college students as they are the future of our faith and the Jewish leaders of tomorrow."

For the first time, RHA/C participants will also have the opportunity to learn how to write Hebrew, with many RHA/C courses ending with a one-day Hebrew writing crash course.

RHA/C courses will be offered this November at synagogues, Jewish community centres, Hillels and other Jewish organizations throughout the United States and Canada. Classes are offered over a five-week period. Course materials will be available in Russian and Spanish as well as in English.

Hebrew, the language of the Jewish people for close to 4,000 years, is the primary language in which virtually all Jewish prayer books, holiday services and significant religious texts are written and read. NJOP hopes that by learning to read the language, many unaffiliated and marginally affiliated Jews will renew their interest in the Jewish faith.

RHA/C is based on NJOP's popular Hebrew reading crash course, which, since 1987, has been taught to more than 165,000 North American Jews. Designed for Jews with little or no Hebrew knowledge, the program teaches the Hebrew alphabet and basic reading skills. A Level II program is available to those who are interested in advancing their reading and comprehension skills. NJOP was established in 1987 by Rabbi Buchwald and has become one of the world's largest and most successful Jewish outreach organizations. It offers free programs at more than 3,500 locations across North America, and in 29 countries worldwide. Through programs such as Read Hebrew America/ Read Hebrew Canada, Shabbat Across America/ Shabbat Across Canada, NJOP has reached more than 650,000 North American Jews.

For a complete list of U.S. and Canadian locations hosting RHA/C courses, visit NJOP's Web site at www.njop.org.

Ulpanat Orot Girls School, an orthodox Zionist high school in Toronto is seeking a **Menahelet/Menahel** commencing August 2003.

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Fax: 416-398-5711 e-mail: lockshin@yorku.ca

Former *You're Beautiful* host takes to the stage

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Actress, writer, broadcaster and author of the best-selling book *Making It*, Micki Moore will be putting on another hat when she takes to the Poor Alex Theatre's stage in a one-woman comedy show Women Who Talk Too Much And The Microphones That Love Them.

Micki Moore

In fact, she will be putting on a number of hats, wigs and assorted accessories to bring 10 very unique characters to life. Moore draws from women she has encountered and used her imagination taking each character to the edge as far as she can go.

Teamed with Poor Alex Theatre's artistic director Ian Ferguson, Moore, known to many as host of CITY TV's successful daytime series *You're Beautiful* and WTN's *Double Duty*, showcased her one-woman offering at the intimate Poor Alex Cabaret this past summer. It was such a hit that Ferguson invited Moore back to perform her one-act comedy in the larger theatre environment.

"Ian had blind faith in my material and my ability,"says Moore.

The sad news of the state of the world is one the reasons Moore felt compelled to make people laugh. Each character makes a speech in front of a different group including the delirious bride Gwenyth Mayo, or Rosedale matron Muffy Meredith – a takeoff on a former Moore neighbour, who suffers a bad case of foot and mouth disease when politically correct comments just don't come from her mouth.

Cornelia Ogglebottom is an Etobicoke Film Board Reviewer, who by doing her job became addicted to porn. Not so coincidentally, Moore who serves on the Ontario Film Board, knew of such a woman.

"The Bar Mitzvah mother Zelda Rifkin is based on a real life incident. This mother had never spoken in front of a group of people. She was so nervous they plied her with drinks, so by the time she stood up she was totally soused. These are the kind of moments I tried to capture. I think everyone has to give a speech at one time in their lives, research says it is the number one fear even before death," explains Moore.

Closest to her heart is the true to life character of Miriam Meisel, a Southern Jewish girl from the bayous of Shreveport, La., who moved to Canada 40 years ago and now goes by the moniker Micki Moore.

"When I got married to a Canadian, the southern rabbi drawled, 'Maaay theee looord bleees youuuu aaand keeep youuuu aaas youuuu leaaave fooor theee giaaant tuuundraa'tooo theee noorth.'" This sent the shy, naïve southern belle to the library to look up the meaning of tundra – a vast arctic wasteland.

To lose her southern accent, Moore studied at the Royal Conservatory. "I finally learned to talk Canadian – A, E, I, O, U, eh?"

To get over her shyness Moore enrolled in Improv classes at Second City. Her teachers included Ferguson and John Candy. "Improv was like fun and therapy all wrapped up in one. It opened me up in a very creative way and made it easier to speak. That is why I became an interviewer because I didn't have to speak very much, I'd just sit down and people would tell me their whole life story."

A woman of many artistic and journalistic media, Moore prefers hosting duties on the tube. "I grew up in television. The television studio is a first home to me. I now teach seminars on how to be a television host, anyone interested can go to my website www.mickimoore.com and drop me a line," she says.

Women Who Talk To Much And The Microphones That Love Them plays at the Poor Alex Theatre, 296 Brunswick Ave., Toronto Thursdays to Saturdays from Oct. 31, to Nov.16 at 8 p.m. Call 416-923-1644.

The tragic heroes of Vilnius Ghetto subject of new book

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

N.N. Shneidman, a retired university professor living in Toronto, says he wrote his new book about the wartime Vilnius Ghetto in order to relate historic events and details never before published in English.

The book, published by Mosaic Press of Oakville, Ont., and called *The Three Tragic Heroes of the Vilnius Ghetto*, focuses on Yitzhak Witenberg, Yechiel Sheinbaum and Jacob Gens. Witenberg and Sheinbaum were leaders of opposing Resistance movements, while Gens was a lead ghetto administrator who contended that co-operation with the Nazis offered the best chance of survival.

"My objective was to show that Jewish disagreements in the internal strife in the Jewish community was always hurting Jewish survival," the author said in a recent interview. "It hurts now in Israel and it hurt during the war in Vilna."

Shneidman, who lived in the Vilna Ghetto and witnessed much of its history, said he was motivated to write the book after realizing that many historians had glossed over the substantial differences between Witenberg and Sheinbaum, claiming their two movements had eventually united, and had dropped the latter figure from the story.

"They were never united," Shneidman says. "Sheinbaum's name and his organization disappeared from history – they're in one Hebrew book but there's nothing about them in any of the books in English. I felt that he and his organization deserved an honourable place in the history of the Vilna Ghetto and its uprising."

Witenberg, a communist, was leader of the United Partisans Organization (FPO), which advocated fighting the Nazis in the ghetto.

"He had this idea that the proletarians in the ghetto would rise up and fight the fascists. That was a stupid illusion because the people in the ghetto didn't want to fight the Nazis because everybody knew there was no chance of survival. They had learned that from the Warsaw Ghetto."

Sheinbaum, a strong Zionist, was leader of a second fighting organization whose strategy was "not to fight in the ghetto but to go into the forests as soon as possible to join the partisans," he says.

"That was the basic disagreement. My contention is that if both organizations had worked together, at least another 300 youngsters from the ghetto could have been saved in the forests."

Shneidman did not know Sheinbaum personally, but saw him fall dead during a skirmish with the Nazis on Sept. 1, 1943.

Gens, the ghetto's third tragic figure, "believed that if the Jews worked for the Germans well and supported the German economy, it would make it possible for them to survive. But this was also an illusion. When the Germans discovered an underground organization, they decided to liquidate the ghetto step by step, and you couldn't stop it." The liquidation occurred on Sept. 23, 1943.

All three figures died heroically and possibly needlessly, given that each could have escaped, Shneidman says.

Shneidman is the author of seven previous books, including *Jerusalem of Lithuania: The Rise and Fall of Jewish Vilnius* (Mosaic Press, 1998), which includes a semi-biographical account of his experiences in the city of his birth, which was known as Vilna to the Jews.

A historical centre of Jewish learning in eastern Europe, Vilna was supposedly dubbed "the Jerusalem of Lithuania" in the 17th century because it was home to 300 scholars who knew the Talmud by heart.

Shneidman served during the war with the partisans in the forest and later with the Soviet Army. He came to Canada in 1958 and was a professor of Slavic studies at the University of Toronto for 25 years. He has also written books on Soviet education, sports and literature, including one titled *Dostoevsky and Suicide*.

He is scheduled to speak about his latest book on Sunday Nov. 3, 1:30 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre as part of the Jewish Book Fair.

Chanukah Party

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(Hint: the answer can be found in their advertisement printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by 3 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15, 2002 are eligible. The winning entries will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Monday, Nov. 18, at 10 a.m. The winner will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received.
The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.

Send your response to: **Judy & David Contest**, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 416-391-0949.

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Poems connect the past, present and future

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Nancy-Gay Rotstein calls poetry an "illogical passion" that she is compelled to pursue, but her most recent collection of poems, a 25-year retrospective, displays a precise approach to her work.

Nancy-Gay Rotstein

Her ability to distill everyday life experiences into poetry aside, Rotstein is also known for the prescience that appears in some of her older poems, read in hindsight.

Rotstein, who will read poems of special Jewish interest from *This Horizon and Beyond – Poems Selected and New* at the Jewish Book Fair, said the poems in the book represent "the enduring connection of the past, the present and the future," the underlying idea for the book's title.

One section chronicles her family life from the time her now-adult children were small. She withheld the poems with the intention of publishing them as a unit at the suggestion of poet Irving Layton, who taught a workshop she took and who also wrote the book's foreward.

While her family poems deal with her personal life in a way that reflects universal family bonds, other poems show her personal take on more general universal issues. *The Visitor*, a poem she is often asked about, begins "I saw Alfred Dreyfus/at the Bagel Bar."

Although she wrote it in 1979, it "deals with where we are at today. It's a predictive poem," said Rotstein in an interview. "This poem was written as a warning in a period of complacency to express my concern for the future – that anti-Semitism can crop up anywhere.

"Our collective Jewish history permeates my consciousness and is reflected in my poetry," she said. Rotstein, who has a law degree and a Master's in history, feels strongly that only in the context of the past can people make sense of the present and to some degree anticipate the future.

Many of her poems were inspired by her travels, among them trips to Israel and China. *Vienna Visit*, with its images of "gun-carrying *polizei*" and "stained stones/of Judenstrasse" has a sense of foreboding that foreshadowed a shooting incident several months after she wrote it in 1979.

A more personal poem, *The Victim*, was a response to her feelings on turning 30. "Laughter doesn't seem worth the wrinkles," she wrote, referring to herself as "victim of the youth cult/the unwilling traveller."

"As soon as I wrote it, I felt great," she said.

Rotstein sees *This Horizon and Beyond*, which was published simultaneously in Canada, England and Australia, as a mosaic of her writing, unified by the resonance of Jewish experience. The book jacket illustrates that theme, with its image of a floor mosaic from Masada.

Although she has served on boards of arts and government agencies, Rotstein considers herself first and foremost a writer. She has published three previous books of poetry and a novel.

Rotstein believes poetry is in a period of renaissance. "What I hope readers would experience is to discover connections they might not have seen before, to reach an awareness into their own life. All of us are feeling very fragile in this moment [following Sept. 11], powerless to control unfolding events. Poetry gives us something to hold onto, something that steadies us."

Rotstein will read at the Leah Posluns Theatre, Toronto on Nov. 6 at 1:30 p.m.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

JCC PRODUCTION REVIVES MEMORIES OF VILNA GHETTO

The vibrant culture and courage of the Vilna Ghetto is recalled in *Culture As Resistance*, a dramatic evening honouring the memory of those who lived and died in the ghetto.

Assembling to perform a concert, a group of ghetto artisans brings the rich and brave cultural milieu back to life. The production is based on **Shmerke Kaserginsky's** three-volume Yiddish memoir, *I Was A Partisan*, which recounts true stories of hope and courage from the Vilna Ghetto and the forests of Poland.

Culture As Resistance is based on an adaptation by actor-playwright **Alex Poch Golden** and is directed by **Jennifer H. Capraru**. Performers and participants include **Theresa Tova**, **Liza Balkan**, **Sophia Perlman**, **Mitch Smolkin**, **Viva Youth Singers**, the **Kaeja d'Dance Company**, the **Miles Nadal JCC Community Choir** and Yiddish scholar **Hindi Nosek-Abelson**.

Presented as part of Holocaust Education Week, the program also includes a screening of *Welcome to Vilna*. Made in the late 1930s, this short film is the last to capture the look and sound of Vilna's Jewish community.

Miles Nadal JCC, Spadina and Bloor. Members free, non-members $10. Saturday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m. 416-924-6211.

* * *

Cabbagetown Memoir: Sophie Stransman, author of *Mama and Her Mitzvahs*, speaks on Growing Up Jewish in Cabbagetown as part of the 26th annual Jewish Book Fair. Leah Posluns Theatre. Free admission. Thursday, Nov. 7, 10:30 a.m.

Brochures listing full details of this year's Jewish Book Fair are available at community sites around town or by phoning 416-636-1880, ext. 368. The fair runs Nov. 2 to 10.

* * *

GG Award Contender: Karen Levine, author of *Hana's Suitcase*, is one of five nominees for the Governor General's award for children's literature, to be announced Nov. 12. Meanwhile, she reads from the book and shows slides in a special program meant for children (aged nine and up) and adults as part of Holocaust Education Week.

Miles Nadal JCC. Sunday, Nov. 3, 10:30 a.m. (Note earlier time.) 416-924-6211.

* * *

Odets Drama: *Awake and Sing*, by American playwright **Clifford Odets**, is "a compelling, evocative play about a Jewish family living in a Bronx tenement during the Great Depression." Actors Repertory Company presents a dramatic reading of the play, directed by **Alan Jordan** and featuring **Rhea Ackler**, **David Eisner**, **Keith Knight**, **David Lowan**, **Sam Malkin**, **Jordan Pettle**, **Paul Soles**, **Linda Sorensen** and **Victor A. Young**.

Artword Theatre, 75 Portland St. Admission by donation; reservations required. Monday, Nov. 4, 7:30 p.m. 416-966-8966.

* * *

Ottawa Hebraica: The National Library of Canada is mounting an exhibition of some of the library of 2,500 volumes of rare Hebraica and Judaica donated by **Jacob M. Lowy** in 1977. In Good Company: A Celebration of the Jacob M. Lowy Collection in Its 25th Year runs Nov. 5 to Jan. 5, 2003. 395 Wellington St., Ottawa.

* * *

Arts Briefs

- *Angry Harvest*, a 1984 German film directed by **Agnieszka Holland**, tells the story of a Polish farmer who harbours a young Jewish woman during World War II. Nominated for an Academy Award as best foreign film, it is being presented by the Toronto Jewish Film Society and the Goethe Institut. Art Gallery of Ontario, Jackman Hall. Sunday, Nov. 3, 5:15 p.m. (members only) and 7:45 p.m.
- The Koffler Gallery presents The Bookmark Project, an exhibit of artist-designed bookmarks to coincide with the Jewish Book Fair. Nov. 3 to 10.
- Medina Theatre Ensemble presents a staged reading of **Aharon Megged's** play *Hanna Senesh*. Free admission. Baycrest Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. Nov. 4, 8 p.m.
- Toronto actor-director **Alon Nashman** stars in *Alphonse*, **Wajdi Mouawad's** play about a remarkable boy with a huge imagination who disappears. Theatre Direct Canada, du Maurier Theatre Centre, Harbourfront. $18 to $28.50. Nov. 5 to 17. 416-973-4000.
- Author **Daniel Goldhagen** reads from *A Moral Reckoning*, his new book about the Catholic Church and the Holocaust. OISE Auditorium, 252 Bloor St. W. $5 in advance, $8 at the door. Thursday, Nov. 7, 7:30 p.m. 416-924-6211.

* * *

Quotable Quote: "For my next book, I thought I'd have a look at a grim but oddly overlooked event called the Holocaust." – Montreal author **Yann Martel**, on winning Britain's Booker Prize last week for his novel *Life of Pi*.

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Exhibit showcases Israeli photographer's 50-year career

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Israeli photographer Rolf Kneller, who has recorded Jewish history for more than 50 years as a news cameraman and film photographer, will present an exhibit of photographs at Holy Blossom Temple from Oct. 22 to Dec. 19.

Now in his 80s, Kneller took pictures of events during World War II and in Palestine leading up to the establishment of the State of Israel.

Born in Berlin, Kneller was an active member of the Zionist youth movement. In 1939, his family escaped from Germany and settled in Palestine, where he worked as a film cameraman and still photographer and joined the underground Haganah.

With the permission of the Haganah, Kneller, like many other members of that pre-state Jewish militia, joined the British army. He said that during the time he served, Jewish units of the British army engaged in underground activities such as purchasing weapons and channeling illegal immigrants to Palestine.

In 1946, Kneller married Anne, a nurse (who was active during the siege of Jerusalem in 1948) and he resumed his career as a photographer and his activities with the Haganah. Their first daughter was born during Israel's War of Independence.

Kneller has worked for several international news agencies, including Visnews in London (which later became Reuters Television) and for Reuters TV slide service.

As a motion picture photographer, he worked with such stars as Frank Sinatra, Danny Kay and Shelly Winters and was director of photography for the film *High Noon*.

Stephen Posen, a member of Holy Blossom and a friend of Kneller, brought his work to the attention of Esther Hersh and Beryl Chernin, co-chairs of Holy Blossom's fine arts committee.

"His photographs are an important pictorial record of the history of Palestine, the founding of the modern State of Israel, and much more," Hersh said.

The photographs in the exhibition will be available for purchase, she said.

An opening reception, hosted by Posen and Robyn Kestenberg, will be held Oct. 22 from 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. in the temple's Cecile and Harry Pearl Gallery.

Arts & Travel

1963 film about life in a death camp

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Frank Beyer's *Naked Among Wolves* is a cinematic curiosity – the first German feature film about life and death in a Nazi concentration camp.

Presented by the Goethe Institut as part of Holocaust Education Week, the two-hour movie will be shown on Saturday, Nov. 9 at 7: 30 p.m., the 64th anniversary of Kristallnacht, as it happens.

The screening takes place at the Goethe Institut, 163 King Street W.

Released in 1963 in East Germany, *Naked Among Wolves* is set in Buchenwald in 1945, just weeks before the American army liberated that notorious camp.

Based on a novel by Bruno Apitz, who was himself a Buchenwald inmate, it revolves around a group of German and Polish political prisoners suddenly faced with a totally unexpected moral quandary.

What are they do with a Jewish boy whom a recently arrived Polish prisoner has smuggled into the camp in a suitcase?

The lad, whose parents were deported to Auschwitz, was spirited out of the Warsaw ghetto when he was three months old and raised by this Polish man.

If the boy is discovered by the guards, he will surely be killed, as might be some of the prisoners.

But if he is allowed to stay, the prisoners will be risking their lives to care for him.

Naked Among Wolves, whose title is quite apt, opens with a rollcall. As the inmates assemble for an inspection on a gloomy spring morning, rumours spread of a U.S. military breakthrough.

"The Americans have crossed the Rhine," they murmur repeatedly, hope springing eternal.

Although the U.S. military campaign is uppermost in the prisoners' minds on this dank day, it is the Jewish orphan who will preoccupy them for the next few weeks.

Try as they might to keep his presence a secret, a German guard stumbles upon him. For opportunistic reasons, he decides not to report his discovery. The "Jew brat," he tells his wife, might be useful to them in case Buchenwald falls into the hands of the Americans.

He is not the only Nazi in the camp looking over his shoulder anxiously. With the U.S. and Soviet armies closing in from the west and the east, the camp commandant knows the game is up.

The film, shot in stark black and white tones, is so understated and surrealistic in its portrayal of telling details that it sometimes resembles a documentary.

Naked Among Wolves is also more or less apolitical, and this is surprising because East German films were usually reflexively anti-American. In deference to the United States' role in liberating Buchenwald, the criticism has been withheld.

The most tense moments in the film occur when camp authorities, having been tipped off about the boy's whereabouts, issue a demand for him. The prisoners feign ignorance, knowing they have incurred the wrath of the Nazis

No sooner has the crisis eased than another one erupts. Fearing that Nazi plans for the camp's evacuation may be to their temporary disadvantage, the prisoners do their best to delay and thwart it.

One of the most graphic and powerful scenes is triggered by the disclosure that Buchenwald has been freed of Nazi tyranny. The prisoners stream out of their barracks in a fan-like formation, and overhead cameras capture this euphoric moment beautifully.

Western viewers will not be familiar with the cast of German and Polish actors. But they might recognize Armin Mueller-Stahl, who defected to West Germany shortly after the making of *Naked Among Wolves* and then made a name for himself in the West.

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Health & Lifestyles

Toronto hospitals conducting diabetes study

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Researchers at Toronto General and Mount Sinai hospitals hope to determine whether Ashkenazi Jews have a genetic predisposition to develop the complications of Type 1 (what used to be referred to as juvenile onset) diabetes.

Complications of diabetes can be severe, including problems with the eyes, kidneys, nerves and heart.

The principal investigator is Andrew Boright, assistant professor in the department of medicine at the University Health Network, in collaboration with Bernard Zinman, professor of medicine and director of leadership at the Sinai Centre for Diabetes at Mount Sinai Hospital. The study is being sponsored by the Canadian Diabetes Association, in collaboration with Mount Sinai Hospital.

Boright told *The CJN* they are looking for volunteers to join the study. To participate, you must be between 18 and 30 or have had Type 1 diabetes for at least 10 years at the time of diagnosis, be of Ashkenazi Jewish ethnic background, already have complications from Type 1 diabetes or have a child, parent or sibling with one of the criteria.

The hope is to get at least 150 families to take part over the initial two-year span. After that, Boright said, they hope to expand the study across Canada and to Israel.

Participants will be interviewed about their or their relative's medical history, and give blood samples. Research co-ordinator Sasan Khah said that the team will try to make things as convenient as possible, even going to the person's home if necessary.

Type 1 diabetes, which affects 10 per cent of those with the illness, is an autoimmune disease, which leads to the destruction of the pancreas, and then to a complete insulin deficiency. They require insulin to survive.

Type 2, the more common form of the disease, tends to affect older adults, especially those who are overweight. Their pancreas produce insulin, but their bodies are unable to use the insulin.

Boright explained that Ashkenazi Jews are a good population to study, because over the course of the years, "while there have been contractions and expansions of the population, in general it is fairly homogeneous compared to other ethnic groups," principally because marriage tends to occur within the group.

Also, he said, North American Jews are experienced in taking part in genetic studies, especially because of the Tay-Sachs screenings, and they may therefore be more receptive than some others.

Boright said he hopes to concentrate his study on "why do some people have poor control of their diabetes, but still don't get the complications? And the other way around."

Once the factors are identified, he said, and "we have a better understanding of the physiological factors and so on leading to complications, then we can find pharmaceutical possibilities to deal with them."

Also, he said, the study can identify those at a higher risk for complications, and target them for more aggressive therapy.

However, he said, the idea is not so much to benefit susceptible individuals at this point as it is to possibly "find the important genes and proteins to help us understand the biology behind those problems."

There is likely not just one gene that is responsible for allowing someone to develop those complications, he noted. "Probably there are several genes, that each can lead to a small chance of complications." It would be when those different genes come together that the problems arise.

Those interested in taking part in the study can contact Sasan Khah at 416-340-4800, ext. 5612.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I am under the impression that avocado and mango are both high in fat. Is this the case?

A. Avocado is very high in fat (however, it is good fat) and mango is not high in fat at all. Both are nutritious and delicious.

Q. I have started buying organic produce, especially for my children. What are the most important produce items to buy organic?

A. The most important items to buy organic are the ones known to be most contaminated with pesticides. Some of these are strawberries, red and green pepper, cucumber, green beans, peanuts, raisins, celery, spinach, some grapes, cherries, cantaloupe, apples and oranges. All of these are now widely available in organic varieties around the country.

Q. Do you believe that certain food groups should not be eaten together?

A. Definitely not. I believe that we can effectively digest what we eat and lose weight while eating all foods together. I do, however, think that all meals should include protein (meat, fish, poultry, dairy, eggs, soy, nuts or legumes), and that starches should not be eaten alone, as they make you more hungry later on and cause you to crave more carbohydrates.

Q. My 14-month-old loves olives and pickles and can't seem to get enough. Is this normal?

A. This is very typical. Kids who are just starting to eat table food are likely so excited to eat food with flavour that they love salty food. It is perfectly fine; just encourage lots of water, too.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions send them to The CJN.

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2 storey, 3 bedroom, 3 baths. Finished lower level. Separate side entrance. Cheryl Sniderman* 416-488-2875

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3 CALDERON CRES! 3+2 BDRM, 3 BATH!
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BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

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BAYVIEW/#7 YONGE TOWNHOME $279,999
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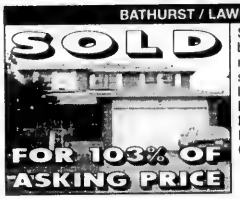

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Bath./Shepp./Canyon, lrge. 2 bdr. + sol., 2 bths., furn./unfurn., pool, sauna, 416-924-7944.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

North Miami Beach, single female looking for same 45-65, to share 2 br. condo, Jan.-March. 416-332-9941 / 416-250-6901.

Bathurst/Wilson, 1 bedroom for 1 or 2 women. Kosher, observant. 416-631-8383.

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Bath/St. Clair, 1 br. bsmt. $700 all incl. TTC access, semi-furn. avail. immed. 416-516-1558.

Bathurst/Wilson, spac. 1 bed. bsmnt. unfurn. $700 incl. util. Avail. immed. 416-633-0714.

Bach. apt., sep. entr. clean, quiet, cable, prkg., hydro incl., nr. TTC. 416-633-2112/636-9960.

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Bathurst/Wilson, large 1 bed. furn. apt. near Baycrest Centre. Jan.-March incl. 416-256-0764.

80 SHORT TERM RENTAL WANTED

Small house or 2 bed. condo needed from January 1st-June 30th. Near shul, shopping, schools. Furnished preferred. Call 301-587-0724.

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Richmond Hill, priv. bathroom, shared kitch. & laund., parking. $650/mo. 905-882-6607 evngs.

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Miami Beach, beautiful view, 1 bdrm, beautifully decor., intercoastal, close to Rascal House, $1300/mo US, 416-630-0754.

C.V. West, Boca Raton, 1 bdr., 1 bth., mn. flr., safe/clean, fully furn. & equip. 905-625-3189.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

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Palm Aire, 2 bdrm, 2 baths, available December + January. Call 416-223-0500.

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Needed: Woman to care for elderly lady. Personal & home care. Daily, part-time hours. 416-653-6993, 416-539-8429.

Bathurst bet. Wilson/Lawrence. Companion needed, own apt. avail. in house, must drive. Refs. req'd. 416-789-6902 or 416-785-0405.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS

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CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

80 years young widower, active, healthy, enjoys walking, bridge, travelling, seeks intelligent, caring lady for friendship. Call 416-636-6844.

Widow in Oak Park, Michigan looking for a man between the ages of 43-52. I am slightly physically challenged & would accept somebody who is also slightly physically challenged. I would consider someone with children for a possible steady relationship. Would relocate. Respond to CJN Box #4545.

You are cute, even beautiful. Your internal landscape is even more beautiful. You are free like a bird. You are young (I am 58). You are not petite (I am 6 ft). For a genuine, high level relationship, Daniel, 416-663-3466.

264 SOCIAL ANNOUCEMENTS

Gary and Irene Bloomstone of Montreal
and
Bernard and Phyllis Rubin of Boston
are pleased to announce the engagement of their children
BRENDA BLOOMSTONE
and
LARRY RUBIN
The entire family is looking forward to the upcoming November wedding in Boston.

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary Mom and Dad
Susan and Harvey Norden
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Love from your children Barbara & Neil and Jeffrey

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280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOY AND IRA EISEN
are proud to announce the arrival of their daughter,
Alexandra Brooke
born on May 12th, 2002 to our family, friends and the community

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WALDMAN, Ada – on Oct. 15, 2002, late of 4 Purdon Dr.
KORN, Helen – on Oct. 16, 2002, late of 335 Brighton Ave.
BROWN, Esther – on Oct. 16, 2002, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
BELYAYKINA, Maya – on Oct. 17, 2002, late of 6250 Bathurst St.
HURWITZ, Tessa – on Oct. 17, 2002, late of South Africa.
GABAY, Monir – on Oct. 20, 2002, late of 1101 Steeles Ave. W.
GRIES, Toby – on Oct. 21, 2002, late of 2 Buchan Crt.
GREENBERG, Michal – on Oct. 21, 2002, late of 200 Chelwood Dr.
HELLER, Aviva – on Oct. 21, 2002, late of 331 Cortleigh Blvd.
RUDMAN, Faivel – on Oct. 21, 2002.
BOGOUSLAVSKIY, Alexandr – on Oct. 20, 2002, late of 4455 Bathurst St.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

FOGELMAN, Myrle – on Oct. 3, 2002, late of 155 Kendal Ave., #501.
LIPSCHUTZ, Norman – on Oct. 6, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
HEITELMAN, Jack – on Oct. 7, 2002, late of 1100 Marlboro Dr., #3.
GLICK, Rubin – on Oct. 8, 2002, late of 505-4300 Bathurst St.

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PEARL, Sylvia, – on Sept. 22, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
FREEMAN, Sharon – on Sept. 24, 2002, late of 750 Briar Hill Ave.
LANGER, Pearl – on Sept. 23, 2002, late of 66 Collier St., #4B.
KOVEN, Jonathan – on Sept. 23, 2002, late of 22 Cavotti Cres.
SALSBERG, Bea – on Sept. 24, 2002, late of 1 Northwestern Ave.
BRESLAW, Lily – on Sept. 25, 2002, late of 17 Hoover Dr.
GORMAN, Elissa – on Sept. 24, 2002, late of 79 Braemar Ave.
LEBO, Louise – on Sept. 25, 2002, late of 46 Oxton Ave.
BURSHTEIN, Jack – on Sept. 26, 2002, late of 343 Clarke Ave. W.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

SLAN, Jack – on Sept. 28, 2002, late of 260 Heath St. W.
LEVITIN, Joseph – on Sept. 28, 2002, late of 95 Lynnhaven Rd.
ALTMAN, Morris – on Sept. 29, 2002, late of 276 St. George St.
JOEL, Aubrey – on Sept. 29, 2002, late of 165 Crescent Rd.
FAIVEL, Leon – on Oct. 1, 2002, late of 3036 Bathurst St.
WAX, Ben – on Sept. 29, 2002, late of 11 Amos Cres.
LICHTENBERG, Leo – on Sept. 30, 2002, late of 640 Roselawn Ave., #2.
COGANOVITCH, Saul – on Sept. 30, 2002, late of 15 Flora Dr.
TYNDEL, Dr. Milo – on Oct. 2, 2002, late of 316 Lytton Blvd.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

MOSCOVICI, Margareta – on Oct. 2, 2002, late of 298 Hillhurst Blvd.
COTT, Bessie – on Oct. 3, 2002, late of 42 Gatcombe Circle.
NAKELL, Gerry – on Oct. 2, 2002, late of 43 Braemar Ave.
WARREN, Sydney – on Oct. 4, 2002, late of 103 Old Forest Hill Rd.
GIDDENS, Jack – on Oct. 4, 2002, late of 35 Forest Wood.
GREENBLOOM, Murray – on Oct. 4, 2002, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
TESKA, Selma – on Oct. 6, 2002, late of Leisure World.
BIELAK, Mosche – on Oct. 7, 2002, late of 8 Kingsbridge Crt., #209.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BEREK KOZIEROK ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Nov. 3rd, 11:00 a.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Workman's Circle Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
ALEXANDER LIFSHITZ ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, Nov. 3rd, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Warshover Lodzer Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
NECHEMIA KNOBEL ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, November 3rd at 1:00 p.m.
Mount Sinai Memorial Park
Farband Labour Zionist Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument in loving memory of
JACK KATZBERG ז"ל
Loving husband, father, zaidy, great-zaidy & brother
will take place
Sunday, November 3rd at 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Adath Shalom Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

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Ex-model now creating her own portraits

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

As a former New York model, photographer Sheila Reisman has had experience on both sides of the camera.

But the Toronto and Collingwood resident says, "I prefer photographing to being photographed."

Reisman's photographs are currently on display at the Gallery at the Bay in Thornbury, Ont. She recently completed a successful one-artist exhibition at the Collingwood Public Library's gallery titled People and Places.

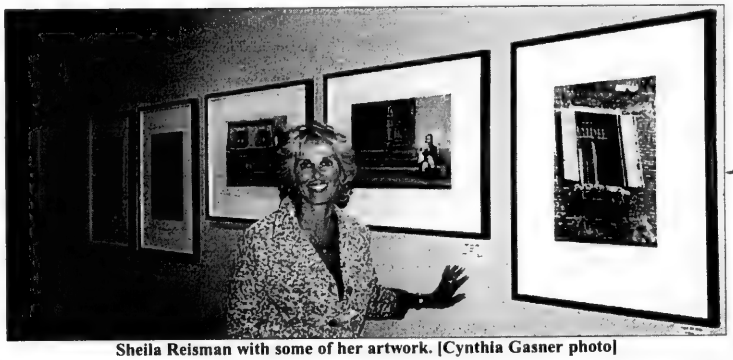
"We have had a phenomenal response to Sheila Reisman's show," said Carole Stuart of the library's arts advisory council.

Reisman's work ranges from portraits and gardens to seascapes and street scenes in black and white, colour, sepia-tones and mixed media.

"I express myself through the beauty of life, nature, people and their emotions," Reisman says. "But my preference is people. When you look into their eyes, you see their souls.

"Every picture I take has a story to it."

Reisman, who was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., says that since her mother gave her a camera when she was five years old, she has always been fascinated by photography. She studied at the New York Institute of Photography and at Boston University before she moved to Toronto 30 years ago when she married commercial land developer Al Reisman.



Sheila Reisman with some of her artwork. [Cynthia Gasner photo]

Her award-winning photographs have brought her recognition in Canada, the United States and England. She has had numerous solo and group exhibitions in Ontario, including in Toronto, Collingwood, Niagara Falls and Thornbury, as well as in New York and London, England. Her work is on display in many private and corporate collections, including at the Merchants Bank of New York, the State Attorney Office in Tampa, Fla., and the Hospital for Sick Children and the Rose Corporation in Toronto.

The mother of six, who travels throughout the world to take her photos, recently returned from China. She will be an exhibitor at the prestigious Level Gallery Mixed Media show in Collingwood from Dec. 15 to Jan. 30.

For more information on Reisman's exhibitions and photographs, call 705-445-3333 or e-mail her at sreis14128@aol.com.

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women seeking men

ZEST FOR LIFE
Single Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, fit, 5' 5" and good natured. Seeks single Jewish traditional male between 45-55 yrs young with 6', handsome, established, exciting, caring, non smoker and one who loves life. **AD#1414**

A RARE GEM
Unique, attractive Jewish female, 5' 5" tall, brown hair/eyes, kind, sincere, creative & lots of fun to be with. Seeks traditional a Jewish gentleman under 55 yrs young w/ handsome over 6" genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoker, financially stable & humorous. **AD#1476**

LOOKING FOR YOU
Hi I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs. I'm a warm person, honest, very open and out going. I'm a good listener and good to communicate with. I'm friendly, and I enjoy people. I'm looking for a widow 54-62 yrs for friendship first. **AD#1403**

GIVE ME A CALL
This 65 yr old female is a radiant shapely beauty. She's independent, educated, articulate and with a zest for life. She is seeking an easy going witty man to dance, hike and attend the theatre with. **AD#1403**

PROFESSIONAL AND SINGLE
I'm a professional woman in my mid 50's. I have been widow over a year and I like to meet someone who is single, who is also professional, with whom I can share my interests with. I am looking for someone who lives in the Metro Toronto Area. I am outgoing, fun to be with and easy to talk to. **AD#1461**

ARE YOU MY MATCH?
Hi there, I am a feisty, fun, focused, funky, sometimes foolish, flirtatious and perhaps a little fussy female, who has yet to find her match. I am a successful & accomplished 35 yr old Jewish gal who is looking for an equally successful & accomplished 35-40 Jewish guy. **AD#1056**

LET'S MEET
Hi I am a youthful, 58 yrs old, warm, kind compassionate female. I don't smoke, I'm financially secure and would like to meet someone to share my interests. I enjoy going to movies, theatre, and taking romantic walks. I'm looking for loving partner for enjoying life with. **AD#1032**

PASSION & ZEST
Do you have a passion and zest for life & adventure? Hi, I'm a mysterious, European female. I'm 5' 2", 43 yrs mother of 2, with an adventurist spirit & wide range of interests and a very easy going nature. I'm looking man between 38-55 yrs, 5' 10" who's up for friendship leading to marriage. **AD#1113**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Hi, I'm a single female in late my 30's. I'm slim & attractive. I have brown hair,light blue eyes. Some of my interests include swing dancing, biking, hiking, tanning on the beach & nature walks. I'm interested in meeting a single man that is family oriented & attractive, 35-55 yrs. **AD#1160**

WIDOWS ONLY
Would like to start a widows group social, 50-60 yrs only, no divorcees. **AD#1040**

DOWN TO EARTH
I'm a Jewish widow and I would like to meet a widower, 55-63. I like music and old movies. I'm a caring, sharing, romantic and warm person. I'm down to earth and like to smile a lot. I have no baggage, and would like to meet someone with similar interests. **AD#1181**

ROMANCE & LOVE
I am a widow in my 50's, and I'm starting over. I'm a non smoker, who's friendly, down to earth, loves cooking and baking, enjoys people, romantic quiet times listening to music and sitting in front of a fire. I would to like to meet a widower, 55-60 yrs. Please call. **AD#1344**

A REAL FIND
I'm a smart, kind hearted, loyal, very very funny female who's cute, youthful, physically fit, & professionally successful with no strings, I'm looking to meet a wonderful Jewish man 50-60 yrs of age to share, enjoy & enrich our life experiences. **AD#1156**

A MENSCH FOR ALL SEASONS
Michelle is an engaging, fun-loving, energetic, fanatically-fit widow with a zest for life & a passion for work & family. Friends say she is attractive & fun to be with. She is looking for a mensch. (by definition a life loving man of integrity) **AD#1012**

NEW LIFE WITH YOU
I'm a widow who would like to rebuild a new life with a widower or a single male 54-60 yrs. I'm active, outgoing and down to earth. I enjoy life, non smoker. I like art, adventure & travel. Seeking a mature relationship. **AD#1383**

LET'S MEET
Hi, I'm a sincere lady with a warm smile. I'm kind, caring & compassionate. I'm also honest & have a good sense of humour. I love animals & seek a gentleman for companionship between 60-65 yrs. I also enjoy long walks, dancing, theatre & music. **AD#1447**

FINER THINGS
Hi, I'm an attractive professional woman in my early 50's. I'm 5' 6", red hair and have 2 grown wonderful children. I'm sincere, respectful, caring, romantic and fun loving. I enjoy cooking, fine dining, dancing, theatre, opera, travel, walks in the park, and I love to sing. **AD#1402**

LET'S MEET FOR COFFEE
Hi, I'm 39 yr old single female. I'm seeking a male 39-49 yrs, who's attractive, hard working like myself, and easy going. Looking for friendship, hopefully leading to a relationship. I like dancing, going out to eat & movies. **AD#1269**

STARTING OVER
I'm a widow in my 50's, who would like to start over. I'm a caring & sharing individual, a good listener, non smoker, positive person w/ a smile. I enjoy life & people and humour. Would like to meet a single man in his 50's w/ similar interests. **AD#1236**

men seeking women

BALANCE YOUR LOVE
Hello my name is Michael, I'm a 41 yr accountant and I've been working for a number of years. My spare time during the summer I play baseball, bike nding and hiking. I like to get together with friends and I'm looking to meet a young lady with similar goals, hopefully leading to a long term relationship. **AD#1370**

PROFESSIONAL MALE
Hi I'm a single 40 yr old male, professional, physically fit easy going, who enjoys meeting people and have a joy for life. I'm looking for a female 30-40 yrs, who meets my common interests. **AD#1286**

DOCTOR OF LOVE
My name is Dan, I'm 51 yrs and work as a medical doctor. I have 2 daughters that live with me and I'm a devoted father. I'm slim, fit, energetic, intense, and I'm always looking to learn new things. I take course most of the time. Interests range from art, philosophy, foreign languages & ballroom dancing. **AD#1293**

INCURABLE ROMANTIC
Jewish male, non smoker, in his 70's going on 50. A university graduate, 5' 5", 145 lbs, I have many varied interests including theatre, music, dancing, the arts, tennis, golf, dining, travelling. I'm also an incurable romantic & social drinker with a great zest for life. **AD#1235**

ROMANTIC MAN
Hi, I'm a Jewish male, late 50's, who's looking for a sharing & caring woman, non smoking, 45-58yrs. I'm a romantic who likes long walks & enjoys nature, quiet evenings cuddling together at fireside. **AD#1478**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
I'm a man in my 50's w/ blue eyes, dark brown hair, who would like to meet a woman, also in her 50's. She should enjoy travel, museums, the arts & musical theatre. Looking for someone who can share lots of laughs w/ a good sense of humour. Home cooked meals would be a definite bonus. **AD#1234**

HEALTHY WEALTHY
Hi my name is Amon, I'm a white executive living in Thornhill. I look in the mirror & I see a healthy young 1939 model w/ no deficiencies. I'm told that I'm not bad to look at either. I've got salt & pepper hair, beautiful blue eyes, slim, 5' 10" and I have good teeth too. My passions are the sun & sea. **AD#1006**

DO YOU JUBU?
Physically & spiritually active male, 33 yrs old. Seeks non materialistic female with insight, aged between 25-35 yr old for mindful & compassionate relationship. **AD#1315**

FRIENDSHIP & LOVE
Single Jewish male of Indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest. Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family. **AD#1459**

UNEMPLOYED BUM
Are you looking for a ugly, short, fat, bald, unemployed bum? Well keep looking because I'm none of the above. I'm honest, successful, good looking with no dependents. I love gourmet foods, wine tasting, movies & I'm a very good cook. Seeking a woman between 38-48 yrs. **AD#1227**

PICTURE THIS
I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more. **AD#1442**

LET'S MEET
Hi my name is Marvin, I'm a warm & thoughtful person, single, 60 yrs old and I live in GTA. I'm a romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who loves to travel, watch movies, take long walks, rides in the country. I also enjoy great conversation, nice quiet times at homes, and I love to read. **AD#1074**

FUN GUY
Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things. Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading. Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands. **AD#1368**

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Jewish skaters start new season

BY HARVEY ROSEN
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — Perhaps it's because Jewish parents have always placed a high priority on education that many gifted athletes of an earlier era followed the royal road to learning rather than pursue a career in sports.

That might explain why there was such a scarcity of aspiring minor pro Jewish hockey players in the middle of the 20th century.

Oh, there were a few prominent players such as rearguard Hy Buller, a former Detroit Red Wing and New York Ranger, rugged defenceman Larry Zeidel with Detroit and Philadelphia, Max Kaminsky, a Boston Bruins centre, and the pioneer Jewish player in the NHL, Samuel Rothschild, who toiled with the Montreal Maroons and New York Americans.

On the positive side, however, it should be noted that today there are a growing number of Jewish players on the cusp who skate and wait in the minor leagues in places such as Mobile, Macon, and Roanoke. All, not so patiently, anticipate the big call-up.

At the NHL level, Washington Capitals centre Jeff Halpern, 26, a former college hockey standout at Princeton, can no longer be described as a surprise. He has, despite his injury-riddled season last year when he scored five goals and added 14 assists, established himself as a superior penalty killer and an excellent faceoff specialist. Signed as a free agent in 1999, Halpern scored 18 and 21 goals in his first two injury-free campaigns with the Caps.

The Potomac, Md., native is a former Hobey Baker Award nominee (for top U.S. college player) who set a Princeton University scoring record with 28 goals and 25 assists in 1997-98.

The six-foot, 195-lb. Halpern's main challenge this time around will be to overcome last year's serious knee injury, which limited him to just 48 games.

Los Angeles Kings defenceman Mathieu Schneider, who was drafted in the third round by Montreal, is, with the passage of time, starting to wear down. At 33 years old and with 14 campaigns under his belt, he is frequently described as "oft injured." Last year, due to a variety of ailments, he missed 27 games.

The six-foot, 190-lb. left-handed shooter managed seven goals and 23 helpers last year while spearheading the NHL's best powerplay unit. The highest-paid Jewish hockey player of all time at $3,250,000 per season moves the puck very quickly and has an excellent shot from the point. He is also a former Islander, Leaf and Ranger, as well as having played for Les Canadiens.

His mother, Aline, is a French Canadian who converted to Judaism when she married. Although now divorced, she remains Jewish.

Steve Dubinsky, 32, is indeed a travelling man. Last season, the six-foot, 190-lb. centre played on four different teams. He was with Norfolk and Milwaukee of the American Hockey League, scoring a total of 20 goals in 52 games, and added one game-winner at the NHL level with the Chicago Blackhawks as well as five markers with the Nashville Predators.

In August, Dubinsky was signed by St. Louis as a free agent. The versatile one-time Clarkson University player is a good skater, intense competitor and valuable commodity late in games and for important faceoffs.

Unfortunately for him, less than 48 hours before the Blues' first game, he was sent to Worcester of the American Hockey League. But Dubinsky's a handyman and his return to the NHL can be expected.

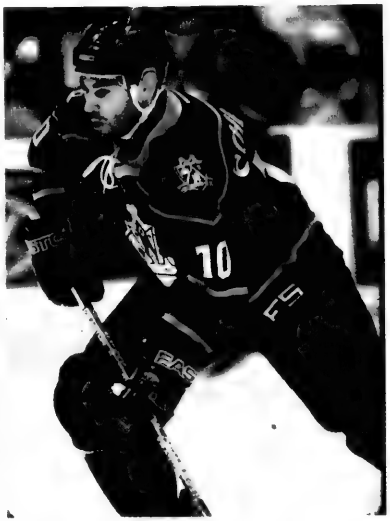
Andrew "Bubba" Berenzweig will begin the season with the AHL Milwaukee Admirals. The sturdy six-foot-two, 215-lb. left-handed shooting defenceman was one of the Nashville Predators' last cuts just days before the team's Oct. 9 opener.

Last year he played in 23 games with the Admirals, recording two goals and three assists, and 26 games with Nashville, firing three goals along with seven assists.

The 1996 fifth-round draft pick of the New York Islanders and a former star at the University of Michigan will doubtless be the first rearguard recalled when an injury occurs in Nashville, since the parent club is still high on him.

Last summer's NHL amateur draft saw three Jewish youngsters' names called. Left wing Eric Nystrom, a freshman at the University of Michigan and the son of former Islander Bob Nystrom, was picked 10th overall in the first round by Calgary (the highest Jewish draft pick ever); Adam Henrich, a left winger with the Brampton Battalion of the Ontario Hockey League, whose brother Michael was a first-round Edmonton selection in 1998, was chosen in the second round by Tampa Bay; and goalie Robert Gherson of the Sarnia Stingers was selected in round five by Washington.

All three have been returned to their amateur teams by the parent clubs.



Mathieu Schneider
[Photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Kings]

Another NHL draftee who has been sent back to his junior team to gain more seasoning is centre Eric Himelfarb, a sixth-round pick by Montreal in 2001 who scored 35 goals and added 48 assists with Sarnia last winter.

Former Erie Otters (OHL) forward Cory Pecker agreed this past summer to a three-year-pact with the Anaheim Mighty Ducks. He was originally drafted by Calgary, but was never signed. The 21-year-old Montreal skater is a prolific scorer. In his last junior season, he scored 53 goals in 56 games, adding 25 more goals in 21 games in the playoffs. The right-winger will start the season with Cincinnati of the AHL.

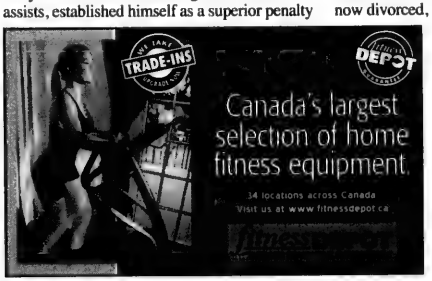
Four other AHL players who are also just one step away from seeing NHL action are forward David Hymovitz, a late cut by the Ottawa Senators, who was shipped to Binghamton; defenceman Jeff Dessner, now in the Colorado organization, was sent to the Hershey Bears; right wing Michael Henrich is back in Hamilton with the Bulldogs; and New Jersey draftee Max Birbraer, a left winger from Kazakhstan who formerly played for Israel, returns to the Albany River Rats.

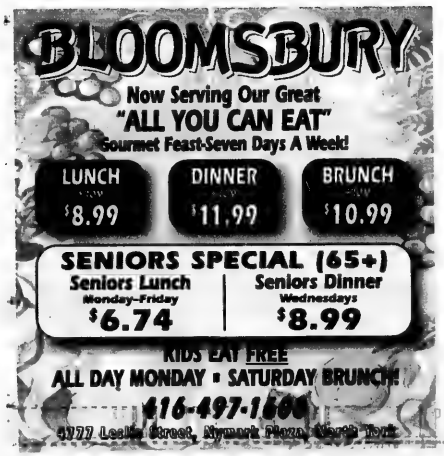
One step down from the AHL in the East Coast Hockey League, you can find Shawn Mamane, a forward with the Richmond Renegades. Other Jewish skaters in that circuit are Sandy Cohen, Aaron Fox, Greg Gardner, and Justin Kearns.

In the United Hockey League, look for goalie Aaron Vickar and defenceman Robert Stark, teammates with the Missouri River Otters, plus centre Harold Hersh who played in Quad City and Rockford last year.

And lastly, remember former Buffalo Sabres' prospect, forward Todd Simon? He now plays with the Essen Mosquitoes in the Elite German League.

A pesky lot, aren't they? Not the mosquitoes, but the aforementioned aspiring Jewish players who just won't quit.





ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

אחז ומוז מכפר קאקארוז...

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לא יצמחו לעולם
פרחים באביב".

אם נדבק רק בעמדתנו, ולו גם תהיה צודקת, מעמדה בלעדית זו לעולם לא יצמחו ניצני השלום. אין ספק שחשיבה זו מדריכה הוצאות ספרים רבות בארץ שבוחרות להוציא לאור ספרים לילדים המעודדים את נושא קידום השלום. אינני מתכוונת להכרזות של סתם שכולם, כולל שוחרי נקם והרס מצטטים. כוונתי לספרות מתוחכמת ואמיצה, זו שמוכנה אף לשחות נגד הזרם. דגם לסיפורת זו הוא ספר חמד שיצא לראשונה לאור (הוצאת כתר) בשנת 1987 וזכה עתה להוצאה מחודשת. זהו סיפורם של אפרים סידון ויוסי אבולעפיה (סידון כתב, אבולעפיה צייר): אחז ומוז מכפר קאקארוז.

הסיפור מחורז וקצבי והמסרים מועברים בדרך הומוריסטית. אכן בעיקר בשל ההומור כל-כך חשוב לציין את איוריו הנפלאים של אבולעפיה שמוסיפים הרבה מעבר להשלמת הטקסט.

אחז ומוז מכפר קאקארוז הוא סיפור לילדים על שני אחים שאהבו זה את זה בלב ובנפש. "מעולם לא ידעו מהם רוגז וריב. והיתה שם קרבה גדולה במיוחד, כאלו השניים היו איש אחד... האחד מרגיש רע, השני מתעלף. אוזו עיף - מוזו נרדם. האחד משתזף - השני מתקלף." אלא, שוד ושבר, יום אחד (יום נשום, קר ולח) פורץ בין האחים ווכוח סוער. על מה? על השאלה הנכבדה: "איך רגלים ראוי וצריך לשלב. כשאיש או אישה לתומם מתיישבים... ורגל על רגל הם אז משלבים, איזו רגל מתחת ואיזו מעל?" מווכוח מטופש זה צומחת מריבה איומה ובעקבותיה נבנית חומה המפרידה בין האחים - לעולם.

שנים חולפות, "ידור אחר דור, אי אפשר לעצור את סיפור השטן מאחורי החומה. ודור אחר דור, אי אפשר כבר לזכור מתי זה התחיל ובעצם על מה." אוזו ומוזו כבר מזמן הלכו לעולמם אך בני בניהם מספרים סב לאב, אב לאם, אם לבת, בת לבן - "כמה נורא ומפחיד השכן, שנגדו הוקמה החומה החוצצת - אוייב שהפך מאדם למפלצת."

כך היה עד שיום אחד טייל לו ילד קט ששמו אוזו (על שם סבא של סבא של סבא של סבא) ומתוך סקרנות של ילד קצת שובב, הוא רצה לראות איך בעצם נראית אותה מפלצת מעבר לחומה. הילד מהסס, גם פוחד אבל מחליט לטפס. משמגיע הילד אוזו לראש החומה אין הוא רואה דבר. והוא תוהה "אולי המפלצת עושה לי פשוט מארב?" אלא שלתדהמתו הרבה הילד מגלה שמעברה השני של החומה מתרוצצת לה ילדה חמודה ששמה מוזה. הוא שואג לעברה" תברחי! יש פה מפלצת! והילדה מופתעת: איזה מפלצת!? אתה טועה, המפלצת "נמצאת הרי שם, מאחורי החומה, בדיוק במקום שממנו הופעת - אני מתפלאת שאתה לא נבלעת..." בקיצור, אין מפלצת.

הילדים נרגשים וממהרים לספר תגליתם להורים; את המבוגרים קצת יותר קשה לשכנע ("הביאו סולם ועולים בו כולם, להכות באוייב הנמצא למולם") אך כמובן, כולם מגלים שמעברה של החומה יש רק שכנים נחמדים. אגב, אוזו ומוזה מתבגרים, מתאהבים ומתחתנים. לעתים כשבאים לבקר את הזוג הצעיר הם מנסים להסביר לעצמם ולאחרים את מלחמת הדורות במפלצת שמעבר לחומה; "במקום מאמץ וטרחה להשקיע אותם להבין, הרבה יותר קל לקבוע מראש שהם מפלצות ולא בני אנוש."

למרבה הצער, סיפורי ילדים אינם יכולים לשים קץ למצבי איבה בין עמים ואולם דיון בסיפור ילדים טוב עשוי לשמש תשתית חינוכית לפתיחות ואמפתיה וגם זו לטובה.

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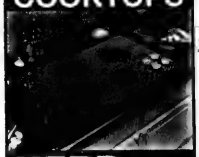

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FRUITCAKE BISCOTTI

1/2 cup softened margarine	2 tsp. baking soda
2 cups sugar	1 tsp. baking powder
4 large eggs	1/2 tsp. salt
1 tsp. grated lemon rind	3/4 cup dried cranberries
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract	3/4 cup dried tart cherries
1/4 tsp. almond extract	1/2 cup candied orange rind
5 cups flour	3/4 cups coarsely chopped almonds

Beat butter at med. speed with electric mixer until creamy; gradually add sugar, beating well. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each addition. Add lemon rind, vanilla and almond extracts and mix well. Combine flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt; add to butter mixture, beating just until dry ingredients are moistened. Gradually add in dried fruits and nuts. Turn dough out intq 2 greased loaf pans. Bake at 325°F 35 mins. or until golden brown. Cool completely. Cut each log into 1/2" slices; place on ungreased baking sheets. Bake at 325°F for 10 mins. on each side. Remove to wire racks to cool.

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See opposite page for this week's specials.

About Food

Dear Norene

By NORENE GILLETZ

If you want to become a better baker, you need a copy of *The Baker's Dozen Cookbook* (William Morrow, $59.95 Cdn). This book is packed with tips and contains the collective experiences and favourite recipes of some of the most respected bakers in the business. Learn the secrets of making perfect pastries, breads, cakes and cookies.

These tender little cakes deliver a gush of bittersweet chocolate sauce from within and can be prepared well ahead of baking. Mmmm!

MOLTEN CHOCOLATE CAKES

softened butter and sugar, for the ramekins
8 oz. semisweet or bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
8 tbsp. (1 stick) unsalted butter, cut into bits
2 tbsp. milk
3 tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder
2 large eggs, separated, at room temperature
1 large egg white, at room temperature
1/8 tsp. cream of tartar
3 tbsp. sugar
sweetened whipped cream (to garnish)

Lightly butter insides of six 6-oz. custard cups, sprinkle with sugar; tap out excess.

In a medium stainless-steel bowl placed in a skillet of hot – *not* simmering – water, melt chocolate and butter, stirring often until smooth. Remove from heat. Measure 6 tbsp. into a small shallow bowl. Add milk and stir well. Place in freezer while preparing rest of recipe.

Stir cocoa and egg yolks into remaining chocolate-butter mixture.

In a grease-free medium bowl, whip egg whites with cream of tartar until soft peaks form. Gradually beat in sugar until peaks are stiff and glossy but not dry. Fold about 1/4 of egg whites into cocoa mixture, then fold in remaining whites. Spoon batter into custard cups, filling half full. Set remaining batter aside.

Remove chocolate-butter mixture from freezer; it should be firm. Using a dessert spoon, scrape up mixture and roll into 6 truffle-like balls. Embed a truffle into the centre of each custard cup, top with remaining batter and level the tops. Place on a baking sheet. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 3 hours. (Can be prepared and refrigerated up to 3 days ahead.)

Position rack in lower third of oven; preheat to 400. Bake until cakes are puffed and cracked and a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out gooey, about 12 minutes. Let cool for 3 minutes.

Run a thin knife around inside of each cup to release the cake. Protecting your hands with a towel, invert a cup in the centre of a dessert plate to unmold. Repeat with remaining cakes. Serve immediately with a dollop of sweetened whipped cream.

Norene Gilletz is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeaniYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com.*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

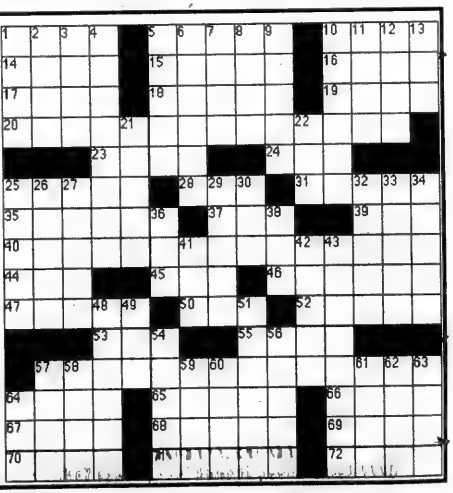
The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 43.)

The Writings
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Shake, for short
5. Where emotion of 57 across resides
10. Often used memo acronym
14. Mixture
15. U.S. corporate giant
16. 3,000 mile long Siberian river
17. Really?, slangily
18. Popular Starbucks item
19. Culinary or martial
20. Writings: This one urges learning from 12 down
23. Berate strongly, in the vernacular
24. Tree
25. Handed out a hand
28. Kind of flow
31. Who ___ that comes up from the desert? (See 57 across, 8:5)
35. ____ go, that was the deepest my wagon wheel ever got stuck in!
37. Vietnam War Memorial designer
39. Dawn
40. Writings: This has 'cup runneth over'
44. Always, poetically
45. Square root of one hundred
46. Warplane foray
47. "The Deer, O Israel, lies ____ upon your heights!" David's metaphoric Eulogy for Saul and Jonathan
50. Gridiron units
52. Malign
53. One of the orig. 13 colonies
55. Tigger's friend
57. Writings: This stars the Shulamite
64. Arthur and Lillie
65. Comedic actor Martin
66. Chicago run-around
67. Guthrie
68. Bring to joy
69. Star Trek commander
70. Atoll feature
71. Writer Leo, popularized Yiddish and Jewish humor, abbrev.
72. ____ in the dark

Down
1. Nation at times allied with Judah
2. Palo ____
3. Oriental soup
4. Marketing framework that might have sold the writings?
5. Football periods
6. Pass, as time
7. Robards or Brando, for short
8. ___gravure
9. Yiddish girl's name, English variant
10. Warning bells
11. Belgradian
12. Carpenter and army
13. ___ de deux
21. ___ lunch
22. Samuel's mentor
25. Palm fruit
26. Tamarisk, in Tiberias
27. Sports venue
29. Redford's hair color
30. ___ sick, French menu item
32. Doomsday Book spelling for Village of Salt in England
33. Last word, second line of Hatikvah (English transliteration)
34. An eater, in Yiddish
36. Drunkard
38. Symbol, Element 93, in the plural
41. Francis Scott
42. Ho-hum folks
43. Half-nelson and such
48. ____ March
49. Miracle, in Modiin
51. ____ Leisure, golfwear brand
54. Not a winner
56. Frequently
57. Binth opener (tree of Israel)
58. Nathan of American Revolution
59. Hockey assn. et al
60. Don't let mocker get your ___
61. Ancestor of the Patriarchs
62. Person you want is your ____ guy
63. Tussle



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This Week

National

Hezbollah agents raising funds in Canada, report says. *Page 8*

Hana's tale launches Holocaust Education Week. *Page 16*

On Campus

Life at a fairly non-Jewish university. *Page 27*

Health & Lifestyles

New cancer support group for women opens in Edmonton. *Page 36*

Arts & Travel

It's possible to 'do' China in under two hours. *Page 52*

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Suicide strikes are war crimes: report

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Suicide terror strikes are crimes against humanity and war crimes, says Human Rights Watch, an international human rights organization based in New York.

The organization's conclusions on such terror strikes were released last Friday in a new report titled *Erased in a Moment: Suicide Bombing Attacks Against Israeli Civilians*.

It analyzes the modes of operation and organizational structure of Palestinian groups that have taken responsibility for suicide strikes. It also details international standards that prohibit attacks against civilians and examines the terror organizations' finances and the role played by the Palestinian Authority.

The Human Rights Watch report emphasizes that international law and the rules of war impose an absolute, unconditional ban on harming civilians.

The report explicitly names the political leaderships of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine as being responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Due to these organizations' centralized power structures, it is inconceivable that terror strikes could be carried out without instructions and inspiration from their top political leadership echelons, the report states.

The report assigns political responsibility – but not criminal responsibility – to Fatah and the Palestinian Authority, headed by President Yasser Arafat, for war crimes carried out by the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades.

The brigades, which are Fatah's military arm, operate with relative autonomy in local areas; and, the report explains, its findings suggest that Fatah's military wing does not take orders from the PA's, or Fatah's, political leaderships.

Continued on page 37

Manitoba solidarity mission

A 51-member solidarity mission from Manitoba toured Israel last week. The mission included Manitoba Premier Gary Doer, Minister of Health Dave Chomiak and his deputy Milton Sussman, plus 16 members of the Manitoba Health department. The remaining participants came from the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg and were led by its president Ian Goldstine and mission chair Melvin Lazareck. "We have been planning a solidarity mission to Israel for a number of months now," explained Goldstine. "In the late summer, the New Democratic government of Manitoba approached us and said they would like to show solidarity with Israel in a tangible way," Goldstine said. Above, from left, Doer, Chomiak and Sussman stand by a wreath placed at the site of the Park Hotel suicide bombing in Netanya last Passover. *[Israel photo]*

Campaign targets UNICEF

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

A grassroots e-mail campaign is calling on Canadians to voice their concerns to UNICEF about a lack of context in a recent UNICEF press release that criticizes Israel for preventing Palestinian children from attending school.

The campaign, which coincided with UNICEF's Halloween fund-raising drive, criticized UNICEF for "not mention[ing that] the closures are the result of terrorism and suicide bombers."

It also criticized the international relief agency for employing Syrian actor Dourade Lahhan as a "goodwill ambassador" after he compared U.S. president George W. Bush to Hitler and expressed pride in his association with Hezbollah during a tour of the Lebanese border as a guest of the terror group.

Continued on page 34

Shabbat: Toldot
Candlelighting: 4:43
Havdallah: 5:48

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One in five Israelis living in poverty — please see page 38

The News in Brief

CANADA

Ban Hezbollah: CJC

OTTAWA — Canadian Jewish Congress is urging new solicitor general Wayne Easter to add Palestinian and Arab terror organizations to the list of banned groups under Bill C-136, the anti-terrorism act. In an Oct. 25 letter, CJC repeats its earlier call to add groups such as Hezbollah, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade to the list of "entities knowingly engaged in terrorist activity" released by Easter's predecessor, Lawrence MacAulay, in July. Regarding Hezbollah, CJC also repeated its call for the government to freeze all of its assets in Canada and abandon its "specious" distinction between fund-raising for the group's humanitarian and military activities. But Foreign Affairs Bill Graham said Canada will not make such a move, saying it would "label as terrorists" innocent doctors, teachers and others aid workers.

Trains Ordered

MONTREAL — Canada's Bombardier Transportation has received an order from the Israel Railways to deliver another six four-car double-decker trains between May and July 2004 for use in the Tel Aviv area. The $47 million deal is a follow-up to one signed in 1999. To date, 23 trains have been ordered. The six new trains will be made in Gorlitz, Germany.

ISRAEL

Temple Wall OK

JERUSALEM — A group of Jordanian engineers who investigated a bulge in the southern wall of the Temple Mount have recommended replacing some eroding stones. They concluded the wall is not in danger of immediate collapse. They were brought in to assess the wall as a compromise in a dispute between Israeli and Islamic officials over the problem. Israel blames the bulge on massive, unsupervised construction by the Islamic religious trust.

175 Suspects in Jail

JERUSALEM — Israel is holding 175 would-be suicide bombers in jail, Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said last week. Most were captured in the West Bank and Gaza in Israeli raids based on intelligence information, though some were intercepted en route to Israel, security officials said.

Terror Scare

TEL AVIV — An Israeli wearing a heart monitor set off a terror scare when he was mistaken for a suicide bomber at a shopping mall in northern Israel. Shlomi Shoshana tried to enter a mall in Nazareth-Illit when the device set off the security guard's scanner. At the guard's instructions, Shoshana opened his shirt, revealing wires strapped to his chest leading down to his belt. "Everyone who was in the area thought it was an explosives belt and fled," Shoshana said. "Luckily, the guard agreed to listen to me."

Sun, Fun and Exams

EILAT — Ben-Gurion University of the Negev opened its new campus here last month, with several programs being offered, including hotel and tourism management and behavioural sciences.

WORLD

Jewish Hostages Die

MOSCOW — At least four Jews, including two children, were among the dead in last month's hostage crisis at a theatre here, according to Russian Jewish community leaders. At least 20 Jewish hostages survived, some of whom were recuperating last week in hospital.

Sniper Suspects

TACOMA, Wash. — The two suspects in the Washington, D.C.-area sniper case allegedly fired gunshots at a synagogue in Washington state last May. The latest allegations against John Allen Muhammad and John Lee Malvo surfaced after a man in Tacoma, Wash., told police late last month that he had lent the pair his guns. Between May 1 and May 4, shots were fired at Temple Beth El in Tacoma. There were no injuries, and damage was minimal.

Five Iranian Jews Remain in Jail

NEW YORK — Contrary to earlier reports, five Iranian Jews accused of spying for Israel remain in jail after three others were pardoned and released late last month.

Sources close to the issue said last week Iranian authorities had granted the five an indefinite furlough. But the sources later said reports from Iran were "disinformation."

The men's uncertain status seems to underscore the precarious situation of the entire Jewish community in Iran. There are some 22,000 to 25,000 Jews there, down from 100,000 or so prior to the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Both Israel and the Iranian Jewish community deny the men ever spied for "the Zionist regime," as Tehran alleges.

It's unclear what led to the dissemination of the false reports. Pooya Dayanim of the Council of Iranian American Jewish Organizations in Los Angeles said sources in Iran told him last week the five men were home with their families. He said he didn't know why the sources would provide erroneous information.

The five who remain in jail are: Dani (Hamid) Tefileen, 29; Asher Zadmehr, 51; Naser Levy Hayim, 48; Ramin Farzam, 38; and Farhad Saleh, 33.

Thirteen Jews were arrested in January and March 1999, but three were found innocent of the espionage charges and released. The other 10 were sentenced in July 2000 to jail terms ranging from four to 13 years, which were later reduced on appeal. Two were released after serving their terms.

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Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi has no fight with Islam

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

In April 2003 Rabbi Israel Meir Lau will reach the end of his 10-year term as Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi of Israel.

A charismatic speaker of whom it was said before he was elected that he could bridge the gap between religious and secular Jews in Israel, Rabbi Lau shook his head sadly in a recent interview and said he was afraid he had not accomplished that goal.

He attributes the ongoing divide in part to the murder seven years ago of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by Yigal Amir, a young Israeli from a religious Jewish family.

The bullets that killed Rabin also destroyed "some of the bridges we started to build between the sects in Israel," said Rabbi Lau, 65, sipping coffee between speaking engagements on a whirlwind one-day trip to Toronto.

"The wound is not yet healed, not only of losing a man, but of the unity of Israeli society – right and left, religious and secular."

In addition, he noted, immigration of more than 300,000 non-Jews from the former Soviet Union has brought issues of assimilation to the forefront.

"They demand their humanitarian rights, like building a family...We want to and we must survive, and not fall into the pit of assimilation... The only place where we can have a shelter to prevent this flood of assimilation is Israel."

Rabbi Israel Meir Lau

Just prior to the interview, Rabbi Lau had addressed an invited group at a private home about Israel's soldiers. That evening he spoke at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. The events were fund-raisers for A Shoulder to a Soldier, a new organization in Israel that provides support to soldiers from low-income families and those who don't have family in Israel.

During the Yom Kippur War, Rabbi Lau recalled, he was challenged by a soldier who objected to the rabbi's emphasis on the role of God rather than the skill of the soldiers, when he spoke to them with the intention of raising their morale. Rabbi Lau asked the crowd of 1,000 soldiers whether any of them had a grandfather who was an officer in an army. Nobody did.

"We have no military tradition," said Rabbi Lau, by way of explaining God's role. "Our zaidies and bubbies – none of them was a fighter."

Not only are Israeli soldiers "messengers of the Divine," he said, but he described how they put unity into practice, when, for example, four soldiers – one Ethiopian-born, the others Russian, Moroccan and Israeli-born – work together in one tank.

One thing that does unite all Israelis, the rabbi said that evening, is the desire for peace.

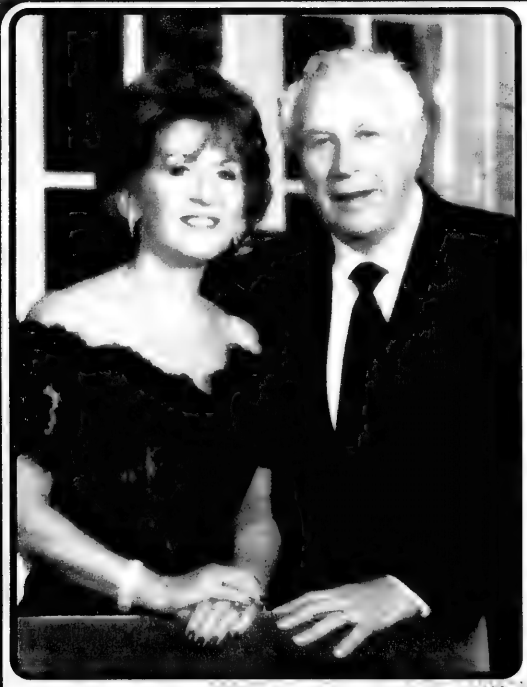
Although everyday life in Israel goes on, as the rabbi noted in his evening lecture, Israel's economic downturn in the past two years has affected soldiers, he said. Some of them don't have a home to go to when they are on leave, he noted.

In a country of fewer than six million people, said Rabbi Lau, 210,000 are unemployed. "That means more than 200,000 families." Organizations like a Shoulder to a Soldier can help individual soldiers concentrate on defending Israel rather than on their financial situation, said Rabbi Lau.

"We have no fight with Islam...they are afraid of their extremists," the rabbi told *The CJN*. He has met with Muslim leaders and last June took part in a summit of religious leaders in Bangkok that included Iranian ayatollahs.

"If the higher positions in the Islamic world... think they have to keep silent, it's very difficult to be optimistic."

Continued on page 17



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Greater Toronto Area

Intifadah on its 'last leg,' Israeli analyst Ya'ari says

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Most Palestinian leaders are in favour of ending the current intifadah, a leading Israeli political analyst claims.

They want to end the uprising because it is leading the Palestinians nowhere, declared Ehud Ya'ari in a speech at Holy Blossom Temple last week.

"We're into the last leg of the intifadah," he added, saying that the spate of suicide bombings has effectively doomed the intifadah.

In an aside, Ya'ari said that the end of Israel's armed conflict with the Palestinians is inextricably connected with the demise of Arafat's regime.

And final status talks on such key issues as borders and Jewish settlements will not begin until the Palestinian Authority (PA) has been completely reformed and transformed, he noted.

Ya'ari, who is chief Middle East commentator for Israel Television and a *Jerusalem Report* columnist, was in Toronto to deliver the first Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman lecture.

He suggested that many leaders in the Palestinian Authority and the PLO blame PA President Yasser Arafat for the continuation of the intifadah, which is now in its third year.

Expressing doubt as to whether the Palestinians can maintain the same intensity of violence indefinitely, Ya'ari said the intifadah has caused widespread impoverishment in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

As a result, Palestinian society is disintegrating, he said.

Ya'ari, the co-author of a book on the first intifadah, said Arafat's goal in the current revolt is to gain statehood without paying the political price.

He did not elaborate, but pointed out that Israel's destruction is not Arafat's objective.

As Ya'ari sees it, the uprising turns on one major issue: will a Palestinian state be born in peace or in war?

Supposedly the first Israeli journalist to interview Arafat, he claimed that Arafat began making preparations for the intifadah in 1997 by arming the Tanzim, a Fatah militia.

Regular Palestinian forces have not taken part in the intifadah because Arafat has no intention of declaring war on Israel. But Arafat has tolerated an alliance between his own military forces and that of Hamas, Ya'ari said.

There was never a chance that Arafat would play the role that Israel assigned to him after Oslo. Arafat, he explained, refused to be the "undertaker of Palestinian rights."

And, Ya'ari said, Arafat viewed the 1993 Oslo agreement as a way of regaining control of Palestinian lands.

In Ya'ari's estimation, Arafat rejected Israel's peace offer at the Camp David summit in July 2000 for two reasons: He opposed an end-of-conflict agreement, which had been offered to him by Ehud Barak, the Israeli prime minister, and he didn't want to leave Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, Jordan and Syria in the lurch by giving up their right to return to their former homes in what is now Israel.

A two-state solution, Ya'ari said, is in Israel's strategic interests because it would enable Israel to obtain a "divorce" from the Palestinians

But he warned that Israel cannot truly separate itself from the Palestinians.

"On the ground, we're still going to be together."

As long as there are suicide bombings, the Israeli army cannot afford to withdraw from the Palestinian autonomous areas, Ya'ari said. (Israel reoccupied major Palestinian towns in June after a series of suicide bombings).

But eventually, he predicted, Israel will pull out.

Sounding a sombre note, Ya'ari said the moment is approaching when the Israeli army will have no alternative but to invade the Gaza Strip, the chief base of Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

The purpose of the incursion will be to destroy the terrorist infrastructure there.

"Everybody in his right mind understands that."

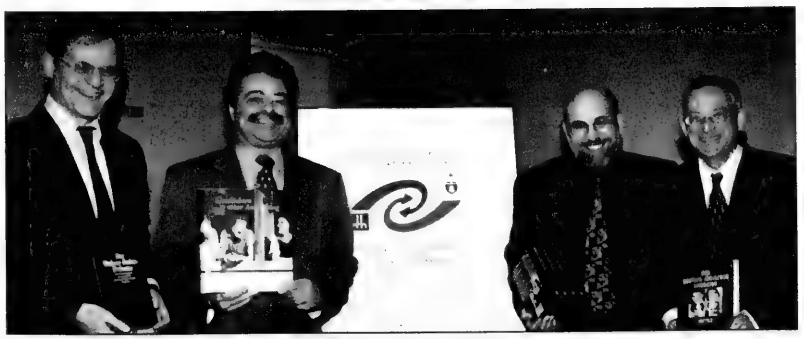
In addition, Ya'ari made the following points:

- Israel could be pushed into becoming an apartheid state, like the old South Africa, if the Israeli government allows "Jewish settlers" in the territories "to dictate policy."
- Most Israelis are willing to relinquish most of the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza to achieve a viable accord with the Palestinians.
- The United States is likely to attack Iraq in late December or early January.

From the editor's desk

Will return

SeeJN



JEWISH LIFE IN GERMANY: The Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Toronto recently presented The Canadian Centre for German and European Studies at York University with a collection of books on Jewish life in Germany. The books include personal stories of life in post-war Germany, and about the struggle to find a Jewish identity in Germany after the Holocaust. Part of the collection deals with the great influence of Jewish authors on German literature. The book collection was presented by the Consul General of Germany, Dr. Klaus Rupprecht (left), to the centre, represented by (from left) York vice-president for research and innovation Stan Shapson; Prof. Mark Webber, co-director of the centre; and Prof. Martin Lockshin, director of York's Centre for Jewish Studies.

Bathurst JCC 'in great shape,' says president

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Economists like to point at "leading indicators" to determine what lays ahead for a national economy. For practitioners of the "dismal science," housing starts, manufacturers' orders and other statistical data can be mined to help forecast an economy's future performance.

A visit to the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (BJCC) last week turned up quite a different set of leading indicators – as well as some lagging indicators – which might be employed to help determine whether the community facility will enjoy a good, poor or middling year ahead. (Leading indicators help predict future occurrences; lagging indicators reflect past events.)

Though it was only mid-afternoon on a workday, the parking lot behind the BJCC was packed, forcing visitors into the nearby overflow lot. A positive, leading indicator.

Inside, the halls buzzed with the noise of dozens of adolescent and teen visitors, some clutching coffees (when did teens start drinking coffee?) from the nearby Second Cup kiosk. Another good sign, particularly for the caffeine-delivery industry.

In one of the building's two gyms, kids from United Synagogue Day School chased a puck around the floor in a raucous game of floor hockey. Another good sign.

Meanwhile, an older crowd of mostly senior citizens meandered through the men's health club, some taking up positions on the treadmills, others gathering for a game of cards in the facility's recreation area. Again, a positive indicator.

Upstairs, children attending the She'arim Hebrew Day School, which is housed on the BJCC's second floor, crowded around computer terminals as part of their daily lessons. Another good indicator.

Downstairs, a mixed group of young and old did laps in the centre's indoor pool while outside, visible through the room's new windows, work continued on the BJCC's popular outdoor pool and surrounding deck. Nearby, a host of youngsters frolicked in an outdoor play area. Good; good and good.

From left: Sherry Kulman and Helen Finder-Guttman.

All in all, the leading indicators seem to suggest the BJCC is attracting a variety of people to both its athletic facilities and its family-oriented programming. The bustle in the building is a far cry from the depressed state of affairs that plagued the centre several years ago after the Jewish Community Centre, the BJCC's forerunner, nearly went bankrupt and hemorrhaged members by the hundreds.

At its annual general meeting last week, BJCC president Helen Finder-Guttman recited the centre's "top 10 list" of accomplishments, noting in particular that "overall, the BJCC is in great shape." Since 1995, she reported, "overall centre revenue has grown 33 per cent."

Other "lagging indicators" are a 25 per cent growth in athletic memberships over the past year, "something we haven't seen for years" and an enrolment of more than 900 youngsters at Centre Camp, the BJCC's summer camp. "Our camp revenues have doubled over the last five years," Finder-Guttman reported.

In the past few years, the BJCC has spent $3 million in capital improvements. These include the renovation of the lobby/reception area, a new gym divider, new windows in the pool and gym, a new electronic card access system and improvements to the outdoor pool and deck area.

Sherry Kulman, the BJCC's executive director, said the centre's athletic membership has shot up to 4,500, while total BJCC membership – a figure that includes those who register for programs or courses but who do not work out at the facility – is now about 7,000, which is comparable to the centre's pre-crisis numbers.

In recent years, as the centre tried to put the near-bankruptcy behind it, it embarked on a strategic plan to reach out to young families and those in the 25-to-45 age range. "It's our next generation and we want to bring them in," Kulman said.

A family centre, located near the building's Bathurst Street entrance was recently launched, and the centre also offers pre-natal and post-natal classes, as well as story telling and Shabbat circle events, she said.

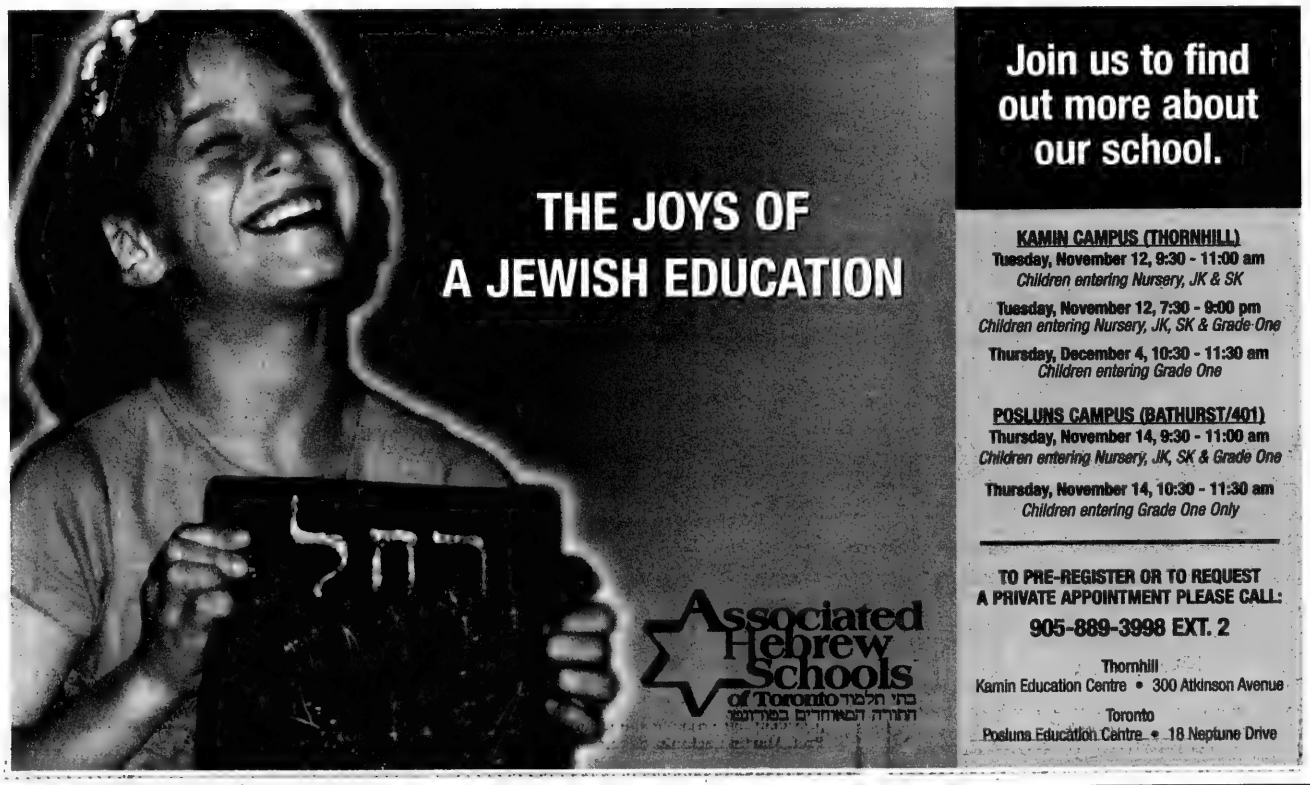
The centre's day-care centre, with 130 children, is extremely popular.

The BJCC is attempting to make itself into a real family destination, Kulman added.

Improvements to the facility have been undertaken on a prudent basis, said Brian Yellin, the BJCC's director of finance. The $3 million allocated to capital expenses was not borrowed, but rather came from donors, fees and government and private grants.

Unlike the free-spending ways that caused a financial crisis at the centre 10 years ago, today "the whole way we approach our business is different," Yellin said. "We're extremely lean and so our expenses are down. We only spend what we can afford to spend."

For the past seven years, the centre has either broken even or enjoyed modest surpluses. "I think it's a remarkable turnaround," Yellin said.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Traditional Jewish family eroding: OU leader

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Jews today have to deal with attacks on the family structure, a threat of anti-Semitism equal to that faced in the 1930s, and a world of materialism, technological changes and a troubled economy, asserted Rabbi Tzvi Weinreb, vice-president of the Orthodox Union.

"The issue is not whether we can thrive in this modern world, but how we can survive it at all."

Rabbi Weinreb was the last speaker at a day-long seminar on Judaism in the modern world, held at Beth Jacob v'Anshei Drildz Congregation, under the sponsorship of Torah in Motion, an organization that provides programs in which Torah concepts are applied to the interface of modern society and Jewish law and thought.

Other subjects covered during the day included fertility, messianism and business ethics.

The traditional Jewish family is eroding, Rabbi Weinreb charged; it is decreasing in size and emotional strength, and thus is less able to pass on Jewish traditions to future generations.

The divorce rate in all sectors of Jewish society is four times greater than it was 20 years ago, and there is an increase in marital conflict, domestic violence, substance abuse, families in which both parents work and a growth in the number of singles.

"A recent 10-year survey said that the Jewish birthrate is 1.8, which doesn't even reproduce the current population."

Fifty-two percent of Jewish families are not having any children at all, the rabbi added, a rate which is double that of the general population.

Young people are poorly prepared for marriage, Rabbi Weinreb said. "They have no clue about finances, or the self sacrifice necessary to sustain a relationship."

Premarital education is more important than ever before, but it is just not happening, he said.

To add to the problem, he said, 80 per cent of families don't live in the same place as their parents do, and many children grow up without the influence and example of grandparents.

While there may not be the same overt anti-Semitism as there was in years past, "the modern spin offers the same lies and the same hatred, only magnified by modern technology which allows it to be spread quickly and efficiently to an infinitely wider audience."

Half a dozen countries are ready to ban *shchitah* (kosher slaughter), and one is ready to ban circumcision, he said, calling both issues merely a more polite form of anti-Semitism.

Respondents to a poll in France recently called Israel the second-greatest threat to world peace (Iraq was the first).

And Arab media, he said, even the moderate ones, are spouting Nazi-like propaganda, including such lies as that Jews use blood for hamantaschen. "They don't even get their lies right," he said.

There is a crying need to find spirituality in these troubled times, Rabbi Weinreb said. For both the young and the older Jew, this does not necessarily mean increasing religious practice, however.

In fact, he added, many think that Orthodox Judaism is the last place to find spiritual strength. "What excites people is not Judaism as an intellectual and philosophical discipline, but Judaism as an experience – the Shabbat table and the functioning family."

In a panel discussion following Rabbi Weinreb's talk, Elliott Malamet, a teacher at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), noted that in the religious community, there is a lot of denial of the volume and intensity of the problems affecting its youth, especially depression and substance abuse.

"How can we help [people with these problems] if the very people who should help are either denying that there is a problem, or say that they can't help because it will affect the shidduch possibilities of the other children?"

Jews, Rabbi Weinreb responded, are more conscious than other cultures of what others think of us. "We don't engage in daily self-examination and self-criticism as we are supposed to, and we don't forgive others."

Panellist Rabbi Jay Kelman, spiritual leader of the host congregation, charged that part of the problem is the fear that if Orthodox Jews discuss such problems, "the Reform will see us in a negative light, and Conservative Jews will look more religious than us."

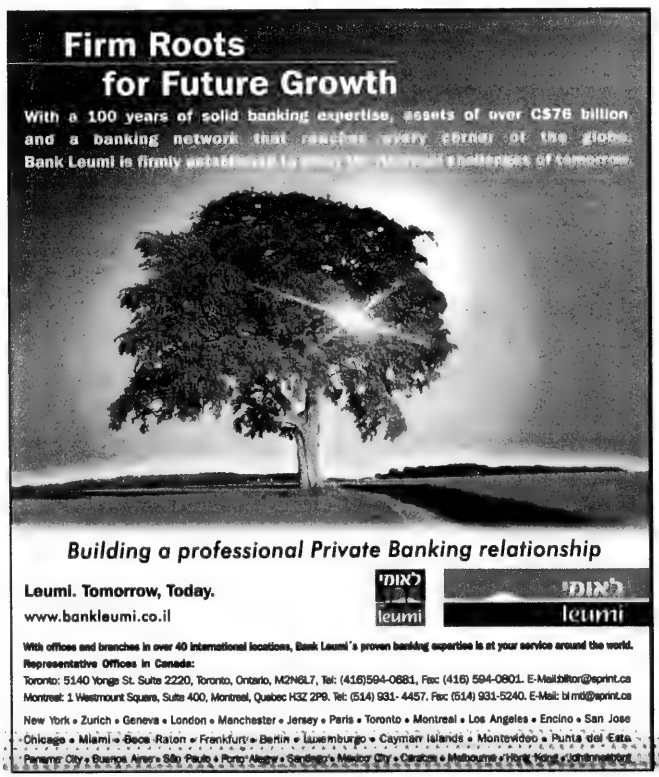
He also said that there is much resistance among the Orthodox rabbinate to having dialogue with the non-Orthodox, and considerable criticism of those who do.

It is essential to have that dialogue, recognizing that Orthodoxy is a minority among the streams of Judaism, Rabbi Weinreb said. "Our goal must be to deal with Jews as Jews, and not be sanctimonious."

Rabbi Michael Skobac, education director of Jews for Judaism, objected to Jewish leadership "tolerating... rampant disrespect of the kedushah [holiness] of the synagogue," such as Kiddush clubs and talking during services, saying that this drives people away from mainstream institutions.

This doesn't happen as much in the haredi world, he said, citing widespread compliance with the recent edict against lavish spending at simchahs issued by the New York haredi rabbinate.

"You just wouldn't see this [obedience] in the modern Orthodox world," Rabbi Skobac said.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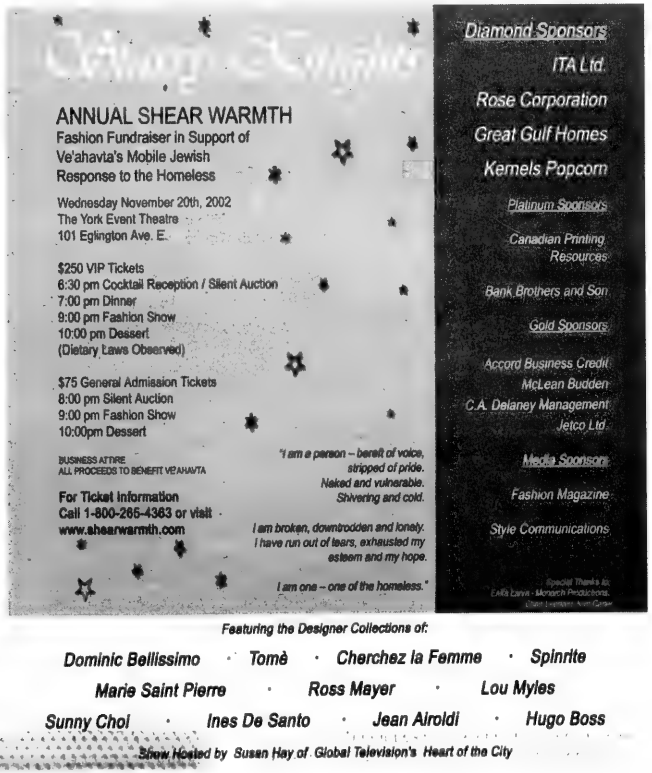
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Greater Toronto Area

New safe house planned for abused women

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Jewish Family & Child Service and Jewish Women International are seeking a homeowner to donate a self-contained basement apartment to house abused women and their families for periods of up to one month.

The new safe house will be an expansion of ASTEH, Alternative Short Term Emergency Housing, the organizations' joint project that, since 1988, has offered shelter housing for women and children in a kosher apartment for up to three months.

Debby Feldman, supervisor of the women's abuse program at JF&CS, says the new ASTEH-Safe House, to be launched as a pilot project using one home, will fill a need identified by JF&CS staff for a shorter term housing option for abused women and their children.

Home providers, who will be given training, must have families in which all members are over 21.

Generally speaking, Feldman says, if Jewish women choose to leave an abusive situation, they first try to find accommodation with family or friends, "and fortunately many can, but we need to maintain a place for those who cannot."

Unique partnership between JF&CS, JWI

From past experience, says Penny Krowitz, executive director of JWI/Canada, ASTEH realized that a three-month, independent facility does not meet the needs of everyone, "so we began to explore other options. [The new ASTEH-Safe House] is an additional piece to be added to housing options."

Krowitz says ASTEH is the result of a unique partnership between a social service agency and a volunteer organization.

"The agency provides the professional services and the volunteers provide the emotional support and concrete help needed to maintain the home," she says.

The organizations' first goal, she says, is to find – after careful screening – a potential donor who will be provided with training about the issue of women abuse.

Feldman says the safe house could be used for women and children awaiting the availability of space in the ASTEH shelter; as a safe, supportive housing option for women and their children who need immediate shelter while waiting or making plans for other accommodations; or to provide them with respite from abuse and the opportunity to explore their options.

"It could be a stepping stone to something different."

Sometimes, she says, women are not ready to take the step alone. "The safe house provides the cushion of having other people around."

Feldman says she had one client who had become "completely drained" while living in the same house as her spouse from whom she was separated.

"Living like that can be a recipe for disaster, but she was hesitant about considering a shelter until she saw it as respite in the same context as a hotel would be. She decided to give it a try."

There is no pattern and no profile for the women who need shelter, she says. "Each case is different."

Krowitz said the Jewish community in Toronto can take pride in the fact that there is an agency that addresses such needs. "It does not happen in every Jewish community. It brings home for us things we take for granted."

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Hezbollah agents fund-raise in Canada: report

Hezbollah has been using Canada as a base for fund-raising and buying supplies needed to carry out and videotape attacks against Israel, the *National Post* reported last week.

The paper quoted documents obtained from Canada's spy agency, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS).

The documents reportedly show how Hezbollah has laundered tens of thousands of dollars through Canadian banks while drawing on the accounts to shop for military equipment, the *Post* stated.

The report said Hezbollah agents "shopped for blasting devices, night-vision goggles, powerful computers and camera equipment used to record attacks against Israeli forces," according to dozens of CSIS wiretaps obtained last week.

Reportedly, the Canadian operation was so successful that CSIS agents overheard suspected Hezbollah operatives in Vancouver in early 1999 congratulating each other in a monitored telephone conversation.

The *Post*'s story came just two days after Canadian Jewish Congress called on newly-appointed solicitor-general Wayne Easter to de-register all aspects of Hezbollah's activities in this country, and freeze all its assets.

While the United States has moved to de-register all aspects of Hezbollah's work in that country, Canada continues to make a distinction between the organization's military and "social-humanitarian" wings.

But in comments last week, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham said Canada would not ban Hezbollah's humanitarian arm, saying "We don't believe it would be appropriate to label as terrorists innocent doctors teachers and other people who are seeking to do charitable and other good works in their communities."

Wayne Easter

CJC said Hezbollah was most likely responsible for the 1994 bombing of the central Jewish communal building in Buenos Aires, which killed 86 people and injured hundreds of others.

CJC also called on Easter to add Palestinian and Arab terrorist organizations to the list of banned groups under Bill C-36, the Anti-Terrorism Act.

The *Post* story went on to say that even as they lived in Canada with their families as immigrants, the Hezbollah operatives denounced "Canadians and Zionists" in wiretapped conversations.

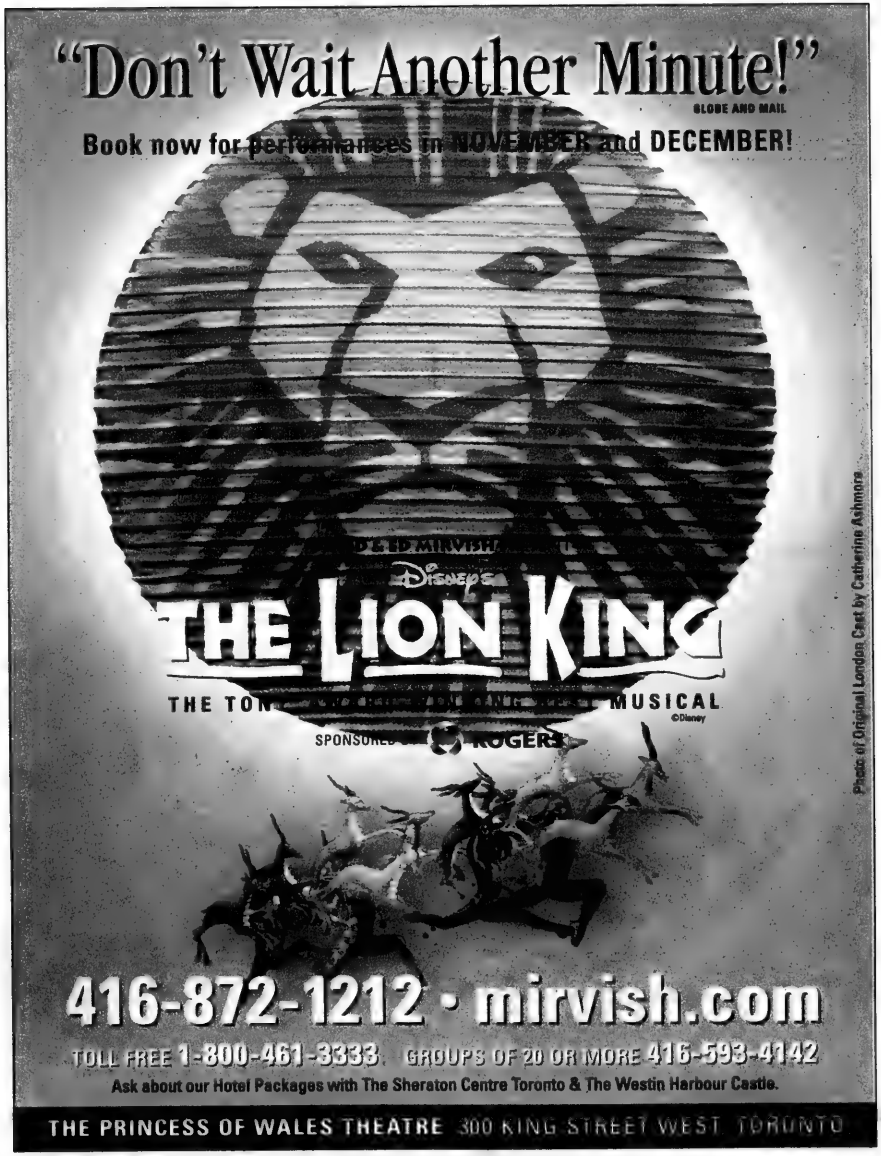
Prime Minister Jean Chrétien recently defended Hezbollah as a political movement, and declined to condemn the terror group after he attended an event at the Francophonie summit in Beirut three weeks ago that was also attended by Hezbollah's leader, Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah.

The *Post* said Canadian police and intelligence reports show Hezbollah has been using Canada in recent years to buy material, forge travel documents, raise money and steal luxury vehicles.

It said CSIS reports dated April, 2002, show that in 1999 and 2000, Hezbollah "sent detailed shopping lists to agents who were allegedly part of a network with operatives in Vancouver, Toronto and Montreal who filled the orders and shipped the equipment back to Lebanon in courier packages.

"Hundreds of thousands of dollars were moved through various Canadian banks such as the Bank of Nova Scotia to finance purchases for what the participants referred to as the 'resistance' and the 'brave people.'"

Hezbollah's activities in Canada first came to light in the 1990s when an agent named Mohammed Hussein al-Husseini was arrested for deportation. He told CSIS about a vast cross-Canada network.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Fraud charge laid in Clinton fund-raiser

A local event promoter has been charged with fraud in connection with a fund-raiser for the Hadassah-WIZO in Toronto.

Toronto police charged Peter Janeteas, 42, with two counts of fraud over $5,000 relating to a fund-raising event for Hadassah last July that featured a speaking appearance by former U.S. president Bill Clinton.

Police issued a statement saying "a local charity has been defrauded of a substantial sum." Media reports last week said the amount was tens of thousands of dollars earmarked for charity, but less than $100,000.

More charges could still be laid, police added.

Police wouldn't say how the alleged fraud was carried out. However, some sources said it involved tickets to a $1,000-a-plate formal dinner with Clinton at the Thornhill home of Jewish communal activists Susan and Allan Fenwick. About 300 guests attended the dinner.

Earlier that day, Clinton and professional golfer John Daly were to play a round of golf at the Angus Glen club in Markham, but the game was cancelled at the last minute.

Proceeds from the dinner were to benefit a wide range of Hadassah programs for children in Israel, including schools, hospitals and research into disabilities.

Janeteas appeared in court last week to face the charges and was granted bail.

Louise Rosenbloom, director of the Toronto office of Hadassah-WIZO, said the group's lawyer has advised her not to comment on the case.

Greater Toronto Area

URO's Toronto office left to handle survivor claims

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

The United Restitution Organization (URO) is appealing to Holocaust survivors for patience and understanding, especially when it comes to this past summer's announcement of the availability of two different German government pensions.

And the URO is defending its policy of charging fees to apply for one of the pensions.

With its Montreal office set to close Dec. 31, it will fall to two overworked employees in the URO's Toronto office to do the agency's work of helping survivors wade through the many overlapping and often confusing compensation programs, funds, and pension plans.

Regarding the latter, the cash-strapped URO is defending its policy of charging $50 and 12 per cent of the retroactive portion of benefits (not the ongoing ones) from one of the German pensions.

URO officials in Toronto point out that application forms for the pension are complex and that fees are also needed to pay lawyers in Germany. As well, the URO receives no funds from United Jewish Appeal.

The URO is not funded by Jewish federations anywhere, Marcel Lenz, its worldwide general director, told *The CJN* via telephone from Israel. "We are self-funding, and we must charge fees."

Founded in 1955 as an arm of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (known as the Claims Conference), the URO has 28 offices in 20 countries, and is headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany. When its Montreal office closes, the agency will be represented in Canada only by its Toronto office, staffed by Dora Elzbet and Helen Branova.

Given the recent flurry of activity on compensation for war-era slave labour, coupled with the German pensions, survivors are often perplexed. "It's been very confusing," Elzbet conceded. "People are confusing the pensions with slave labour [payments.]"

(To date, about half of the 230,000 applications for slave labour compensation have been paid out from the $7 billion [Cdn] fund set up in 2000 by the Germany government and German industries. These will be lump sum payments. Pay-outs continue at the rate of about 10,000 cases a month).

In June, Germany passed a law granting pensions to those who performed labour in wartime ghettos.

And in late August, a new pension agreement signed between Canada and Germany extended benefits to German-speaking Jews who were driven from their eastern and central European homes in the 1930s and '40s.

The URO in Canada has registered some 300 applications for pension payments for work performed in ghettos.

"This was not slave labour," Elzbet explains. "These were Jews who volunteered for work in factories, fields, and in mines. But they did not receive monetary remuneration. Often, they just got coupons or vouchers for food, or worked in exchange for lodgings."

Elzbet is quick to explain her use of the term "volunteer." "It's not like we say today," says Elzbet, who speaks seven languages. "Often they volunteered to avoid death. And sometimes, labourers were volunteered by the local *Judenrat* (Jewish council)."

Employers who used Jewish labour from the ghettos paid into German government pension funds, making the labourers eligible, Elzbet says.

Pension payments to former ghetto labourers are retroactive to July 1, 1997. The deadline for applications is June 30, 2003. Widows and widowers of labourers may apply on behalf of their late spouses.

Benefits will be based on the age of the applicant, and the type of work performed.

So far, the law is restricted to ghettos that were located in Poland and Lithuania. Elzbet says she has received some irate calls from ineligible survivors who were confined to ghettos in Hungary and Romania

According to a German embassy Web site, in order to be eligible for the pension, a person must fit the definition of "a victim of persecution;" they must prove a forcible stay in a ghetto in a German-occupied area or region incorporated into the Third Reich; they must have performed an occupation "in return for dispensation" in that ghetto; and they must not have received compensation from any other foreign social security system for that period.

It is for this pension application that the URO charges the processing fee, and 12 per cent of the retroactive portion of benefits only, not the ongoing ones.

The second pension agreement will affect far fewer Jews in Canada – probably no more than 50, the URO estimates. However, the signing of the agreement by Human Resources Minister Jane Stewart and Christian Pauls, Germany's ambassador to Canada generated wide media attention.

Benefits extended under this Supplementary Pension Agreement will take effect next year and will be retroactive to July 1, 1990. To qualify, a person must be a Canadian citizen, have lived in Canada since before July 1, 1990, and have been 16 years old or more when his or her homeland was overrun by the Nazis.

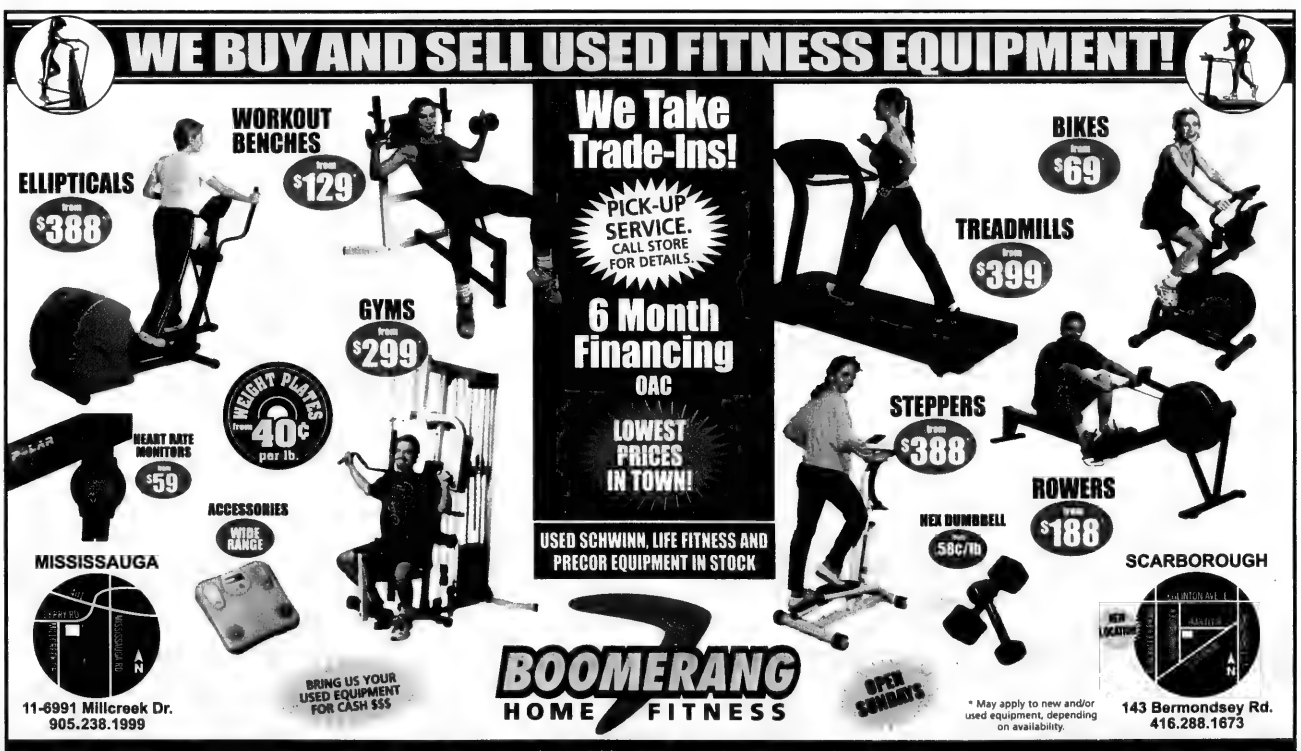
As well, applicants must have belonged to a "German language and cultural group," but not have acknowledged themselves to be "ethnically German" because they were Jewish.

Germany has agreed to similar provisions in its social security agreements with Israel and the United States.

Those who will qualify are said to number no more than 200 people in the United States. In Israel, about 2,000 people have qualified.

The URO says anyone who has received other German pensions or compensation payments, including from BEG or Article 2 funds, may still apply for these benefits. Neither pension is subject to Canadian income taxes, the URO says.

For information on compensation, restitution and pensions, call the URO at 416-630-2920.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Disarming Iraq

It would be astonishing if Saddam Hussein, out of the goodness of his heart, suddenly decided to reform himself and abide by a litany of United Nations resolutions calling on Iraq to destroy its non-conventional weapons of mass destruction. For Iraq's president-for-life to turn a new leaf and become a member in good standing of the civilized world would simply not be in character.

The UN Security Council is expected to pass a tough resolution this week demanding Iraq's immediate, full and unfettered compliance with these resolutions. If UN arms inspectors are not granted such access to Iraqi stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons, as well as to Iraq's nuclear facilities, they will be wasting their time and engaging in an exercise in sheer futility.

Since the departure of UN monitors from Iraq in December 1998, Iraq has had plenty of time to rebuild its deadly arsenal and thoroughly conceal it. Judging by Iraq's miserable track record since 1992, Baghdad will not make it easy for the inspectors to fulfill their mandate. In what will likely be a reprise of Baghdad's cynical cat-and-mouse game, Iraq will do its best to thwart their mission, and the UN will have achieved virtually nothing. We will be back to square one.

The fact of the matter is that Saddam's venal Ba'athist regime cannot be trusted, now or in the future. Saddam has grandiose regional ambitions, and he will not readily or voluntarily submit to a foolproof program of disarmament whose outcome is certain: the de-fanging of Iraq.

Iraq has been a source of almost constant instability in the Middle East since its disastrous invasion of Iran in 1980 and its fleeting occupation of Kuwait a decade later. If Iraq is not fully disarmed, Saddam will take that as a signal that he is free to carry on as before. He will try to dominate his neighbours and he will surely attempt to terrorize Israel. Let no one be under the comforting illusion that Saddam will angelically devote himself to improving Iraqi society.

History should be our guide. When Saddam withdrew his troops from Iran in 1988, he turned his baleful attention to Iraq's long-suppressed Kurdish population, decimating some 2,000 villages and killing 5,000 Kurds with poisonous gas in Halabja. In 1989, he threatened to "burn" half of Israel, and in the summer of 1990, he invaded Kuwait. If the United States and its allies had not intervened and trounced Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War, the so-called "mother of all battles," Saddam would have cast a covetous eye on Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states and perhaps even Israel.

It is clear that Iraq cannot be completely and irrevocably disarmed through the normal channels of a UN weapons inspection process. Saddam will not permit it, even as he sweetly promises co-operation. Iraq can only be disarmed through a full fledged regime change. Saddam's totalitarian and aggressive regime, which has been a menace to all for the past two decades, must be uprooted. And it can be if the United States, the world's sole superpower, uses its formidable military might to sweep away Saddam, once and for all. When that hour is finally upon us, for the good of Iraq and its neighbours, the Middle East will be a better, safer and far more stable region. —S.K.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farhad Saleh, Dani (Hamid) Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

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In defence of Eli Pfefferkorn

In a recent letter to *The CJN*, Leslie Vertes of Montreal takes umbrage with Eli Pfefferkorn's well-researched exposé (*CJN*, Oct. 10 Letters, "In defence of Claims Conference"). In her rebuttal, Vertes says she found the Claims Conference's staff to be eager to provide information. But not everyone has had the same pleasant experience.

Although the Claims Conference sends out regular updates on existing programs, they receive funds from the Germans and the Swiss for these "outreach" services. Vertes's assertion that the Conference does not administer the Swiss funds is inaccurate. As for the German Social Security pensions (that indeed confer no financial rewards to the Conference), the Conference only followed suit (defensively) after our alliance of Holocaust survivor groups first brought these potential benefits to the attention of the survivors.

Vertes also says the Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors in Montreal receives annual reports from the Claims Conference that contain a breakdown of monies allocated to various communities. These reports, which are also received by all survivor organizations, only reveal what the Conference agrees everyone should know. Even in these self-promoting and superficial documents, the Conference admits that only about 10 per cent of their institutional allocations, from 1995 to 1999, went to Canada and United States combined. Does Vertes truly believe that only 10 per cent of the Holocaust survivors live in North America?

In the United States, bed-ridden and paraplegic indigent survivors receive, on average, only five hours of home-care per week, and many are on waiting lists to receive even these few hours. Yet an inside Claims Conference report (which we obtained and which was not made public) reveals it spent between $60 million and $100 million on projects of no direct benefit to survivors.

Here are some examples: $20,695,500 to the Jewish Agency for low-cost housing (but by 1995, survivors in Israel no longer needed housing); $427,300 to the Siberia and Far East committee (did the Germans ever get to Siberia?); $477,000 to the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research; $565,000 to the Leo Baeck Institute: $344,000 to the Kahal Adat Jeshurun; $525,000 to the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture; $430,000 to the Central Zionist Archives; $325,000 to the Kiddush Hashem Archives in Bnai Brak; $651,000 to the Central Archives/History of the Jewish People; and about $3 million to the World Zionist Organization.

These are all deserving causes, but they should be supported with funds from the general Jewish population, not survivors' restitutions. The money from the above examples alone could have provided for more than two million hours of home-care for lonely and ailing survivors.

We would suggest to Vertes that she thoroughly investigate the facts (as Pfefferkorn did) before jumping to the defence of the Claims Conference and subserviently reiterating their self-promoting rhetoric.

Leo Rechter
President, National Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors
Flushing, N.Y.

* * *

Response to CUPE coverage

Kol Hakavod to *The CJN* for its articulate criticism of CUPE Ontario and its leader Sid Ryan for their anti-Israel invective ("How Sad To Look Now Upon CUPE," *CJN*, Oct. 24). I too would like to add my admonition to CUPE along with my support of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, (CJC) for taking on Ryan and his union.

CUPE is the largest public service union in the country. Its attempt to demonize Israel must be met head-on. Many have been reluctant to take on CUPE due to its size and clout. Indeed, Ryan's fulmination against CJC's Bernie Farber for criticizing CUPE's anti-Israel tirade is the type of tactic used to try and silence us. Thankfully, the CJC and *The CJN* will not be silenced. By speaking out, they are demonstrating to our community that attempted bullying will not deter us from defending Israel.

R. Burstyn
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

I read your cover story and editorial about CUPE Ontario with both interest and dismay (Oct. 24). CUPE Ontario leader Sid Ryan's comments are preposterous. Canadian Jewish Congress and its Ontario executive director, Bernie Farber, are criticized for being "anti-union." What heinous act have they committed? They have dared to stand up to CUPE's vicious diatribes against Israel and Ryan's support of CUPE's anti-Israel position – one that Ryan farcically calls "balanced." Ryan should recognize and understand that defending Israel doesn't make one anti-union. It is not surprising, however, that it might make one anti-CUPE Ontario, and maybe even anti-Sid Ryan.

Jordan Cohen
Thornhill, Ont.

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

A little Caribbean hope during the Holocaust

By ED BUTTS

The story may be but a footnote in the dark annals of the Holocaust, but it is one of the ironies of history that the Dominican Republic became a haven for Jews fleeing Nazi persecution in the early months of World War II. It was also to the shame of the western democracies – Canada included – that this little Caribbean nation which occupies two thirds of the island of Hispaniola was the only country in the western hemisphere to open its doors to Jewish refugees.

Luis Hess, now in his 90s and a resident of the popular tourist town of Sosua on the country's North Coast, was there at the beginning. Born in the eastern German town of Erfurt in 1908, Hess had left Germany in 1933 when Adolf Hitler came to power.

"I knew that Germany was no longer a country for me," he says now, in his comfortable Sosua home. "My family said this couldn't last for long, but I didn't trust the situation. So I left alone."

Hess went to Spain, where he lived until the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. In 1936, he went to Paris, where he hoped to obtain a residence permit. France, however, was not welcoming Jews fleeing Germany and Austria, and Hess began a fruitless round of the western embassies, looking for asylum.

"There were many people who couldn't stay in France, and had nowhere to go. If you stayed in France too long, you would be arrested."

Luis Hess (left) and Ed Butts. [Janice Land photo]

Paradoxically, in 1938, France hosted the Evian Conference, at which delegates from 32 nations met to discuss the growing plight of German Jews. A lot of sympathetic rhetoric was expressed at that assembly, but the Dominican Republic was the only nation that offered to take in the persecuted refugees.

Herein lies the irony: at that time, the Dominican Republic was ruled by Rafael Trujillo, a ruthless dictator whose regime was marked by murder and terror.

Just a year earlier, on his order, the Dominican army massacred some 20,000 Haitians working in the country. The old Spanish fortress in Santo Domingo, originally built to protect the city from pirates (and now a popular tourist attraction), was a prison where political dissenters were tortured and executed. Trujillo would maintain a bloody hold on power until his assassination in 1961.

The Jewish grocery store in Sosua around 1940.

Why a thug like Trujillo would open his nation's doors to Jewish refugees is an unanswered question. Some historians believe he wanted to improve his image with the Roosevelt administration in Washington, D.C., after the Haitian massacre. Others think he wanted to "whiten" the Dominican population. There is even a story that a Jewish girl had been kind to Trujillo's daughter when she was attending university in Europe, and he wanted to return the favour.

Whatever the reason, the Dominican dictator and his country would take in up to 100,000 Jewish refugees. Moreover, he would make 29,000 acres of banana plantation available to them. (The land, as it turned out, was not a free grant; they had to pay for it.) The newcomers would be free from religious persecution in this almost entirely Roman Catholic country, and could apply for Dominican citizenship. Their transportation and resettlement would be organized by the Dominican Republic Settlement Association (DORSA), which was funded by American Jewish organizations.

In June 1939, Hess met Virgillio Trujillo, the Dominican ambassador in Paris and the dictator's brother. In May 1940, he was with the first group of Jewish refugees – 37 adults and one baby – who arrived by ship in the Dominican Republic.

"When I had to leave France, I thought it was a disgrace," Hess says now. "I felt desparate that I had to leave... What I thought then was a disgrace was my luck. If I was still there, I would have gone to the gas chambers in Poland."

The Sosua that greeted the new arrivals was not the busy resort town it is today.

"There was nothing here," Hess recalls. "Just a few buildings in very bad shape."

Sosua was, in fact, a backwoods wilderness, separated by mountains and bush from the main centres of Santo Domingo and Santiago. There were no roads. The highway to the town of Puerto Plata – such as it was – became an impassable swamp when it rained. Most travel was by horseback, as there were only two motor vehicles in the community. There was no electricity. The only communication with the outside world was through an old telephone switchboard.

> Dominican Republic became a haven for Jews fleeing persecution

But in spite of the heat and humidity, the mosquitoes, alien surroundings and despair over what was happening to their people in Europe, the Jews – city people, all – showed the resolve of true pioneers. To prepare a community for those who would follow, they cleared land, built a barracks and a synagogue, and started a school. Hess gave classes in Spanish and in English for those who hoped to go on to the United States.

The Jews, none of whom had any agricultural experience, failed in their attempts to become farmers. So they turned to cattle ranching. They founded Producto Sosua, a company marketing meat and dairy products. Producto Sosua flourished and today is one of the region's largest employers. Joe Benjamin, one of its executives, explained to me that the company office building in which we were sitting was one of the original structures built by the Jewish settlers. It had once housed a centre for gymnastics and crafts.

Sosua never came close to getting the 100,000 refugees Trujillo had spoken of. The Nazi occupation of Europe made that impossible. About 2,000 people actually made it to the Dominican Republic, and for many of those, the Caribbean was only a stopover on the route to the United States. Hess says there were never more than 700-800 Jews in Sosua at any one time. After the war, when the truth about the Holocaust became known, doors were opened and people moved on to the United States and Canada, and some even returned to Europe.

The Sosua Synagogue as it looks today.

But those who remained in Sosua had a marked influence upon the community. They put down roots and made it their permanent home. Some, like Hess, married Dominican women. Through contacts with family and friends in Europe, they brought attention to their beautiful tropical location, eventually making Sosua a popular vacation spot. Today the town has a distinctly European flavour.

In the middle of Sosua, next to the synagogue, is a little museum that tells the story of the Sosua Jews and their niche in history. It's a quiet reminder of how this little Caribbean nation became a flicker of hope in a time of darkness.

Ed Butts is the co-author of two non-fiction books: Pirates & Outlaws of Canada *and* Bandits & Privateers: Canada in the Age of Gunpowder.

Growing up about growing old

I am writing this some ten days before my 90th birthday, which has been discussed quite widely in the media. Naturally, such attention is pleasing, but there is another side to it.

I have been concerned with the process of aging for quite some time, and have written and spoken about it. The bottom line is that society, in general, is not sure what to make of the aged. Which reminds me of a puzzle that my father posed to me many decades ago: "What is it that everybody wants to become but no one wants to be." The answer, of course, was "Old."

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Unfortunately, the word "old" has both positive and negative connotations. It may be used as a term of admiration, but for others it is a term of derogation.

If you are in the market for antiques, you seek objects that have been produced long ago – often, the longer the better.

But with people, there is a fundamental difference. Once the description "old" is attached to them, they find themselves socially in an ever more difficult position. I know of many instances in which older people could not get a job, or their labour was scrutinized in a way that was likely to produce a negative judgment.

There is a presumption that there are many things that older people cannot do, that their minds don't function as they ought to, and people make other prejudgements that may be true for some but are not applicable to all who have reached three score and ten or more.

Now that I am about to reach four score and ten, I have made a full and, if possible, honest judgment of my capacities and lack thereof.

To be sure, certain skills such as those in golf and tennis have suffered to some degree, but they are still a great pleasure to me and a source of physical inspiration. I have been most fortunate in this respect and I know that my current experience may end any day – but that is true for anyone.

Jewish tradition, both in the Bible and in post-biblical literature, exalts old age as a blessing – even though in ancient times, many old people were likely beset by disabilities that nowadays are easily managed. That has always puzzled me, for most certainly many, if not the majority, of the elderly in ancient and medieval times did not enjoy good health. (Fortunately, I have escaped this problem, but I know that won't last forever.)

It is time that we integrated our aged population into the normal processes of life. We still have a bit of growing up to do in this regard, and I hope that I may live long enough to see it.

It's the economy... or is it?

I'm taking a risk in writing this column. At the time of writing, Israel's Labor party has not yet decided if it will leave the unity government over the 2003 budget. If Labor does resign, by the time you read this, the government will either have shrunk to a right-wing coalition, or Prime Minister Ariel Sharon will have called early elections.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

But I am writing about the budget debate in any case, because in Israel's coalition governments, budget debates are a microcosm of burning social and political issues. And regardless of the outcome, this year's debate has exposed all the tensions and inconsistencies of the unity government.

In a severe economic crisis that stems from the worldwide high-tech collapse and a prolonged, armed conflict with the Palestinians, Sharon and Finance Minister Silvan Shalom are committed to a draconian budget that has further weakened Israel's social safety net. Economic experts support the budget, and international credit agencies have warned that without it, Israel's credit rating will drop. But in drafting the budget, Sharon and Shalom barely touched the two constituencies that represent their traditional power base – the settler and Haredi sectors.

The result was a budget that cut back on old-age pensions and subsidies for low-income and single-parent families, but maintained existing levels of support for settlements and increased transfer payments to institutions controlled by the Haredi parties. The day the budget was tabled, the Ministry of the Interior published statistics indicating that established Jewish communities in the West Bank and Gaza would continue to receive up to six times more money in subsidies than poor development towns inside the Green Line.

This provided those in Labor who are opposed to the unity government with the perfect political ultimatum. While the public has maintained its support for a broad coalition, Labor has been criticized for losing its identity and voice in a coalition dominated by Sharon and right-wing parties. Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, the incumbent party leader who faces a challenge at the party convention later this month, has preferred to remain in a government that gives him visibility and a base of authority. His opponents, Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna and veteran populist politician Haim Ramon, both object to Labor's presence in the unity government. By opposing payments to the settlements and welfare cutbacks, they hope to regain Labor's voice as an effective opposition to Sharon's government, and in turn, to strengthen their own chances in the leadership race.

Until last week, Ben-Eliezer vacillated in his reaction to the proposed budget. But when internal party polls showed a narrowing gap between him and his opponents, he moved to the left and "discovered" the expenditure on settlements.

In reality, none of the figures were new, but their political usefulness was suddenly revealed. The result was a last-minute showdown inside Labor and between the two main coalition partners.

For Sharon, who faces former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the forthcoming Likud leadership race and who does not want to alienate his own right-wing constituency, any concession on funding for the settlements would hand his internal opponents a perfect weapon. For Ben-Eliezer, doing nothing on the issue would hand his opponents a perfect weapon with which to expose his complicity with Sharon's policies.

The tragedy is that none of this had anything to do with the real debate that should have taken place weeks earlier. No one really debated the question of national priorities and the place of the settlements in the country's economic priorities. No one really questioned the traditional political untouchables in the budget. And no one challenged Sharon's unwillingness to debate the settlement question even as polls showed that close to 80 per cent of Israelis support their evacuation.

What could have been a serious discussion about the merits of old-age pensions versus subsidies for settlements deteriorated into yet another, predictable game of political brinkmanship.

Moreover, Ben-Eliezer was exposed once again as a politician above all. His political agenda has been transparent and unconvincing. As a result, his actions may produce an unintended consequence, and may strengthen Ramon and Mitzna.

The deciding date for Labor's leadership vote is Nov. 19. Even if the government serves its full term until fall 2003, the next several months will be far more volatile in Israeli politics.

Jews, U.S. politics and the left

The tragic and untimely death last month of Minnesota Senator Paul Wellstone – a Jew and arguably the most liberal member of the U.S. Senate – provides a convenient opportunity to reflect on three features of American politics.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

Perhaps the first thing to note about Wellstone, who died in a plane crash, is that he was an example of those successful Jewish American politicians who have been elected in jurisdictions where Jews and Jewish interests were few and far between. This set him apart from those Jews who have directly represented Jews and their interests in jurisdictions in the northeast, Florida or California.

There are an estimated 45,000 Jews in Minnesota, so clearly Wellstone's success owed nothing to "the Jewish vote." The same could be said for Senator Joe Lieberman from Connecticut, where the Jewish population is estimated at around three per cent. American Jews are accepted by non-Jewish voters and political party insiders – in my view, to a greater extent than is the case in Canada.

The second thing to note is that, throughout his political career, Wellstone embodied the challenge of juggling commitments to liberalism and commitments to Israel. In fact, he seemed to have oscillated over his career in his degree of support for Israel; his consuming passion was always the liberal domestic agenda. Some in the Jewish community felt he was the ideal progressive supporter of Israel, and on most votes on the issue, – for example, on aid to Israel – he proved reliable.

But others in the Jewish community have highlighted his support of Palestinian rights, his criticism of specific Israeli policies and most recently, his opposition to a unilateral American strike at Iraq. Thus, some Jewish support apparently shifted to his Republican rival in what would have been a tight race for his third term in the Senate. But certainly, testimonials from many leaders of the Minnesota and national Jewish communities indicate significant support.

Indeed, in these difficult times for Israel, where so many in the liberal and academic communities seem all too eager to single out Israel for disproportionate criticism, progressives like Wellstone played a useful strategic role in setting limits to the erosion of support for the Jewish State.

No analyst of Jewish life would have predicted 30 years ago that conservatives and fundamentalist Christians today would be stronger in support for Israel than liberal academics and political activists. Wellstone and others like him were tactically helpful in restoring a balance in pro-Israel support.

The third thing to note about Wellstone is his liberalism on many domestic economic and social issues, which signalled that Jews continue to resist the neo-conservative political agenda. Wellstone likely reminded wavering Jewish Democrats of their roots in the party.

While a minority of liberal Jews might share all of Wellstone's highly progressive positions, his views do resonate with a vocal Jewish constituency. Pundits have been waiting for Jews en masse, as they enter the ranks of the middle and upper-middle class, to abandon domestic liberalism. In the United States, that would mean shifting from the Democrats to the Republicans.

So far that has not happened. If it does, it will be caused not by domestic shifts, but by the force of international conflicts.

Jewish support for Israel, even progressive support for a secure Jewish Israel alongside a Palestinian state, will lead to friction with liberals and the growing numbers of Arab Americans. This will complement tensions with American blacks on affirmative action and other issues. Perceived Jewish support for intervention in Iraq (in fact, Jewish communal leadership is split on the issue) would also alienate these same liberal groups in the United States.

The ability of someone like Paul Wellstone to build political bridges on the left side of the political spectrum will be an increasingly useful talent for supporters of Israel and Jewish interests in what may be a tumultuous future. And not just in the United States.

The Kirshner File

Anti-Jewish decrees enjoyed support

Two scholars, in major works published recently, prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that Adolf Hitler's anti-Semitic policies enjoyed widespread support in Germany.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Ian Kershaw, in the second volume of his massive, universally acclaimed biography, *Hitler* (W.W. Norton), writes that the "shrill anti-Semitism" espoused by the Nazis "was no barrier" to Hitler's popularity among the vast majority of Germans. As he puts it: "The Jews had few friends. Even [Germans] who might criticize overt Nazi violence... were often infected by some form of resentment, envy, or suspicion of the Jews."

In short, the anti-Jewish premises of Hitler's regime, magnified by incessant propaganda, touched all levels of society.

Robert Gellately, in *Backing Hitler* (Oxford University Press), claims that Hitler tailored his anti-Jewish decrees "to fit public opinion."

Quoting a fellow scholar, David Bankier, he concludes that the prosecution of Jews depended, to a large extent, "on the public's reaction."

Kershaw, a British historian, suggests that admiration for Hitler was widespread, and that most Germans turned a blind eye to his excesses in the interests of achieving what they considered as Germany's national revival after the bitter defeat of World War I.

Given Hitler's obsessive hatred of Jews, it may come as a surprise to learn that he seldom spoke directly on the subject, and that he left it to like-minded aides, such as propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels, to flesh out his anti-Semitic fantasies. According to Kershaw, Hitler set the tone and provided the sanction for the action of others.

Drawing on the anti-Semitism embedded in German society, the Nazis redoubled their efforts to rid Germany of Jews once the 1936 summer Olympic Games in Berlin had ended. "The Jews must get out of Germany, yes out of the whole of Europe," Goebbels wrote in his diary. "The Fuhrer is firmly decided on it."

Having already deprived Jews of German citizenship, Hitler launched a concerted campaign to "aryanize" Jewish properties. By April 1938, the task was well on its way toward completion. Jewish businessmen were forced to sell their companies for a pittance, and the main beneficiaries were competitors and corrupt Nazi party functionaries.

During the summer of that momentous year, party activists focused increasingly on vandalizing Jewish cemeteries and synagogues. As the anti-Semitic frenzy gathered momentum, climaxing with Kristallnacht in November, Hitler took care not be be publicly associated with these crude events. Although he stirred up passions, he left it to subordinates to press the campaign against Jews.

Ordinary Germans, affected by the escalating climate of hatred and motivated by sheer greed, followed the party's lead and joined in the destruction and looting of Jewish property. However, as Kershaw points out, many Germans were appalled by the scale and ferocity of Kristallnacht, from which Hitler publicly distanced himself and which he never discussed, even in private.

In a speech to the Reichstag on Jan. 30, 1939, Hitler foreshadowed his genocidal intentions with a dire warning.

"I want today to be a prophet again," he declared. "If international finance Jewry inside and outside Europe should succeed in plunging the nations once more into a world war, the result would be... the annihilation of the Jewish race in Europe."

Hitler's tirade notwithstanding, the Nazis toyed with the idea of finding a territorial solution to the so-called Jewish question. The regime briefly considered a plan to place four million Jews on the Indian Ocean island of Madagascar under strict SS control, but the scheme fell by the wayside.

Kershaw claims that Hitler' ideological objective of eradicating "Jewish Bolshevism," the central motif of his vision, was given immense impetus with Germany's 1941 invasion of the Soviet Union.

The murderous onslaught of the Einsatzgruppen, backed by the Wehrmacht, was a grisly forerunner of the industrialized murder of Jews in death camps. In this regard, Kershaw leaves no doubt that the Werhmacht aligned itself ideologically and operationally with Hitler's overriding goal.

Ruminating on the reasons why Germany moved from a policy of emigration to one of extermination, Kershaw fastens on the crisis of scarce food resources and the decision to deport German Jews.

As the need to ensure food supplies mounted, German civilian and military authorities pressed all the harder for savings to be made at the expense of enemies, particularly the Jews. And once the deportations got under way, local and regional Nazi leaders seized on the opportunity to "solve" the Jewish problem once and for all.

Even so, Kershaw adds, there was still no co-ordinated, comprehensive program of genocide. But with the Wannsee conference of January 1942, "the final solution of the European Jewish question" was settled. By the spring and summer of 1942, Belzec and Auschwitz were in full swing.

The first clumsy steps toward industrialized murder were, in fact, taken at Chelmno in December 1941, when Jews were killed in gas vans. By the close of 1942, by the SS's own calculations, four million Jews had been murdered.

Although he did not attend the seminal meeting in Wannsee, Hitler's responsibility for the Holocaust is unquestioned, and Kershaw is hardly surprised by his absence.

"He was consistently keen to conceal the traces of his involvement in the murder of Jews," Kershaw observes, speculating that Hitler feared Jewish revenge.

Adolf Hitler

As well, Hitler concluded that common knowledge of the Holocaust might stir up unrest in Germany and its occupied territories. The Nazi leadership, Kershaw says, believed that the German people were not ready for the gross inhumanity of the systematic slaying of Jews. Yet SS commandant Heinrich Himmler had no such compunctions. In 1943, in Posen, Poland, he openly described the Holocaust as "a glorious page in our history."

In Kershaw's estimation, Goebbels played no small role in pushing for a "radical solution." Be that as it may, it was the Security Police, headed by Reinhard Heydrich, that was instrumental in converting a genocidal impulse into a viable extermination plan.

Hitler, though, was the architect and prime mover of the Holocaust. Of that there is no doubt.

***

In a masterful book, Gellately, an American historian, says that most Germans lined up behind Hitler even though he never won an outright majority in an election.

Despite having created a dictatorship, Hitler wanted the support of the people. He went about achieving this by drastically reducing unemployment and by reasserting German power and pride. As a reward for such accomplishments, the great majority of Germans supported him.

Hitler, to be sure, tapped into an anti-Semitic tradition. But, as the short-lived 1933 economic boycott against German Jews showed, many Germans were not as zealously anti-Jewish as their leaders, at least at the outset.

The dismissal of Jewish university professors, however, was well received, as was the forced resignations of Jewish doctors by national and local medical associations.

Brilliant in public relations, the Nazis made it appear as if Germany was in the forefront of a broader international anti-Semitic movement.

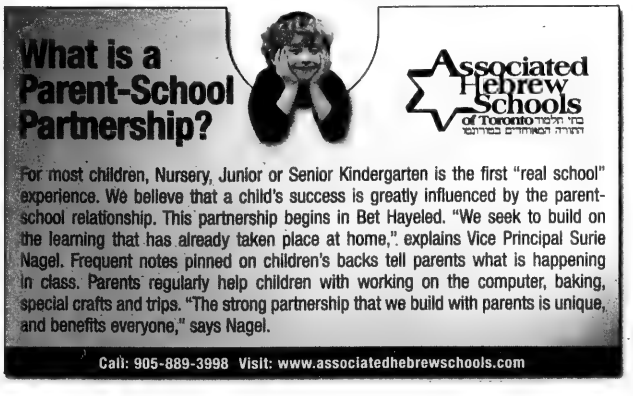
Hitler reinforced anti-Jewish prejudices by deliberately linking Jews with communism and race defilement. *Jud Suess*, an anti-Semitic film seen by an estimated 20 million Germans, maliciously conveyed Nazi distortions about Jews.

With the outbreak of World War II, for which Jews were repeatedly blamed, the pace of anti-Semitic propaganda accelerated. Although there was no replay of Kristallnacht, the regime increased pressure on the remaining Jews, cutting off their food and fuel supplies and making it mandatory to wear the yellow star.

Meanwhile, Nazi newspapers justified the ghettoization of Jews in Eastern Europe, claiming they were spreaders of disease, hoarders of goods and profiteers.

Gellately is convinced that, without the active collaboration of ordinary Germans, the Gestapo would have found it difficult to enforce the race laws.

Although support for Hitler and Nazism waned as the war encroached on the lives of Germans, morale held. In general, the German people rallied behind the regime, even as it committed unprecedented and unparalleled crimes against humanity.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Jewish Toronto

Nurturing the giftedness in children

Tikun Chaim, under the auspices of UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education (BJE), through a generous donation from the Berman Fund, is a new initiative to help organize a comprehensive network of special educational services for children throughout Toronto's Jewish community.

Following a call for proposals, more than 50 prospective projects were submitted. To date, funds for 27 initiatives have been approved including pre-school identification of children with learning problems, and the extension of innovative programs.

One project, *Understanding Giftedness*, is being implemented by Joanne Foster, who holds a doctorate from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE).

The program was developed for professional staff who are interested in learning more about "giftedness" in children. The focus is on understanding the complexities associated with being a gifted/talented child, and different ways in which teachers can encourage and support high-ability learners.

Dr. Joanne Foster

"When speaking of special education, people generally think of children who require remedial help. This initiative pays attention to program applications for gifted/talented students," says Foster, 49, the mother of two children who attended Toronto day schools.

The project, launched during the *August Teacher Centre Workshop* with 28 teachers, was facilitated by Foster. Subsequently, she has conducted follow-up activities, such as classroom visits with the participants to observe teacher techniques and offer consultation services regarding their gifted/talented students.

"It's tricky because the needs of gifted/talented students, as with other children who have special needs, are completely unique," says Foster. "Teachers sometimes require help to maximize, nurture, and encourage students' giftedness by providing them with appropriate opportunities. They may have to modify or expand the curriculum."

"I acknowledge that we can and should advance teaching methodologies within our current day school system," adds Foster. "We must continue to ask more questions, and seek new and constructive ways to help others who work and live with gifted/talented children. Through *Tikun Chaim* that's exactly what we are doing and I'm excited to be a part of that."

Add Israel to your shopping list

In an effort to help Israel's troubled economy, a Toronto man, Joe Fox, has enlisted the aid of *The Israel Now Consortium* to encourage Toronto's Jewish community to buy Israeli products.

An umbrella organization spearheaded by UJA Federation and the Consulate General of Israel, the consortium is made up of more than 100 community organizations united in solidarity with Israel.

The *Buy Israeli* initiative urges consumers to simply look for the "made in Israel" label before making a purchase. Ads, flyers and UJA Federation's Jewish Toronto website (www.jewishtoronto.net) will publicize Israeli products and the stores selling them.

"The previous generation fought hard for the establishment of the State of Israel," says Fox. "It's incumbent on all of us to do what we can. All people really have to do to play a big role in helping Israel's economy is think about what they're buying before they reach the check-out counter."

For Fox, helping to bolster Israel's economy is somewhat hereditary.

His late mother, Goldie Fox, was extremely active in Montreal during the 1950s and 1960s with Hadassah, where she tried to expose Israeli goods and services to North America.

The Buy Israeli program encourages Toronto's Jewish community to purchase Israeli goods.

Fox has picked up his mother's baton and is hoping the *Buy Israeli* program will convince consumers that economically supporting Israel is not difficult.

That organized effort can be seen in many retail outlets around the GTA including Sobey's supermarket on Clark Avenue in Thornhill.

"We've had a lot of customers approach us lately, people concerned about having Israeli products advertised in our store," says Sobey's manager, Kevin Hopps. "Our customers want to support Israel and its economy. We recognize that people will be looking for those products. We have been promoting Israeli goods with in-store promotion and in our flyers."

From Generation to Generation

There was a special moment of nostalgia and emotion for Wendy Eisen and her daughter, Tammy Brown at the recent Lion of Judah Luncheon.

Wendy Eisen (r) pins her daughter, Tammy Brown.

Wendy placed a gold Lion of Judah pin belonging to her mother, Allie Herman, on daughter Tammy's lapel. Mrs. Herman was a member of the inaugural group of women who launched the Lion of Judah Division 17 years ago.

The pin – worn by women across North America who contribute a minimum of $5,000 to the annual UJA Federation campaign - has long been a symbol of commitment to the worldwide Jewish community ever since.

"My mother valued the leadership role she played in UJA," Wendy recalls. "She canvassed cards each year and was proud to be among the top contributors to the Women's campaign. 'We must give the way we live,' she would say, and with those words set the standard for our family. The pin was more than a piece of jewelry to my mother, it was a symbol of her commitment to Jewish survival."

"I remember attending a mother-daughter Lion of Judah tea with my mother and grandmother, in 1986. There I was inspired to become a Lion of Judah contributor one day," remarked Tammy who became Toronto's 75th Lion of Judah this year. "It is my honour, privilege and legacy to join this remarkable group of committed women. I will wear my grandmother's pin with a deep sense of pride and try to embody her values of generosity and tzedakah," she added.

Women's Campaign & Advocacy has assumed an increasingly significant role in raising funds for the annual UJA Federation campaign. Today, there are 14,000 Lions of Judah in the United States, 900 in Canada, and 464 in Toronto.

Joint Israeli Mission

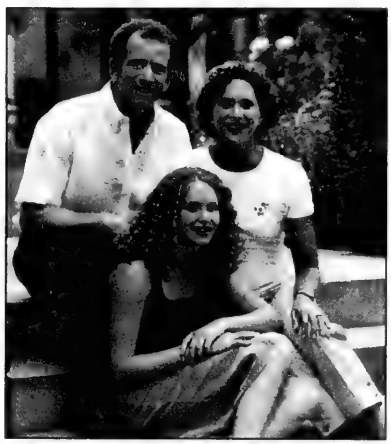
Chairs of the recent UJA Federation-Israel Bonds Solidarity Mission in Jerusalem, (l-r) Barry Zagdanski, Dodi Weill, Paul Silvertown, Colin Lewis.

JEWISH TORONTO IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

A very generous bat mitzvah gift

In September 2002, Torontonian Carrie Bregman celebrated her bat mitzvah, an event that will help make a difference for Israeli school children.

The daughter of Barbara and Michael Bregman, Carrie decided that her special day should be equally special for her Israeli peers. With that thought in mind, she asked her guests to make a donation to *The Carrie Bregman Armoured School Bus Fund*, through UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. The fund has already raised close to $34,000.



Recent bat mitzvah girl Carrie Bregman with her parents Michael and Barbara.

"I really wanted to help the kids in Israel who have to go to school every day worrying about terrorist attacks," says Carrie. "I never expected to raise this much money through my bat mitzvah, but it shows how much Toronto Jews care and love Israel, just like I do."

Carrie's father, Michael, who chaired UJA Federation Campaign 2002 along with David Koschitzky, says that the idea for the fund followed a UJA solidarity mission to Israel.

"I remember having had a meeting at UJA and discussing Israel's needs," recalls Michael. "I told Carrie about one of the biggest needs being armoured vehicles to transport Israel's school children. From that point on, it was completely her decision where she wanted the money to go. As a father, one of the proudest moments I've had is seeing my kids decide on their own to help Israelis," adds Michael.

In fact, Carrie's decision was largely based on the actions of two of her siblings. Her 19-year-old brother, Jacob, asked for bar mitzvah gifts to be placed in the *Louis and Yetta Bregman Fund*, in honour of his grandparents, at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital.

Sister Sarah, now 15, had her gifts sent to the *Cardiac Critical Care Fund* at Toronto's Mount Sinai Hospital, to honour her two grandfathers.

Carrie's mom, Barbara, is understandably thrilled with her daughter's selfless decision.

"Obviously I'm proud and delighted," she says. "It was a choice that Michael and I gave our children. None of them, including Carrie, was legislated to do this; it was her own decision. I suppose it means that we, as parents, have done something right."

"To be honest," adds Carrie, "being able to do this for the kids in Israel was one of the best parts of my entire bat mitzvah. I hope other kids can do the same."

Assisting Israel's orphans

Toronto Jewry, through the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), UJA Federation's overseas partner, has been playing a crucial role in providing assistance to Israel's victims of terror since the Palestinian uprising began on September 28, 2000.

Now, Toronto's generosity is helping Israel's children who have lost one or both parents to terror.

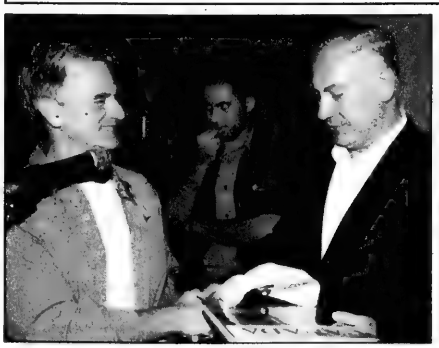
UJA Federation, through the Jewish Agency, is providing funds to assist orphans in Israel.

Shortly after the wave of violence began, JAFI established the *Fund for Victims of Terror*, which has recently introduced additional assistance for children.

Thanks, in part to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, United Jewish Communities and Keren Hayesod, each child who qualifies for the fund will receive a special grant of $5,000 U.S. to be deposited in a savings plan for his/her use at the age of 21. The funds can remain in a savings account or used to pay for education, an apartment or a vehicle.

Campaign Celebration

An overflow crowd of 2,000 people participated in last week's UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 celebration at Toronto's Sheraton Centre. Close to $60 million has been raised so far. The keynote speaker for the evening was internationally renowned law professor Alan Dershowitz. For full details of the campaign celebration, please see next week's edition of *The Canadian Jewish News*.



Ralph Shedletsky (l), Chair of the Board of UJA Federation and a participant on the October 20th joint UJA Federation-Israel Bonds Solidarity Mission, presents former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu with a book of Canadiana. Close to 90 people participated in the mission.

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Hana's tragic tale launches Holocaust Education Week

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

George Brady speaks warmly of his sister Hana's pretty round face, kind blue eyes and neatly brushed blonde hair.

He describes her skating along the ice during a brisk Czechoslovakian winter. And he reflects on Hana's unselfish character, explaining how she encouraged her mother to donate clothes to needy neighbours and how she always shared the family's treasured treat with her big brother on a Friday night – a piece of white cake.

"She always brought it to me because she thought I needed more," George says.

Hana was gassed to death in Auschwitz in 1944. She was 13 years old.

Nearly 60 years later, Hana's death, and indeed life, has spawned a transcontinental quest to educate, inspire and ultimately improve humanity.

Hana's story ushered in the beginning of Holocaust Education Week on Oct. 30.

Thousands filled the sanctuary at Beth Tzedec Congregation to listen to Brady, writer/film producer Karen Levine and Japanese Holocaust museum director Fumiko Ishioka describe how the suitcase Hana brought to the concentration camp has become a landmark in Holocaust education.

Although Holocaust education is not as widespread in Japan as North America, Ishioka has always taken a keen interest in it.

She told the Beth Tzedec audience how in November 1999 she went to Auschwitz and asked the museum to lend her some artifacts left by children who were imprisoned there.

She wanted to put the artifacts on display so that children at the Tokyo Holocaust Center could learn about the genocide.

"I asked for a suitcase because a suitcase really tells you the story of how children were transported from one place to another and were allowed to take only one suitcase," Ishioka said.

Three months later, a brown suitcase bearing the name Hana Brady, her birthday – May 16, 1931– and the German word for orphan, *Waisenkind*, arrived at the museum in Tokyo.

The children at the museum were in awe. They gravitated to the suitcase and wanted to learn more about Hana.

Ishioka was most curious of all. She began an odyssey, searching for every trace of Hana she could find.

With intractable perseverance, Ishioka began to piece together the puzzle of Hana's life during the Holocaust.

"She went through a lot of problems and challenges to find out about Hana," Brady says. "But she did manage to."

She wrote letters, made phone calls and even went to Terezin, where Hana and her brother were held captive until 1944.

She discovered drawings made by Hana, which inspired children back in Japan to form a club called Small Wings. Members wrote letters and poems and drew pictures, which were used to educate others about the Holocaust and Hana's story.

There were many roadblocks and sad discoveries on Ishioka's journey. For instance, in Terezin, she found the chilling Nazi documents that listed Hana's name and a check mark beside it, indicating that she had been murdered.

But one name didn't have a check beside it. That was George Brady.

At the time, she didn't know if he was related to Hana, but Ishioka continued to search. She went to the Jewish Museum in Prague and employees there sent her to meet with Michaela Hajek, a bunkmate of George's at Terezin.

Hajek was still in touch with Brady and had his address. Astonished, Ishioka took it and began writing letters to Brady, who lives in Toronto. He wrote back.

"I just screamed and my hands were shaking," Ishioka recalls the day his letter first arrived.

"I was really excited to find out about Hana... But what really excited me is that Hana's brother survived."

Brady and Ishioka met in Toronto, where in January 2001, their story – *Hana's Suitcase* – was broadcast on CBC Radio.

The documentary was produced by Levine, who first learned about the story from an article in *The CJN*.

She has since written a children's book on this amazing real-life story, also called *Hana's Suitcase*.

The book has sold thousands of copies and is now available in France and will soon be available in the United Sates and Italy.

"It really is a very ordinary suitcase, but what an extraordinary story it tells," says Levine.

"It's the unusual mix of past devastation and hope for the future."

For Brady, reliving his past hasn't been easy.

"I've always felt that I'm a well-adjusted person," says Brady, who built a successful plumbing business in Toronto and is now a grandfather of five, with number 6 on the way.

"But the one thing I couldn't get over is my sister Hana."

George says he felt responsible for Hana during the war and was deeply hurt when he learned of her death.

But recalling the past has both honoured Hana's memory and set in motion an impressive effort to educate the Japanese about the horrors of discrimination.

In March 2001, Brady went to Tokyo with his daughter, Lara Hana, to meet with the scores of Japanese children who have learned Hana's story.

"Hana's story now teaches tens of thousands of children," Brady says.

"I see that a terrible tragedy has turned into a very positive thing."

DISCOVER ISRAEL
There's A Zoo Near You
It doesn't matter where you stay in Israel – Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Eilat or Haifa, there's a large, lively zoo virtually around the corner. Israel offers visitors a rare opportunity to meet animals unseen outside the Middle East or unknown beyond biblical days.
The Biblical Zoo (Tisch Family Zoological Gardens in Jerusalem) – Remember the Arabian oryx, the Persian fallow deer or the Nile crocodile? Not likely. They're animals cited in the Bible which would have become extinct if it weren't for the Biblical Zoo. This exciting, 62-acre, southwest Jerusalem animal preserve also houses dozens of additional endangered species from around the world. For more information, visit www.jerusalemzoo.org.il/english.
The Tel Aviv Safari – What began as a pet shop, established by a doctor who fled Nazi Germany in 1938, is now a thrilling drive-through zoo (there's also lots to see on foot) for mostly African animals in the attractive Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan. Be prepared for ostriches peeking inside your car and entertaining monkeys. Call 011.972.3.631.2181.
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Greater Toronto Area

NEW PREMISES: A mezuzah affixing ceremony was held at the new premises of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, 1000 Finch Ave. W., at a recent meeting with Dr. Steven Huberman, director of regional activities of USCJ. Seen here (from left): Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, Canadian region; Paul Kochberg, president of USCJ and Huberman.

Rabbi Lau's term nears its end

Continued from page 3

Rabbi Lau has addressed young Palestinian would-be suicide bombers on Israeli television, in the hope his message would reach them. "Believe me as a religious leader," he tells them, "there cannot be a world to come for someone who kills his neighbours in this world. If it's so easy to inherit eternity by committing suicide, why don't the people who send you do it themselves?"

Yet the rabbi says that because of his personal background as a child survivor of the Holocaust and the Israeli history he's witnessed, he is very optimistic.

"We overcame many more difficult times and events, and we survived, so there is no reason to be afraid. It takes time, it costs blood, but our peace and security is 100 per cent sure. It's only a question of when shall we see the light at the end of the tunnel. I'm sure there is an end to this tunnel."

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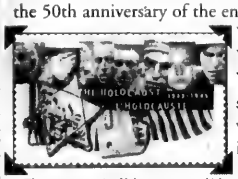
Robby Engel 1923 - 1999

A publication of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

Robby Engel and **Queen Elizabeth II** share something in common: both their faces graced a Canadian stamp.

Several years ago, Canada Post contacted UJA Federation's Holocaust Centre of Toronto to borrow some artifacts for a new stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. When the stamp was issued later that year, Holocaust survivor Robby Engel's identity card photo appeared in the centre of its exquisite photographic collage.



The commemorative Holocaust stamp which features Robby in the bottom centre photo.

"Robby was extremely proud of that stamp," says **Margo**, his wife of 54 years. "It was very exciting for the whole family."

Robby Engel was always front and centre when it came to Holocaust-related issues. When he retired from his longtime job as a fashion salesman, he devoted much of his time to helping younger generations understand what really went on during that horrific period in world history. Robby was an active volunteer with the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, sharing his personal story with thousands of students who visited the museum every year. Every Fall on Anne Frank Day, Robby would help the local children plant tulip bulbs at Toronto's Amsterdam Square and tell his tale yet again, never frightening them but always telling the truth. He was active with the Holocaust Centre's Yom Hashoah Committee, served as chairman of the Holocaust Centre for five years, and was co-chair of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto's Holocaust Remembrance Committee.

"Robby was a very dedicated and passionate volunteer," recalls Holocaust Centre chair **Howard Driman**. "His daytimer was filled with information and invaluable contacts, positioning him as an amazing resource on anything that had to do with the Holocaust. If there was something Holocaust-related going on in the city, Robby was there. He felt it was very important that the story be told and remembered because there were many lessons to be learned. He was extremely inspirational."

Robby Engel speaking at a UJA Federation event.

Born in Berlin, Robby was just nine years old when his father died. Following 1938's tragic Kristallnacht, Robby's mother did what she could to protect her children, sending her 15-year-old son off to Holland on a kindertransport and escaping with her daughter to England. Little did she know that in 1942 Robby would be shipped off to Westerbork concentration camp, where he endured tremendous hardships until he was liberated by Canadian troops in 1945.

Soon after the war, Robby and Margo, whom he had met in Westerbork, were married and they settled in Amsterdam where their two daughters **Renée** and **Evelyn** were born. But with the Korean War starting and his daughters growing up, Robby knew it was time to move.

"Robby was liberated by Canadians so he loved the idea of going to Canada," says Margo. "He wanted a Jewish life for our children. He was very proud of being Jewish."

It was in Canada where Robby's volunteer work began in earnest, first in Montreal and then in Toronto. Having been a scout as a young boy, Robby continued this affiliation with Scouts Canada and the Toronto Star's Santa Claus Fund, organizing a troop of boy scouts to deliver several hundred gift boxes to needy families from a mini-depot in the Jewish Community Centre. He also busied himself with the Holocaust Centre and the Christian-Jewish Dialogue, never missing a chance to tell his story and teach children how much they could do to make the world a better place.

"Students thought Robby was very brave to be able to focus on the Holocaust for so many years," recalls **Ada Wynston**, chair of the Christian-Jewish Dialogue. "He didn't hold back anything. He never thought their questions were silly. Robby was extremely patient and the children loved him for it. He taught us all so much."

Adds Margo: "Robby was the eternal optimist in that he didn't know from hate. He liked to talk, he liked to joke, and he really touched everybody's heart."

If you have a suggestion for future Legacy of Life profiles, lease call Perri at the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto 416.631.5728.

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto
UJA Federation

Obituary Aviva Heller was a devoted and inspiring teacher

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Aviva Heller's family, friends, colleagues and students filled the Shaarei Shomayim sanctuary to show respect for a woman who believed that teaching is a commitment that goes beyond the classroom.

Heller, who taught at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto for more than 30 years and headed its math department for 20, was the longest serving staff member at the school. She died Oct. 21 from cancer at age 61.

CHAT's director of guidance Rabbi Howard Sacknovitz said in a eulogy that it was Heller's "excellence as a teacher, her concern for her classes and her dedication to her students" that earned her the respect of everyone she knew.

The school closed so the CHAT family could attend her funeral at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, where she and her late husband, Ron, were one of the early founders of its downstairs minyan 33 years ago, Rabbi Sacknovitz told *The CJN*.

Aviva Heller

"What will that row in shul be like without Aviva there every Shabbos and Yom Tov?" he asked in the eulogy.

As a young woman, Heller chose a career in math and education over a degree in engineering, insisting that teaching wasn't her second choice, Rabbi Sacknovitz said. "Being in the classroom was something she truly loved."

She also provided guidance and inspiration for the female students in her classes who were often told by others that "girls aren't good at math."

Heller took teaching to a different level because she cared so much about each student, former CHAT student Matya Gilbert-Schachter said in a phone interview.

Currently studying physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, Gilbert-Schachter described the hours Heller would devote during lunch breaks, weekends and after school to help him prepare for math competitions.

During his eulogy, her son Jay noted that her alumni – numbering in the thousands – are everywhere.

"All of them, but particularly those who struggled with math and received special care and attention from her, carry with them a bit of her enthusiastic, yet carefully disciplined, approach."

Colleague and teacher Diane Pasian said that you only had to go into any one of her classrooms "to see how absolutely dedicated she was to her students."

Even the "logic and order of her handwriting on the boards was magical," Pasian said.

Heller was a lifelong supporter of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and a fund-raiser for Jewish Family & Child Services.

She was a woman with boundless energy – staying up grading exams until midnight or preparing meals late Thursday night so the family could enjoy Shabbat together, Heller's younger son Hart said.

"All her students were aware of her devotion," Hart told *The CJN*, adding that she never let her three children see how tough it must have been to be a single parent.

In his eulogy, Jay added that "her ability to demonstrate strength and courage to others came through most dramatically 18 years ago, when the sudden death of my father left her to raise three teenage children by herself.

"Though she must have felt scared and lonely at the prospect of taking on this challenge, Susan, Hart and I never saw it... Whatever demons she faced in those difficult years, she faced them alone and shielded her children from them."

In trying to move forward, Jay said he would follow his mother's example. "for whenever she faced the death of someone close, she had a good cry, picked herself up and moved on."

Aviva Ruth Frisch Heller is survived by her children Susan, Jay and his wife Anita, and Hart, as well as her grandchildren, Ruven and Zev.

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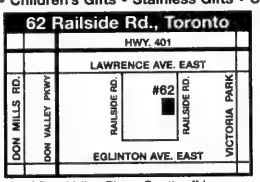

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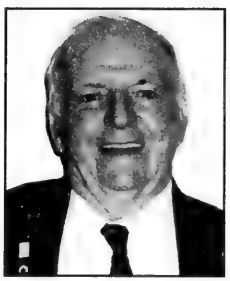
Lest We Forget...

Join the community in remembering these historical events during Holocaust Education Week

"ECHOES OF KRISTALLNACHT IN OUR TIME"

Saturday, November 9 – 8:00 pm
Beth Tikvah Synagogue
3080 Bayview Ave., Toronto



PROFESSOR IRWIN COTLER, Member of Parliament for Mount Royal in Montreal, will join the community in commemorating the 64th anniversary of Kristallnacht, when on November 9-10, 1938 a massive, coordinated attack was carried out against Jews throughout Germany and Austria. Professor Cotler, an internationally-renowned human rights advocate, will review developments leading up to this horrific event and compare them with what he observes around the world today.

Admission Free.
For more information, call 416-221-3433.

This program is generously co-sponsored by The Sarah Pasht Holocaust Memorial Fund

"168 JUMP INTO HELL"

Monday, November 11 – 8:00 pm
Beth Sholom Synagogue
1445 Eglinton Avenue West, Toronto

A Remembrance Day event featuring **ED CARTER-EDWARDS,** who served with the Royal Canadian Air Force during World War II. He, along with 167 of his colleagues, was shot down over France, captured by the Gestapo and sent to Buchenwald concentration camp. The atrocities he witnessed there were so unimaginable that few believed his account. Following the screening of *The Lucky Ones: Allied Airmen and Buchenwald,* Carter-Edwards will recount this remarkable and little-known story.

Admission Free.
For more information, call 416-783-6103.

This program is generously co-sponsored by Allan and Hinda Silber in honour of Godel and Cilka Silber

UJA FEDERATION

Holocaust Education Week, October 31-November 11, is coordinated by The Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation. For a brochure of all Holocaust Education Week events, call 416-631-5689 or visit www.jewishtoronto.net

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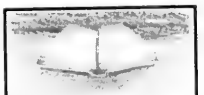
Rashi mystery reveals meaning of a mother's love

By RABBI LAWRENCE PINSKER

A few years ago a Jewish publisher issued a book titled *What's Bothering Rashi?* to introduce the work of Rabbi Shlomo ben Yitzhaki, the greatest medieval Torah commentator, to new readers. The books focuses on puzzling Torah texts and Rashi's explanations.



Rabbinic Reflections

Another category of Rashi notations might be called "The Rashi Mysteries" — texts that Rashi said he couldn't understand.

One such mystery appears near the end of this week's portion (chapter 28, verse 5). The Torah says: "Isaac sent Jacob away, and he went to Paddan-Aram to Laban, the son of Bethuel, the Aramean, the brother of Rebecca, Rebecca, mother of Jacob and Esau." Rashi's mystery is the words "Rivkah, eym Yaakov v'Eysav" – "Rebecca, mother of Jacob and Esau." Rashi writes: "I don't know what this teaches us."

Subsequent generations of commentators honour Rashi for his admission of ignorance; such humility is the signature of a truly wise person.

But what's bothering Rashi?

It may be our collective familiarity with the story. Rashi wants us to note that it makes no sense for the text to repeat something we already know.

Rashi is operating under a principle of textual analysis laid down by the Sages a millennium earlier: any descriptive word or phrase that's added to amplify text that's already clear and fully defined isn't there as an ornament. If the text is sacred and its Author infinitely wise and in control of the material, then a redundant phrase in the Torah *must* have been inserted to teach us something important that we may have overlooked.

In "giving up" publicly, rather than silently skipping the verse (as he often does when he believes a meaning is obvious), Rashi asks us to find meaning in these words.

There are certainly many commentators that accept Rashi's challenge. One profound answer comes from Eliyahu ben Avraham Benamozegh, a 19th century Jew from a Moroccan merchant family living in Italy. Benamozegh's work brought together classical Jewish teachings and contemporary secular philosophy.

Heavily influenced by Jewish mysticism, Benamozegh taught that everyday life could be immeasurably enriched by a sense of the holy. He believed that beneath ordinary human relationships lies a realm of deeper meaning where one discovered holiness transforming the universe. For Benamozegh, Judaism is a statement of universal human truths linked to similar truths in other religions. By studying Judaism and its place among the great world religions, one can help solve the great questions troubling humanity.

In explaining Rashi's "mystery," Benamozegh says that Rebecca realized that, whichever of her children died, "I shall be wholly bereaved on that day – because one of you... will be dead – and then the murderer of his own brother will be detested by me both as enemy and stranger and in my eyes will be as though he were not alive. Thus will I be bereaved of both of you." The lesson is stunning: when one child is killed by a sibling, the mother loses both children.

Benanozegh's insight is brilliant: by referring to Rebecca as the mother of both Jacob and Esau, the Torah asks us to recognize that she wants to save not only Jacob but also Esau. She wants Jacob alive, but also wants to save Esau from becoming a murderer. Two lives are at stake. Though we've seen her throughout the story primarily as mother-protector to Jacob, she cannot forget that she is also Esau's mother.

Rashi's mystery is a beautiful acknowledgement that a mother's vision of her children's future is complex, and a model for true peace in the world that is our home. Shalom bayit – true peace – cannot be born out of the death or disappearance of one antagonist or the other. A mother's love – divine love – calls for a peace in which both parties survive.

Rabbi Pinsker is associate rabbi at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation in Toronto.

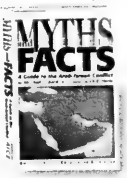
Jordan lost West Bank, attacked Jerusalem in 1967

MYTH:

The West Bank is part of Jordan.

FACT:

The West Bank was never legally part of Jordan. Under the United Nation's 1947 partition plan – which the Jews accepted and the Arabs rejected – it was to have been part of an independent Arab state in western Palestine. But the Jordanian army invaded and occupied it during the 1948 war. In 1950, Jordan annexed the West Bank.



Only two governments – Great Britain and Pakistan – formally recognized the Jordanian takeover. The rest of the world, including the United States, never did.

During the 1950-1967 period of its occupation, Jordan permitted terrorists to launch raids into Israel. Amman lost the West Bank after the Jordanian army entered the 1967 war.

MYTH:

During the Six-Day War, Israel attacked Jordan to capture Jerusalem.

FACT:

In June 1967, then-prime minister Levi Eshkol sent a message to King Hussein saying Israel would not attack Jordan unless he initiated hostilities. When Jordanian radar picked up a cluster of planes flying from Egypt to Israel, and the Egyptians convinced Hussein the planes were theirs, he ordered the shelling of West Jerusalem. It turned out the planes were Israel's, returning from destroying the Egyptian air force on the ground. Meanwhile, Syrian and Iraqi troops attacked Israel's northern frontier.

Had Jordan not attacked, the status of Jerusalem would not have changed during the course of the war. Once the city came under fire, however, Israel defended it, and, in doing so, took the opportunity to unify it.

Source: Myths and Facts – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict *by Mitchell G. Bard, www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org.*

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Jewish Life

Toronto chazzan part of solidarity mission

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

On Sunday, Nov. 17, 50 North American cantors will travel to Israel on a solidarity mission.

Cantor Beny Maissner of Holy Blossom Temple, the only Canadian to participate in this first-of-its-kind cantors' mission, says "the unique aspect of this trip is the bonding of our Jewish souls through music and to demonstrate our love for Israel and its people."

Cantor Beny Maissner

Cantor Jack Chomsky of Congregation Tifereth Israel in Columbus, Ohio, who represents the Cantors Assembly of the Conservative movement, and Cantor Yvon Shore of the Reform congregation Temple Bet El in Hillsboro, N.J., are the mission's organizers.

"As chazzanim praying with and on behalf of our people," says Maissner, "we have the unique opportunity and privilege of intoning the sacred words of our liturgy and we hope to reach the high heavens with our voices in prayer."

Plans for the mission, which runs until Friday, Nov. 22 include high-level meetings with leading Israeli officials and leaders, including members of Knesset and Israeli mayors, some in conjunction with the Jewish National Fund, Israel Bonds and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

The cantors will also perform at community concerts, visit terror victims in hospitals and visit bereaved families.

Maissner emphasizes that this and other missions strengthen the bonds between world Jewry and Israel.

"We hope to bring some comfort and sympathy to the pained Israeli society," he says. "As well, we hope to bring back to our communities the message of solidarity and unity with our people in Israel."

Cantors from all over the United States, including, New York, Los Angeles, Florida, Ohio, and Georgia, will be participating in the mission.

Chomsky says much of the trip will be taped to help promote further trips to Israel.

Following the mission, cantors who are able to remain in Israel for Shabbat, will be participating in services in Masorti (Conservative) and Reform congregations throughout Israel.

"We hope to teach the values of Judaism through the music of our people," says Maissner. "In doing so, through the prayers from our souls, we hope to bring the message of sympathy and solidarity to our brothers and sisters in Israel."

He adds that "steps have been taken in the Toronto community to build a cross-denominational unity– to bring together all segments of our community – steps of inclusion. I hope that this will lead to more unified activities in Toronto and increased missions to Israel."

Jewish books & the Internet

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It doesn't compare to dropping by your favourite Jewish bookshop and rummaging through the new releases. But the World Wide Web does offer some treats for Jewish book lovers. On the Internet, you can find a community of people with similar interests, recommendations for good reads, and believe it or not, complete Jewish books that you can read at no cost.

First, the free books. Don't expect to find any hot, new Jewish releases on the Web. In fact, because of copyright restrictions, these books are either over 75 years old or they are by contemporary authors who want to make their works available freely. The quality of writing and interest for a general audience can vary widely. But, hey, the price is right.

The best place to start your quest is at The Online Books Page. This is a directory that points to the over 17,000 various types of books that can be read on the Internet. **[http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/]** The site's Jewish Section has links to 60 online books including *The Jewish Encyclopedia* (1906), *The Legends of the Jews* (1909) by Louis Ginzberg, translated by Henrietta Szold and Paul Radin, and a book titled *Judaic Logic: A Formal Analysis of Biblical, Talmudic and Rabbinic Logic* (1997) by Avi Sion. **[http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/webbin/book/subjectstart?BM]** You should also try the Web site's search page using terms like "Jew," "Jewish," "Israel" or other favourite keywords. To find more books online, visit the Project Gutenberg Web site. That's where I came across the Jewish Poems of Emma Lazarus. **[http://www.gutenberg.net/]**

Most books are too long to be read online. You will usually have to download the files onto your computer, expand them and then read them.

If you are able to read Hebrew in your browser, then check out Project Ben-Yehuda. **[http://benyehuda.org/e_faq.html]** Similar to Project Gutenberg, this site is devoted to bringing "the classics of Hebrew literature [poetry and prose at first, and then essays etc.] to the reader of Hebrew." The Project Ben-Yehuda links page will take you to other Hebrew literary sites. **[http://benyehu da.org/h_links.html]** (There are also many wonderful online editions of the Torah, the Tanach and other religious texts which I will look at in future columns.)

Of course, if you want to read most recent Jewish books, you are going to have buy or borrow them. Looking for recommendations? A site called Jewish Bibliographies on the Internet has scoured the Web for recommended reading lists about a wide variety of topics. You will find links to bibliographies on more than 25 topics including basic readings in Jewish history, lists on bestsellers, Ethiopian Jews, terrorism, Jewish travel, the Holocaust and a guide to books about life in the Jewish resorts of the Catskill mountains. **[http://www.nmmc.net/Guide/bibliography.links.html]**

If you've been scratching your head about the right book to buy a bar or bat mitzvah, check out the recommendations at the Books4JewishTeens site. **[http://shlk.com/203]**

Once you are ready to buy, you can either try your local bookshop or look for your book online. Whether you are shopping at Jewish specialty sites such as Israel's Judaica **[http://israelsjudaica.com]**, Negev Judaica **[http://negevjudaica.com]** and MyJewishBooks.com **[http://myjewishbooks.com]** or general retailers like Chapters.Indigo.ca **[http://chapters.indigo.ca]** and Amazon **[http://amazon.ca]** always make sure that you understand the site's security provisions and return policies.

For more Jewish publishers, check out the links at the Maven Web site. **[http://www.maven.co.il/subjects.asp?S=191]** And for lively criticism, argument and discussion, don't miss JBooks.com. **[http://www.jbooks.com/]**

If you prefer to borrow Jewish books but don't have a good selection in your local library, then take a look at what the members of Kona Beth Shalom of Hawaii have done. Members are encouraged to make a list of their personal libraries and post them on the synagogue Web site. Friends browse through the lists, e-mail their requests and pick up the books at the next Shabbat service. **[http://www.konabethshalom.org/library.htm]**

Even if you aren't planning to visit Hawaii, check out their Web site for ideas about setting up a virtual library for your synagogue, temple or Jewish group.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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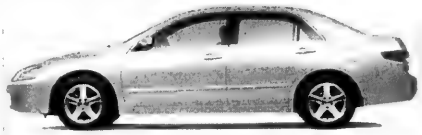

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Nov. 11 is deadline for Nov. 21 issue and Monday, Nov. 18 is deadline for Nov. 28. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416- 391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

WINE LOVERS WANTED

Celebrate A Night Divine, an extraordinary wine tasting and fine wine auction by Temple Har Zion, beginning 5:45 p.m. at Le Parc Conference and Banquet Centre, 8432 Leslie St. Thornhill. Dinner at 7:15 p.m., live auction at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 9

RELIGIOUSLY INCORRECT

Nishma's first Religiously Incorrect panel discussion of the season titled Choosing a Path Within Torah: How Do You Know You Are Right?, moderated by **Rabbi Benjamin Hecht,** 8 p.m. at the Nishma Centre, 322 Wilson Ave. 416-630-0588.

WHO IS A JEW?

Saturday Night Live at Shaarei Tefillah continues with Who is a Jew? Rambam and the Convert, with **Prof. Jim Diamond,** University of Waterloo, 7:30 p.m.

WAR VETERANS SHABBAT

Adath Israel War Veterans and/or spouses of veterans are being honoured at Shabbat services. Reserved section for veterans and families. Feel free to wear your uniform, medals and caps. Kiddush follows. 416-635-5340.

Sunday, Nov. 10

LOVE LETTER POEMS

Troim Katz Handler, author of *Simcha-Love Letter Poems,* speaks in Yiddish and English on her new book of erotic love poetry, 1:30 p.m. at the Jewish Book Fair.

BARNEY DANSON MEMOIRS

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section, Jewish Book Fair presentation. **Barney Danson**, former minister of defence, discusses his book, *Not Bad for a Sergeant*, 11 a.m., Leah Posluns Theatre RSVP 416-633-5100.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Nine Paths to Personal Growth, all-day workshop at Beth Tzedec Congregation with **Rabbi Howard Addison.** Registration 8:15 a.m., program 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Co-sponsored by Beth Tzedec, Jewish Health Alliance, and International Enneagram Assoc. (Ontario Division). RSVP 416-860-6160.

VICTIMS TO VICTORS

Peter Silverman, co-founder of Canadian Society Yad Vashem and co-author of a 1991 prize-winning book of Holocaust literature, discusses From Victims to Victors, 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Presented by Shaarei Shomayim's entertainment and cultural committee and brotherhood.

MOVIE NIGHT

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section, movie night screening of **Jane Goodall's** *Wild Chimpanzees* and *Space Station* narrated by **Tom Cruise**, 7 p.m. at Ontario Science Centre. 416-633-5100.

ISRAELI DANCING

Shaar Shalom Synagogue presents Mother-Daughter Israeli Dancing for adults with children in Grades 1-6, at 6:30 p.m.. Fathers, sons, grandparents welcome. 905-889-4975, ext. 62.

JEWISH GENEALOGY

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) Beginner's Workshop 1-5 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. 905-882-2259.

CLOSET SALE

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section,

Continued on page 23

Toronto Zionist Council and Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
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"Taking Terror to Court"

- How did the European Union become the biggest financial supporter of Palestinian terror?
- How is the United Nations involved in terror attacks and war crimes against Israeli civilians?
- What should Jewish communities, organizations and university students be doing now to bolster Israel in its struggle for survival?

Toronto Attorney Edward Greenspan will introduce Ms. Darshan-Leitner

Thursday, November 14, 2002 – 8PM
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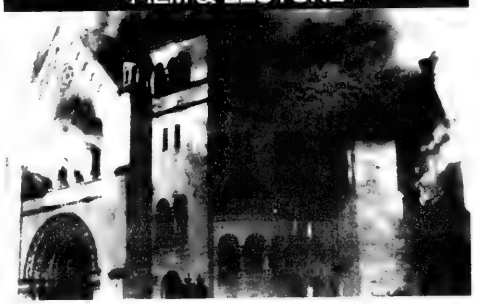
Holocaust Education Week
Kristallnacht Commemoration
FILM & LECTURE



Sunday, November 10, 2002 • 7:30 p.m.
Congregation Habonim, 5 Glen Park Avenue

Congregation Habonim was founded by European refugees from the Holocaust many of whom were witnesses to the event of Kristallnacht. **On the 64th anniversary of Kristallnacht,** Congregation Habonim will hold a brief memorial ceremony, followed by a film and lecture:

FILM:
The Night of The Reich's Pogrom
History Television's moving documentary on Kristallnacht and the events leading up to this infamous event

LECTURE:
Friends, Neighbors or Enemies? Jewish-Gentile relations in pre-war Europe
Given by Professor Jeffrey Kopstein, Director, University of Toronto Research Department Joint Initiative on German and European Studies.

UJA FEDERATION
Holocaust Education Week is coordinated by The Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation

What's New

Continued from page 22

Yachad Branch closet sale, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. New and used merchandise for the whole family.

VEGETARIAN LUNCH

L'Chaim Vegetarian Group lunch meeting guest speaker **Lolette Kuby**. Topic is Faith and the Placebo Effect, at noon at Le Commensal Restaurant, 655 Bay St. **Howard Koch** 416-633-4076.

Monday, Nov. 11

THREE GENERATIONS

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Sisterhood Holocaust program, Three Generations: Readings with **Faigy Libman**, candle light memorial service, 8 p.m. 416-633-3838.

THE MIDDLE EAST

Prof. David Dewitt discusses The Middle East After the Cold War, 8 p.m. Adath Israel Synagogue. 416-635-5340.

Tuesday, Nov. 12

CONCERT

The Koffler Centre of the Arts, School of Music Salon Series presents pianist **Robert Silverman**, playing **Brahms, Schumann, Mendelssohn, Gershwin**, at the home of **Toby** and **Saul Feldberg**. For tickets and information, **Adrienne Cohen** 416-636-1880 ext. 228.

HISTORY OF U OF T

Prof. Martin Friedland, former dean of Law, U of T., talks about his recently published book, The University of Toronto: a History with particular emphasis on the University and Jewish community. 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation.

FRENCH LODGE BB

La Fraternite French lodge, B'nai Brith, monthly meeting, 8 p.m., 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). A French paper produced during the German occupation of France is presented and discussed. 416-255-6086.

CHUG HATANACH

Meets at 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue to study the Book of Ezekiel, Chapter 24 and 25, led by **Seymour Epstein.**

DINNER MEETING

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Brotherhood dinner meeting. Speaker **Rabbi Howard Morrison**. Topic: Health Concerns in the Jewish Tradition. Dinner 6:30 p.m. (members only), lecture 8 p.m. (all welcome).

Wednesday, Nov. 13

WINE DOWN EASY

Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary's Wine Down Easy, dining, dancing wine auction at Easy and the Fifth, 225 Richmond St. **Cindy Berk** at Mount Sinai, 416-586-8290.

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Artist and textile worker **Sylvia Plak** speaks about Artists Responding to the Holocaust, at the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles meeting, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. 416-948-2717.

JWI CHAPTER

Jewish Women International Markham-Unionville Chapter monthly meeting. Special guest speaker. New members welcome. Gail Gotter 905-294-9706.

Thursday, Nov. 14

THE MAN AT KOTEL

Lecture by Rabbi Meir Schuster (the Man at the Kotel), founder of Heritage House, Jerusalem. For details contact **Gedalia Zweig**, 905-886-6305.

TAKING TERROR TO COURT

Toronto Zionist Council and Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue present Israeli activist attorney **Nitsana Darshan-Leitner** lecturing on Taking Terror to Court, 8 p.m. at the shul. 416-781-3571.

And What Else Is New

THIS WEEK AT SOLEL

Solel Congregation, 2399 Folkway Dr., Mississauga. 905-820-5915.

Friday, Nov. 8, Holocaust Memorial Service. with guest **Derek Penslar** speaking about Holocaust Memories in Israel, 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 10, **Rabbi David Forman** from Rabbis for Human Rights speaks on Canada-Israel Relations, sponsored by ARZA, 8 p.m.

TRUE COLOURS

Do you know your true colours? Increase your understanding of the important people in your life. Join My Women's Group of Jewish Women International/Canada on Monday, Nov. 18, for dinner and program facilitated by **Rhona Ash**. Reserve. 416-630-9313.

HEBREW CRASH COURSE

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue Hebrew Reading Crash Course (Beginners Level), created by the National Jewish Outreach Program, starts Sunday, Nov. 10, at 9:30 a.m. and continues for 6 weeks. To register call 416-633-3838.

A WOMAN'S PRAYER

The Potency and Philosophy Behind a Woman's Prayer with **Chana Weisberg**, dean, JRCC Institute of Torah Study, Mondays at 7:45 p.m. and Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m.,at 18 Rockford Rd. Register 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

JF & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service. For information/registration call **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Birthdays, Hockey Games and Holidays: Making It Work After Divorce, a workshop for parents Monday, Nov. 18, at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313, from 7-9 p.m.

One Family, Two Homes; a 3-session series for families experiencing separation and divorce. Children participate in separate age groups. Starting Thursday, Nov. 21, at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. 6:30-8:30 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors pre-Chanukah dinner, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 5:30-8 p.m. at Adath Israel Synagogue. Full course dinner and entertainment by singer **Adam Timoon**. Reserve by calling **Tammy Parker** 416-635-2860.

Holy Blossom Temple Lunch & Learn in Retirement features An Update on the Conflict in the Middle East and the Impact on the Diaspora with **Jesse Guberman**, director of Cultural and Academic Affairs for the Consulate General of Israel in Toronto, at noon, Wednesday, Nov. 13. Bring your own dairy lunch. 416-789-3291.

New Horizon's Seniors Club dance party, Saturday, Nov. 9, at 6 p.m., 3565 Bathurst St., 416-256-1892 **Edith** or **Olga.**

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. For more information, 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Get ready for Chanukah dance party on Nov. 30, 7 p.m. Weekly events- Nov. 7, bingo; Nov. 14, supper out; Nov. 21, video movie; Nov. 28, free evening for stories and discussion. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama, Nov. 20; Saturday dances, Nov. 9, 23, at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday dances, Nov. 17; Pre-New Years party with refreshments, Dec. 29, at 7 p.m. 416-395-7881.

Young at Heart Seniors vacation to glatt kosher Saxony Hotel, 2 weeks and more with meals or efficiency, free full breakfast, cocktail party and refreshments after the live show. **Helen** 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Moshe Ronen, past president of Canadian Jewish Congres, speaks on Searching For A Family's Roots, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 10-11:30 a.m. For information, **Barbara Zigler**, Lifelong Learning co-ordinator, ext. 134.

Fun With Yiddish, jokes, stories, videos, speakers,, Thursday, Nov. 7, at 1 p.m. Volunteer facilitator, **Evelyn, Rabkin-Yuditsky**. Contact person **Barbara Zigler**, ext. 134.

Hearing Aid Checkup, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 12:15-1:15 p.m., Facilitator **Barry Katz**.

Armchair Traveller, visit strange lands from the comfort of your archair at the centre, Thursday, Nov. 14, 10:30-11:30. a.m. Instructor **Brian Prosserman.**

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Nov. 12, sing-a-long; Nov. 19, lecture; Nov. 26, bingo. **Anna** ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Silent Witness, German film with English subtitles, directed and produced by **Harriet Wichin**, Thursday, Nov. 7, 2 p.m.

Daniel Goldhagen reads from his new book, about the role of the Catholic church during the Holocaust. Thursday, Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m. at OISE, 252 Bloor St. W

The Holocaust: A Cultural Perspective, Saturday, Nov. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 10 at 11 a.m. *Parchment*, journal of contemporary Canadian Jewish writing 11th annual collection of new Jewish writing. *Parchment* editor **Adam Fuerstenberg** hosts. Bagel brunch reception.

Seniors events: Thursday, Nov. 14, General business meeting, 1 p.m. Elder Abuse with **Bluma Heimlich** at 2 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Lunch N' Learn with **Rabbi Moshe Stern**, Friday, Nov. 8, at 1 p.m., Room 202.

BJCC/United Way fund-raising bazaar and silent auction, Monday, Nov. 11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Learning Experience-Elder Abuse and Healthy Lifestyle, co-sponsored with National Council of Jewish Women, Tuesday, Nov. 12, 1-2:30 p.m., Room 211.

Tickets on sale now for Luncheon-Chanukah celebration featuring **Marvin Rosenshein** accompanied by **Mikhael Khinkis**, Tuesday, Dec. 3, at 12:30 p.m., Room 211.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 28

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Greater Toronto Area

North York woman saves elephants at Chile conference

By JENNIFER PAQUETTE
Special to The CJN

At 39, Lisa Abram is too young to be heading south this November, but that's exactly where she's going. Unlike most "snowbirds," she's not stopping in Palm Beach or Miami. She's on a journey of passion, all the way to Latin America.

Abram, who has a background in marketing and a master's degree in environmental studies, is currently off in Chile campaigning for elephants at the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), from Nov. 3 to 15.

An international agreement between governments, CITES works to ensure that international trade in specimens of wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival. At the convention, delegates from 160 countries will lobby to include a variety of species on the official worldwide endangered lists. Abram is attending as a representative of the non-governmental organization (NGO) African Elephant International.

Abram has been smitten with elephants since she vacationed in Africa in 1989. She has returned to the continent at every opportunity she has had since then, between destinations like India, Asia and the South American rainforest.

CITES is her latest work with her favourite animal species, but her passion for the environment doesn't stop with elephants. For her master's thesis, she travelled to British Columbia to study native areas imperiled by logging.

Her conclusion: environmental tourism, incorporating local indigenous peoples, is crucial to saving precious ecosystems, whether in Western Canada or Africa: "Instead of elephants, it's bears... instead of Masai Mara, it's the Haisla [Natives]... but it's the same theme," she says.

Abram is confident that her calling embodies the mitzvah of tikkun olam, even though she often finds it difficult convincing fellow Jews of the importance of her work.

The majestic grey elephant taken by Lisa Abram (inset).

Last year, she says, she attended a Negev dinner with her parents, where "We had nametags... Mine just said 'global citizen.'

"If we're all about... repairing the world, it doesn't matter where we do it," she says.

Abram finds other frustrations in working to protect the environment, including the difficulties of having "normal" social interaction. She recalls one man she met who insisted he couldn't date anyone who wouldn't wear perfume. Often, she says, she feels like an outcast because she is a "minimalist, not into clothing, shopping. I don't even have a car anymore."

But it's not all frustrating. Her parents, though their lives are drastically different from her own – she says they live in the suburbs rather than downtown, have regular 9-5 jobs and are "major supporters of Jewish organizations like JNF [Jewish National Fund]" – are supportive. And she finds inspiration in the worldwide programs of Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian & Relief Committee.

"There aren't any boundaries in this field," she says.

She credits Avrum Rosenzweig, the organization's executive vice-president, with helping her to see "there are other ways of being a Jew" outside the typical mould.

Abram has also been influenced by Simcha Jacobovici and the small Orthodox synagogue he helped found in the Riverdale neighbourhood. There, she says, she can attend casually; "even in jeans." She also cites Jews for Judaism's Rabbi Michael Skobac as a role model: "You've gotta love a rabbi who's been to India!"

She went to Rabbi Skobac to seek "like-minded people" that she could socialize with. She attended a dinner that he and his wife, Chashi, organized, called a "Wandering Jews Shabbat Dinner."

Ten Jewish world travellers participated, reflecting a broad range of ages and beliefs. "At the end of the day, we were all there for the same purpose," she says.

Following CITES, Abram hopes to pursue environmentalism full-time; so far, all her work has been voluntary. She has a job in marketing to help finance her passion.

"Paying out of my own pocket [for her environmental activities] emphasizes how important I think these issues are," she says. Each new project she participates in "drives home why I want to do what I do."

But whatever Abram's future holds, it will involve travel.

"I have this inability to stop travelling," she says. "If I stopped, I'd probably wean myself off of this, and the world would close in... If I'd never gone outside of Bathurst [Street] and Steeles [Avenue], I wouldn't be the person I've evolved into."

Meanwhile, Abram says, her mother often glances uneasily at her wedding finger – where she wears a slim turquoise band and a metal ring with the name CUSCO, the Peruvian gateway to the ruins of Machu Picchu.

"When you walk this path, you have to be pretty convinced that it's what you want to do, or else you have the angst of your parents to deal with," she says. "You have to live the experience... not just try to save cute little animals.

"My mother wants me to get married and have kids. It would be nice, but I don't think I could do it and forget this side of my life."

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Greater Toronto Area

Israel must be Jewish, democratic, says rabbi

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

The survival of the Jewish state depends on stopping the rampant polarization between religious and secular, between the political right and left, and between Jews and Arabs, says Rabbi Yehuda Gilad.

Rabbi Gilad, 47, is spiritual leader of Kibbutz Lavi, a large religious kibbutz in northern Israel; founding rosh yeshiva of Yeshivat Ma'ale Gilboa in Jerusalem; and since June, a member of the Knesset for the Meimad party.

Although that party espouses a modern Orthodox philosophy, it is loosely aligned with the ruling Labour party of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

Through tolerance, understanding and communication, Rabbi Gilad said in an interview during a recent visit to Toronto, we can create a state that is "Jewish and democratic," and fair to all.

Through the Rabin Foundation, which supports initiatives to engage Israelis and Arabs in dialogue, she and a group of like-minded individuals have created the Kineret Declaration, a covenant that sets out bases for developing the kind of state that would have a place for everyone.

Among the clauses are commitments to maintain the moral, national and religious underpinnings of the state; to ensure the rights of the Arab minority; to support the peace process and recognize the legitimate rights of the neighbouring Palestinian people, on condition that it recognize the legitimate rights of the Jewish people; and to ensure equal opportunity to all its citizens.

Compromise is only solution

Speaking particularly about religion in Israel, he said the coercion that the haredi parties have exercised has served only to drive the secular farther and farther away from them as well as from religious observance.

Compromise is the only solution, he said. For instance, he suggested, public institutions and events must be kosher and Sabbath observant, in accordance with Halachah. The same requirements, however, need not necessarily apply in the private sector.

"We are developing the understanding that we can't use force – it is only leading to people becoming even less religious."

There must be a distinction between business and culture, he said. He and his party want to create a consensus to keep malls closed on Shabbat.

"That's not just a religious issue, though. It's also a matter of equality so that the Orthodox can compete in business on an equal level with the secular."

On the other hand, the rabbi said, he would support allowing entertainment and cultural opportunities to be open on Shabbat. "I may not approve [of going to movies on Shabbat], but it isn't fair of me to force my views on other people."

This approach is finding favour with the non-religious, he said, who appreciate the spirit of compromise and respect that lies behind these views. Shas and the other religious parties, Rabbi Gilad said, "won't actively support the ideas, but won't oppose them either."

He and the Meimad party support the current peace initiatives, he said. "The Torah says that it is acceptable to give up land for peace."

In their view, the settlements and areas near the Green Line will be annexed to Israel, and the state should be ready to give up the rest of them.

This would include such sacred sites as Hebron and the Cave of the Patriarchs, and Shechem, the burial place of Joseph.

"It is for our own interest," he insisted. "The state will only survive if it is both Jewish and democratic."

The idea of an Israel with more than 3.5 million Arabs is unacceptable, he said. "If we give them the right to vote, there is no more Jewish state – it will be binational. If we don't, the state is not democratic, and we would have a kind of apartheid."

It would be agonizingly painful to give up such holy places as Shechem, or Hebron. But he sees it as similar to an operation – "sometimes you may have to amputate part of the body to save a life."

Rabbi Gilad said Israeli society is coming to realize that the concepts held by the extremes are collapsing. The left, he said, offered peace, but they were rejected. The right has said that if Israel just stays strong, everything will be all right – which is also not true.

Both sides are less sure about the absolute correctness of their own positions, he said, and are therefore becoming more open to listening to each other and making compromises.

The yeshiva he founded, Yeshivat Ma'ale Gilboa, aims to develop students of Torah with similar views. Like the hesder yeshivot, they combine religious studies with army services. Unlike hesder, however, they do a complete army stint.

The students are exposed to diverse opinions, both religious and political. They are encouraged to question all these views. "We can't pretend that questions and other points of view don't exist. They must be prepared with answers.

"We want to develop good soldiers with a a strong moral sense," Rabbi Gilad said. "We want them to remember that even in war, humans are created in the image of God, and must be treated with respect."

He told the story of a soldier from his yeshiva who was involved in searching a Palestinian house. The woman of the house was hysterical about her sick baby. The soldier instantly called the army medic, who gave the baby medicine.

"That's what a Jewish army should be," he said.

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Common historical narrative links all Jews: educator

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

How can Jews attain unity if they are so different?

According to Israeli educator Avraham Infeld, this conundrum is the main challenge facing the Jewish world today.

Infeld, who works to foster Jewish identity within the context of pluralism and the centrality of Israel, told a recent breakfast meeting that various gaps among Jews may be bridgeable despite the glaring lack of uniformity in contemporary Jewish life.

Jewish unity, he explained in an off-the-cuff talk sponsored by the Jewish Agency, stands on five legs: memory, family, Mt. Sinai, the Land of Israel and the State of Israel and the Hebrew language.

A traditional Jew who wears a kippah, Infeld is founder and president emeritus of Melitz, a non-profit group whose aim is to strengthen Israel's relationship with the Diaspora. He is also associated with Hillel, the university campus group.

He spoke to members of Hashomer Hatzair, Habonim Dror, Young Judea and B'nai Brith Youth Organization at the Lipa Green Building.

Jewish memory – the common historical narrative – binds Jews together, said Infeld, who immigrated to Israel from South Africa in 1959 at age 16.

"You can't survive as a Jew without relating to this narrative." Then, for emphasis, he asserted, "It's not history. It's memory."

Speaking of family, he observed, "We're not a religion or a nation – but a family." Calling Israel a "family enterprise and a family undertaking," Infeld said that "without this spirit of family, none of this makes sense."

The giving of the Torah at Mt. Sinai, he continued, gave Jews a perspective on the world and sacred commitments to keep.

Jews should bear witness to God's existence, he said. But, warning of the intrinsic hazards in that statement, he added that human beings cannot arrogate that role to themselves.

Avraham Infeld

"You can't be a god. There is no greater criminal than a person who thinks he's God – from Haman and Hitler to Saddam Hussein."

As well, Jews should try to make the planet a better place. "We in Israel don't talk about tikkun olam enough. A better world is not only for Jews, but for everyone, including the Palestinians."

The Land of Israel and the State of Israel are not identical, he said. "The land, all of it, every inch, is the warehouse of Jewish memory."

But the land has nothing to do with political sovereignty, he added. In an oblique reference to possible future talks between Israel and the Palestinians, and in a plea for moderation and realism, he said: "Hebron means more to me than Tel Aviv, but I intend to give up Hebron, not Tel Aviv."

Infeld said the transformation of Hebrew "from a living to a spoken language" was a major revolution, since language transmits culture and, by definition, memory.

Infeld, who drew up the first itinerary for the Birthright program, urged Israeli political leaders to start talking about Jewish unity from his perspective.

"Very few do, and it's a tragedy."

He singled out two Israelis as exceptions – right-wing politician Benny Begin and left-wing politician Yossi Sarid.

Infeld, who described himself as a leftist in Israeli political terms, said that Israel's future as a democracy is totally dependent on its treatment of Israeli Arabs, a minority comprising 19 per cent of its population.

In an interview, he said Israeli Arab citizens do not have the same access to national resources as their Jewish counterparts.

"We're not spending 19 per cent of our educational resources on them," he said, referring to Israeli Arabs. "And they're not receiving 19 per cent of social benefits."

Calling Israeli Arabs "an amazingly loyal population," Infeld said they have grown estranged from Israel since the outbreak of the second intifadah.

Asked whether he agrees with the assessment that Israeli Arabs are second-class citizens, he noted: "They are not equal citizens. They are equal under the law, but equality does not exist in fact."

Turning to current political issues, Infeld said he favours a two-state solution and a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from most of the territories as the way to defuse Israel's conflict with the Palestinians.

"I'm motivated by one thing: to make sure Israel remains a democratic Jewish state. This can be obtained by transfer, which is immoral, or by dividing the land."

The Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman Fall 2002 Lecture Series at Holy Blossom Temple

Two Years after the Reckoning

Reinventing the future of the Middle East

Two years ago, Yasser Arafat rejected Palestinian statehood, including East Jerusalem as its capital, and walked out of the Camp David talks, starting the second Intifada against Israel. Everything changed as violence erupted. Yuli Tamir is the final of four outstanding analysts at Holy Blossom this fall who will address the current situation.

A Vision of a Renewed Zionism and State

Yuli Tamir

Head of the Rabin Center at Tel Aviv University and the former Minister of Absorption for the State of Israel

Introduction: Shira Herzog, Executive Vice President, Kahanoff Foundation

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On Campus

Life at a fairly non-Jewish university

By LEORA BERESKIN

When I first told my parents I wanted to go away for university, they thought it was fine – until I told them that instead of going to McGill University or the University of Western Ontario, I wanted to go to the University of Waterloo.

There are not many Jews in Waterloo, my mother explained to me. My parents sweated and slaved for years to put me and my siblings through Hebrew school. As my mother said, if I married outside the faith, I'd have to pay them all that money back. Plus interest.

But I insisted that I wanted to go to UW – where the Jewish student population is 500, compared to 3,000 at Western and 3,500 at McGill – and that I'd find a way to be part of the Jewish community. I figured there would be tons of other Jewish students in Waterloo for me to hang out with. Right?

Well, sort of. The first close friend I made when I came last year was a Muslim girl from Pakistan.

I had spent all my earlier years in Jewish and predominantly Jewish schools, so it had been easy for me to isolate myself from the rest of the world. It's not quite as easy to do that in a diverse environment like Waterloo. Here I have been exposed to many different cultures and religions, and have exposed other students to Judaism.

In my first year, at least four people came up to me and said I was the first Jewish person they'd ever met. Some made anti-Semitic comments, like a Muslim acquaintance who told me that Israel isn't a real country. But overall, I had great experiences, and learned that most people are incredibly tolerant.

After the Sept. 11 attacks, while the television was showing the Palestinians dancing on the streets in celebration, I watched my Muslim friends cry along with everyone else. It can be so easy to make judgments about other cultures when you don't actually know the people.

My parents had agreed to let me go to Waterloo on one condition – that I become involved with the Jewish Students Association (JSA). I figured the best way for me to stay active with the JSA was to join the executive. Planning campus activities allowed me to meet many people that I wouldn't have met if I had just gone to the events.

Occasionally, I found it difficult to balance school with all the Jewish holidays. I had far too much work to come into Toronto for Yom Kippur last year, so instead, I went to one of the two local synagogues, Beth Jacob. I can't even begin to explain how kind the people were to me. An amazingly nice family invited me over to their house to break the fast.

It is very difficult to miss class at Waterloo, so when I stayed here for Yom Kippur last year, I went to two of my classes. Many of my secular Jewish friends don't observe the holidays at all, but it's hard to tell if that's because they are overwhelmed by the pressures of school, or if they just don't want to observe the holidays.

Last year, I had to miss two lab exams scheduled on the same days as the Pesach seders. I found my professors sympathetic, but there wasn't a lot they could do for me. One of the exams was re-scheduled for two days after the seder. But there was no alternative time for me to write the other one, so the mark allocation from that exam was added onto my final exam, making the final worth 70 per cent of my total grade. But things worked out.

I've already forgotten most of what I learned in first year. If you ask me about the scientific term "equilibrium constants," I'll just shrug. But if you ask me about being a Jewish student in a fairly non-Jewish university, I can go on and on, both about the difficulties and the incredible benefits.

Leora Bereskin is a biology major at the University of Waterloo.

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Coast to Coast

Reflections on Israel program and Jewish unity

Four Canadian Grade 12 students were among this year's 26 Bronfman Youth Fellows. Along with their American counterparts, they took part in a five-week program in Israel this summer aimed at developing future community leaders committed to Jewish unity. The participants, who attended a Bronfman reunion in New York last month, shared some thoughts on the program now that they're back in their own communities.

Talya Kagedan

Yonah Krakowsky

Hannah Mayne

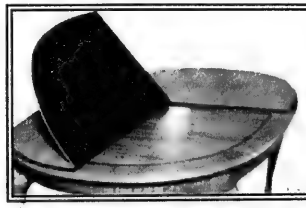
Talie Shalmon

Talya Kagedan, Yitzhak Rabin High School, Ottawa: While I definitely have a greater understanding of North American Judaism and the many streams within it, I returned with a renewed sense of pride in my practice of modern Orthodoxy. I am incredibly fortunate to have been granted the opportunity to develop such close relationships with 25 of the most amazing teenagers I have yet to meet.

Yonah Krakowsky, Yeshivat Or Chaim, Toronto: The importance of tolerance within the Jewish community was always clear in my mind. The summer gave me a chance to look into the lives of other Jewish teenagers practising Judaism in ways I would otherwise be unaware of... Perhaps most importantly, the summer has allowed me to question what I do and why I do it, a process that has [allowed] and will continue to allow me to strengthen who I am within Orthodoxy.

Hannah Mayne, Lisgar Collegiate Institute, Ottawa: I've grown as a person, I've developed new skills, and I've made friendships that are going to last me the rest of my life. Before the reunion, it was like any other summer program. When I came home in the fall, I thought it was an amazing summer and that's it. Just seeing my friends again at the reunion made me realize that this is totally different from any camp experience I've been on. We were continuing in a huge way our friendship, our studies and our learning. We had a full, intensive two days. That really sunk in deep: this is for life.

Talie Shalmon, Earl Haig Secondary School, Toronto: Mostly it was the people that made it special – the other students and also the rabbis. Before Bronfman, I didn't really know that much about Judaism and other denominations. I'm not really part of any denomination. It's a cultural thing, not just a religious thing. That's what I thought before. Most of the other students go to synagogue every Saturday. Most were Reform or Conservative; I think there were four Orthodox kids. The majority of people weren't Orthodox, so I sort of felt I had to be more religious. Then I found that what I do is right for me.



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Coast to Coast

Hezbollah: a deep threat to regional security

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The story late last month that Israel had arrested a lieutenant colonel on charges of suspicion of spying for Hezbollah sent shockwaves well beyond Israel's shores.

As it turned out, Israel arrested 10 men, all members of Israel's Bedouin community, which has had a record of solid loyalty to the Israel Defence Forces (IDF). Allegedly, the Iranian-backed Hezbollah bribed the men with drugs and cash to provide information about Israel's troop movements and monitoring activities along its northern border.

Yet beyond this particularly unsettling case lies a far deeper and more troubling story – a story that needs more attention in the daily press – about Hezbollah's fanatically anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish campaign, whose tentacles reach well into the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and even into areas of Israel itself.

In riveting, frightening detail, Jeffrey Goldberg of *The New Yorker* has told the story in a two-part, 17,000-word, must-read article, "In the Party of God" (Oct. 14 and 28). In so doing, he has supplied journalists with enough raw material for many follow-up reports. Among the details are the following:

Influential figures in the U.S. intelligence community consider Hezbollah "the most successful terrorist organization in modern history" and "the role model" for other international terrorist organizations.

Before Sept. 11, Hezbollah's operations mastermind, Imad Mugniyah, was generally considered the world's most dangerous terrorist. A former member of Force 17, Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat's personal bodyguard, he reports to a branch of Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard called the "Jerusalem Force."

Mugniyah reportedly helped organize the "Karine A" ship loaded with Iranian heavy arms, which was destined for PA areas and intercepted by Israel in the Red Sea. He also apparently has close ties with Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad and even with Al Qaeda.

"A main focus today appears to be the training of specifically anti-Israel militants in the science of constructing so-called 'mega-bombs,' devices that can bring down office towers and other large structures," writes Goldberg.

Hezbollah's chief spokesman, Hassan Ezzedin, said that former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak pulled the IDF out of south Lebanon because Jews, unlike Muslims, feared death: "Life doesn't end when you die," said Ezzedin. "To us, there is real life after death. Reaching the afterlife is the goal of life. Once you have in mind the goal of dying, you stop fearing the Jews."

Goldberg's lengthy article makes it clear that any effort to distinguish between Hezbollah's radical military wing and its supposedly benign social/political wing is illusory. "Hezbollah is, at its core, a jihadist organization" dedicated to a rigid Islamic state and to the destruction of Israel.

Hezbollah leader Sheikh Nasralah, whose presence at the recent Francophonie conference in Beirut embarrassed Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, has declared that "we all have an extraordinary historic opportunity to finish off the entire cancerous Zionist project."

Hezbollah possesses approximately 8,000 rockets, including some that can reach Israel's industrial heartland. In a U.S. attack on Iraq, Hezbollah could open a front against Israel (as could Iraq). Israel has repeatedly warned Syria – and Iran, Hezbollah's sponsor – that it will be held accountable for any such attack.

Given the threat that Hezbollah poses to Israel's security in particular and to regional stability in general, we can only hope that Goldberg's piece serves as a wake-up call to everyone.

Paul Michaels is director of communications of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Shula Mola

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Can Islam Ever Accept Israel?

Norman Podhoretz

Wed. Nov. 20, 2002 at 7.30 p.m.

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CJN Hamilton correspondent retires after 30 years

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — During her 30 years as Hamilton correspondent for *The Canadian Jewish News* until her retirement last February, Moura Wolpert was determined to give 100 per cent to the job.

She couldn't imagine missing an important meeting of a Jewish organization. The thought of not interviewing a new dignitary in the community seemed incomprehensible. For most of the 30 years, she was single-handedly responsible for reporting on the Hamilton scene and she was going to do it right.

"I used to go to every meeting," she said. A self-described perfectionist, Wolpert said she attended meetings of Jewish organizations for background information, not just to get a story.

After countless meetings, speeches and interviews, Wolpert has nothing but positive recollections about the work. In fact, if it weren't for health problems, she says she would likely still be out there covering every significant event with unceasing commitment.

Wolpert has no qualms about discussing her past battles with cancer and heart disease, and her recent health problems, including osteoporosis, arthritis and spinal stenosis (pain in the back and legs caused by narrowing of the spinal canal).

But she gives the impression that these are just bumps in the road.

In an interview, she said that when she first began reporting on the Hamilton Jewish community for *The CJN*, she wondered if there would be enough stories. "I was amazed at what I could find. The job turned to be a good deal better than I expected."

When she and her husband Bernard moved to Hamilton in 1955, she devoted her time to raising their small children, Nina and Michael. When their youngest child, Michael, began high school Wolpert found a job at the weekly *Burlington Gazette*.

"I was terrified. I'm the type of person who says 'yes,' then thinks about it afterwards. I wondered what I had let myself in for.

"The first day I started work, I was sent to a meeting regarding a problem with the postal service in town. I started taking notes and I couldn't keep up. I thought, there goes my job. I thought I had blown it.

"After the meeting, my editor told me to write three pages, double-spaced. Somehow I managed to do it.

"Later the editor came out of his office, and with a grin from there to here, he said: 'You're a natural.'"

The job at the *Gazette* provided great experience, she said. Unfortunately, four months later, the editor and most of the staff he had hired, including Wolpert, were fired.

Moura Wolpert

"I was itching for something to do."

Then came along the opportunity to work for *The CJN*. She said she derived tremendous satisfaction from the writing process. "When I had been home with the children, I wrote endless letters to family and friends. I guess it was an outlet for writing."

Wolpert was born in Danzig (now Gdansk, Poland), which was then an independent city-state on the Baltic Sea.

The family moved to France when she was about four, then to Germany and Denmark. She attended a number of schools, including a boarding school in Italy.

Recalling her "erratic education... no science, just a lot of art, music and literature," Wolpert says she is multi-lingual, speaking Russian (which was the language spoken in her home), German, French and "somewhat rusty" Italian.

"My father said he wanted water between himself and the Nazis," so the family moved to London when she was 15.

In her late teens, Wolpert, who has no formal journalistic training, wrote for the Habonim newsletter in London. She later got a job with the British Film Institute writing reviews of educational films and wrote film reviews for a British teenage girls magazine. She was also an editorial secretary for a quarterly published by Penguin Books.

She wrote articles about the British film industry that were translated into Spanish and were published in three Latin American magazines. Eventually she became an editorial assistant at the *London Observer*.

She and Bernard met in London and married after the war. In 1954, they moved to Montreal. "It was a tremendous culture shock. I missed the theatre... and worst of all, there were no public libraries," Wolpert said.

"When we moved to Hamilton the following year, I felt much more comfortable," she said.

Wolpert wants to continue writing. "I'd like to try essays. I've got all kinds of ideas floating around in my head."

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Coast to Coast

German teens discuss Holocaust with Canadians

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — Six German teenagers and two of their teachers stand out among millions of German citizens who are eager to forget the horrors World War II brought for millions of their Jewish compatriots.

The six high school students of Thomas Heuss Gymnasium of Dinslaken, in western Germany, have completed a two-week tour of Atlantic Canadian high schools and universities, telling Canadians what the Holocaust means to today's German youth.

They presented a program of slides, posters and emotional words on the history of the Holocaust in their town, how the Holocaust is taught in their schools and how their research has helped them understand a dark period of their country's history.

"People here [in Canada] and at home think it's a good thing we're doing," says 19-year-old Sarah Freck, a Grade 13 student. "Even though I'm graduating, I'm so involved in this I won't forget, can't forget. It's so important in our history."

The tour was initiated by University of Kings College professor Dorota Glowacka, daughter of Holocaust victims, who met survivor Fred Spiegel of New Jersey at a Holocaust conference last March. Spiegel was a resident of Dinslaken before the war and, as a child, survived the horror of World War II, eventually settling in the United States.

"He told me about the students, which he met, and suggested they travel in Canada," said Glowacka.

The students funded the trip on their own, receiving some administrative assistance from the Atlantic Jewish Council and being billeted in most communities they visited, including Moncton, Saint John and Fredericton.

"We've put a lot of expenses on our credit cards," said Glowacka.

Thomas Heuss teacher Gabriella Khanna, who teaches English and geography to the student sextet, started the project in 1997 when the state of North Rhine Westphalia offered funding to begin a project on the following year's 50th anniversary of Israel and the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht.

"My son, in high school at the time, pushed me into the project. There were three pupils at the start," she said. "We arranged a partnership with the community of Arad in Israel and had a student exchange until 2000 when it became unsafe for us to travel there. Their students still come to us each year, visit Holocaust sites and learn about our students, community and project."

Freck said the project has touched her deeply. "It's so incredible what happened, so cruel. I couldnt imagine that one man [Adolf Hitler] could make all this take place."

During the presentation, Grade 12 student Bert Noeldemann said there were 300 Jewish residents of the small town in 1938, but there is now one Jewish woman living there, Edith Marx, who returned about five years ago.

Grade 12 student Lisa Tekolf said the Holocaust is taught from kindergarten, through books and drawings.

"Children start to think about it at a young age," Tekolf said.

Students visit museums, memorials (there is a large one to the former Jewish community in Dinslaken) and synagogues in their region, said Grade 11 student Annika Schubert. "The best part is talking with our grandparents and with survivors, like Fred Spiegel, so we learn firsthand what happened."

Members of the Halifax Jewish community heard the students presentation at an overflow Beth Israel Synagogue breakfast. They saw pictures of Dinslaken, with a synagogue and Jewish schools and an orphanage in the 1930s, and today, with a memorial where a cemetery once stood and no synagogue or evidence of Jewish life.

"People will always deny there was a Holocaust," said Freck, "but we have to try to decrease the discrimination."

"When we ask older Germans about it, many lie and many say they couldn't speak up [during the war] because they were afraid," said Alexandra Sowka, 19. "But we feel we have to ensure it doesn't happen again."

Freck added, "We, as youth, don't have to feel guilty. We are often ashamed because it was our grandparents and our country and we are Germans, but we feel good about what we're doing to keep the story alive and to make sure people understand that it can't be forgotten."

They have discovered most Canadian students know little about the Holocaust. "There aren't a lot of questions," Freck said. "They just don't know what to ask."

CJA Family Affair: Fun with a cause

VANCOUVER — This year's Combined Jewish Appeal (CJA) Family Affair, held Sunday, Oct. 27 at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver, was buzzing with activity and spirit. Attended by over a 1,000 people, the event included games and performances and food and goods to purchase. Children were entertained all day with music, dancers, carnival booths, face painters and a caricaturist.

At the centre of the event was Super Sunday, the CJA telethon. Almost 100 volunteers gave several hours each to make phone calls to members of the community. By the end of the day, more than 500 donors had made pledges totalling over $51,000, in addition to the $2.6 million CJA had already raised before Sunday's event.

Family Affair was a community event, showcasing more than 20 different communal agencies, including the Jewish Community Centre, which donated the space for the occasion.

CJA hopes to raise over $4.5 million before Dec. 1. The money provides financial resources for programs and services delivered by over 25 community agencies in Greater Vancouver. CJA also supports overseas programs that help the victims of terror in Israel and families from Argentina. As of Oct. 28, CJA donors had pledged close to $2.7 million.

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Coast to Coast

Asper excoriates most media for anti-Israel bias

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Media mogul Israel (Izzy) Asper delivered a scathing diatribe against much of the world's media for their biased treatment of Israel, at a State of Israel Bonds event last week.

"Too many of the journalists are lazy, or sloppy or stupid," Asper, the founder of the CanWest Global Communications Corp., told a crowd of 400 at the new Sofitel Montreal Hotel. "They are ignorant of the history of the subject on which they are writing. Others are – plain and simple – biased or anti-Semitic or are taken captive by simplistic ideology. The result is that the biggest casualties of the Palestinian-Israeli war are truth and the integrity of the media."

Winnipeg native Asper, 70, used the term "cancer" to convey how the media's credibility as well as the "world's favourable disposition towards [Israel]" have been eaten away by "dishonest reporting," a phrase he used repeatedly.

Asper emphasized that he was not speaking as head of CanWest Global, "but only as a concerned Canadian and a longtime journalist myself."

He spoke for 40 minutes, assailing coverage of the conflict by some of the world's most vaunted media, including the *Washington Post* and the *New York Times*, the Associated Press, the BBC, the major U.S. television networks, National Public Radio and the CBC.

Even CanWest media that "fall within this indictment" should take heed, Asper warned. "I will do all in my power to stamp out dishonest reporting, and biased reporting in any subject."

Asper said as far as Mideast coverage is concerned, much of the media have abandoned the basic principles of "honest" reporting.

"They have adopted Palestinian propaganda as the context of their stories. They have become partisans in, and not providers of, knowledge about this war against Israel."

This dishonest reporting, Asper said, "has made truth a casualty of the war, causing grievous damage to both Israel and the integrity of the journalistic profession, injuring all of us who practice it."

Asper cited a litany of examples of media misconduct, including prejudicial terminology, deliberate omissions, lack of context and several "fundamental big lies" most journalists take as accepted truths. Instead of the well-defined term "terror," biased media prefer "militants," "resistance fighters," "gunmen," "extremists," and even "commandos," he said.

"The terms 'cycle of violence,' 'moderate Arab states,' 'peace process,' 'occupied territories' and 'illegal settlements,'" Asper said, "have also become tools and weapons used by journalistic propagandists in their desire to create undeserved sympathy for the Palestinians and opprobrium for Israel."

The "first and worst big lie" is that the war is about "territory and Jerusalem, and about Palestinian statehood," instead of about destroying Israel, he said.

The second lie, he said, is that the latest "so-called" intifadah was triggered by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Temple Mount visit in Sept. 2000, which was used as a pretext to cover up Palestinian rejection of generous offers made by the Israelis at Camp David.

The third lie is that the current conflict is the result of Palestinians frustration over the peace process, rather than the latest chapter in a saga to destroy the idea of a Jewish state since the Balfour Declaration of 1917, Asper said.

Asper said the solution to the bias "starts on the campuses, and in the journalism schools, [and] then it goes to the boardrooms of the media owners, and finally, most importantly, with you, the public."

He urged the audience to demand that universities "re-take control of the teaching process… to ensure that hate is not taught, propaganda is not preached and that the revered term 'academic freedom' is never used as a licence for libel.

"We should withhold our financial support from those institutions that fail this obligation of educational integrity," he said.

Asper also urged the the audience to create "honest reporting response groups" and to become politically active, "to demand government policy consistent with fairness to, and support of, the only beacon of democracy in a swamp of hate, violence, and terrorism, the state of Israel."

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Coast to Coast

Winnipeg judge follows in father's footsteps

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — There were a lot of legal discussions around the supper table when Martin Freedman, newly appointed to the Court of Appeal for Manitoba, was growing up.

"Sitting here today, I have to acknowledge that my father had a significant influence on my choice of career, even though he always tried to be non-directive," Freedman says.

He occupies the same office in the Manitoba Law Court Building that his father, the late Samuel Freedman, first Jewish chief justice in Canada, occupied until he retired in April 1983.

Martin Freedman's original career goal was the theatre. "I did some acting, singing, directing and producing at university and thought I would like to pursue that," he recalls.

"It didn't materialize, so I went to law school."

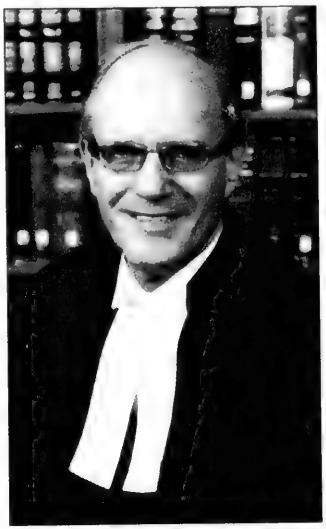
He graduated from law school with a number of awards including the Gold Medal and the Law Society of Manitoba Gold Medal.

After being called to the bar in 1963, he went into practice with Izzy Asper.

In 1969, Freedman joined the Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson law firm while Asper joined forces with Harold Buchwald and Yude Henteleff.

"I loved practising law," he says.

"I found it very fulfilling. I had never really thought about applying to the court until a couple of years ago. As an arbitrator, my work was similar to that of a judge. I thought I would like to broaden my scope."



Justice Martin Freedman

A position on the court used to be a political appointment, said Freedman, "but that changed about ten years ago. Currently, one must apply for a judgeship. It is a long, thorough process."

Freedman put in his application in October 2001, and on July 16, he and his former law partner Barbara Hamilton, were chosen to fill two vacancies on the Court of Appeal. (Hamilton was already serving as a judge on the Court of Queen's Bench.)

"I was lucky," Freedman says. "Timing is everything. This is the first time since 1944 that there were two openings on the court at the same time."

Freedman notes that the Court of Appeal has a full complement of nine judges although in most cases only three sit. In rare cases, as many as five judges may sit.

"The cases we hear are broad in scope," Freedman says.

"In the two months since I have been actually hearing cases, we have dealt with constitutional, insurance and family law as well as criminal cases. A lot of the cases range from significant to very significant."

He notes that to prepare for each case he has to read through an enormous amount of material.

"In one case, there were 26 volumes to go through," he says.

"We spend days preparing for complicated cases which take at most six hours of court time.

"And most of the reading is highly intellectual and academic. It's like being back in law school but without the exams."

Freedman describes his fellow judges – among them Guy Kroft and Freda Steel who are both very active in the Jewish community – as highly collegial, helpful and friendly.

"They have all gone out of their way to help," he says.

"My dad loved it here and so do I," he said.

It is not only as a judge, however, that he has been like his father.

Like his father, Freedman was an outstanding university debater, and has played an active role in the community, especially the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University. In 1998, he was the organization's first recipient of the Excellence Award in Law.

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Coast to Coast

Reconstructionist convention set for Montreal

MONTREAL – The 39th Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) convention, to take place Nov 7 to 10, will gather over 300 people from across the continent for four days of learning, worship and networking.

The JRF is the synagogue organization of the Reconstructionist movement, providing its 103 affiliated congregations with a wide array of services.

These services include rabbinic placement, and national and regional offices that offer consultation on key areas of congregational life, including youth and adult education, leadership, development, outreach and community-building initiatives, fund-raising and budgeting, as well as musical, liturgical and other resources.

The theme of the convention, the first in Montreal since 1967, is Self, Congregation, Community and the World: Seeking a Reconstructionist Balance.

It is dedicated to the memory of Rabbi Lavy Becker, founding rabbi of Congregation Dorshei Emet, the Reconstructionist synagogue of Montreal; and Rabbi Ira Eisenstein, credited with founding Reconstructionism as a separate movement.

Shabbat morning services will be held at Congregation Dorshei Emet's new building.

The convention's opening plenary session, Jewish Identity in the Modern World, will feature Gil Troy, a professor of history at McGill University and member of Congregation Dorshei Emet; and Rabbi Shawn Zevit, JRF director of outreach and congregational services.

The session will examine where Reconstructionism fits into the landscape of North American Jewish life in both historical and contemporary contexts, using information from the recently released National Jewish Population Survey and other sources.

Participants will have the opportunity to gather in small groups by geographic region to discuss the findings, and their impact on local communities.

Keynote speaker, MP Irwin Cotler, will consider the global implications of the rise in racism and anti-Semitism.

Convention participants will celebrate the many successes of the Reconstructionist movement over the past two years, including the establishment of the first Reconstructionist summer camp that completed its first session this summer; and a new Israel programs department.

Teens from 14 charter member congregations will join lay and professional leaders for special programming and the launch of No'ar Hadash (New Youth), the Reconstructionist Youth Programming Network.

About 40 workshops will be offered on topics including Interactive Jewish Art, Rabbi-Congregational Relations, Leading Shabbat Services, Canadian Jewry in Comparative Perspective and Reconstructionist Halakhah.

Also at the convention, Ilana Axel of Congregation Shir Hadash in Northbrook, Ill. and Staci Scheinblum of Kehilat HaNahar in New Hope, Penn., will be awarded the JRF Master Teacher Award presented to Jewish educators for their exemplary dedication to children's Jewish education.

The first ever Kehilat Tzedek Award, honoring a JRF community for its innovative, effective and sustained work in tikkun olam, will be presented to Darchei Noam Congregation of Toronto.

The business plenum will elect a new board and officers.

Daniel Cedarbaum of the Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation in Evanston, Ill. has been nominated as the new JRF president. He has served on the board since 1990 as secretary, treasurer and vice president of financial affairs.

Affiliates also have access to other Reconstructionist institutions, including the Reconstructionist Press, which publishes a broad selection of books including the six-volume prayerbook series *Kol Haneshamah*, a Passover Haggadah and CD, educational materials, musical recordings keyed to the liturgy, and related materials; the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, which trains rabbis, teachers and spiritual leaders; and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, the professional support organization for Reconstructionist rabbis.

UNICEF: the trick's on Israel

Continued from page 1

Toronto photographer Stephen Epstein, who started the write-in campaign, said despite concerns about UNICEF's position on the Mideast, he urged donors not to let that interfere with their charitable donations.

"I'm encouraging people to make their contributions because if they don't, children will be hurt," he said.

Epstein said a UNICEF news release, posted on its Web site (www.unicef.org/media/news notes/02nn34opt. htm), fails to note why some Palestinian schools were closed and why others, in areas where terrorism was not active, remained open.

The press release blames "Israeli-imposed sanctions" for preventing 226,000 Palestinian children from attending school.

The release goes on to say Israel is obliged under the 4th Geneva Convention and the Convention on the Rights of the Child to ensure education is accessible to all Palestinian children. The organization calls on Israel to lift mobility restrictions on Palestinians during school hours.

Epstein said he was also concerned about other UNICEF pronouncements on the Arab-Israeli conflict, particularly an April 4 statement attributed to UNICEF executive director Carol Bellamy.

The statement, he said, criticizes the use of violence by both sides, in effect, drawing a moral equivalence between Palestinian terror and Israel's response to it.

The statement, he said, is "very unbalanced" and while appearing to be addressed to both sides, "it criticizes Israel more."

Epstein and Canadian Jewish Congress representative Simon Rosenblum recently held separate meetings with David Agnew, UNICEF Canada's president and CEO, during which they discussed UNICEF's "unbalanced" approach to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"They don't contextualize that in terms of the Israeli response to terror. It's as if Israel woke up one day and decided, 'How can we make Palestinian kids' lives difficult,'" Rosenblum said. "There is no mention of the effect of terror on Israeli children."

Referring to his meeting with Rosenblum, Agnew said "I assured him there was no intention to stray from our deeply held mandate to be non-partisan."

UNICEF's goal is to improve the condition of children around the world, whether through immunization programs, promoting early childhood development, protecting children against slave labour and prostitution, and providing education for girls, Agnew said.

"I assured [Rosenblum] that at UNICEF Canada, we take that mandate seriously."

Agnew said he has passed along Rosenblum's and Epstein's concerns "to the most senior levels of UNICEF.

"I am confident they have heard them. [Senior UNICEF officials] expressed to me in no uncertain terms there was no attempt to express a bias. We agreed we'd continue to be vigilant, to make sure that the things we say and do in that region are not subject to that interpretation."

Addressing the issue of Syria's Lahhan, Agnew said UNICEF has "strongly dissociated itself from his remarks… We view them as hugely inappropriate" and UNICEF has been in contact with Lahhan to warn him about repeating such remarks.

Agnew noted UNICEF has many supporters and financial benefactors in Israel. In Canada, he added, "we are proud to count among our supporters, staff and volunteers members of the Jewish community."

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Coast to Coast

Prof. Baskin to discuss new book

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — Judith R. Baskin, director of the Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies and professor of religious studies at the University of Oregon, will discuss her new book, *Midrashic Women: Formations of the Feminine in Rabbinic Literature*, at Temple Anshe Sholom Nov. 24.

Her book looks at how non-legal rabbinic writings view women and their lives. While most gender-based analyses of rabbinic Judaism concentrate on the status of women in Halachah (the rabbinic legal tradition), Baskin focuses on women in the aggadic midrash, a collection of expansions of the biblical text, rabbinic ruminations and homiletical discourses that constitutes the non-legal component of rabbinic literature.

In the book, she concludes that rabbinic Judaism, a tradition formed by men for a male community, deeply valued the essential contribution of wives and mothers to daily life, but consciously presented women as less than men.

Baskin, daughter of Rabbi Bernard Baskin, rabbi emeritus of Temple Anshe Sholom, and Marjorie Baskin, argues that often non-legal literature provides a more complex view of women and their actual lives than the legal discourse found in biblical and halachic texts.

A frequent lecturer at colleges and universities who has addressed synagogues in North America, Europe and Israel, Baskin will speak at a breakfast club meeting. Breakfast is $3 and will be served at 10 a.m. There is no charge for the lecture, which will begin at 11 a.m. For further information, call 905-528-4508.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

באַלפור דעקלאַראַציע 85 יאָר אַלט

פון אַלעק סילווער

אין די וויינטקע טעג, ווען פון די וואַלן פון די „פּאַרלאַמענט אייניקטע פעלקער" הערן זיך אַזוי פיל נידערטרעכטיקע אַנקלאַגעס וועגן אַנטי־סעמיטיזם, קען מען זיך שווער פֿאָרשטעלן אַז עס זענען נישט אַזוי פיל יאָרן צוריק, ווען דער ערשטער מיניסטער פון אויסערן ענינים פון דער ברי־טישער רעגירונג, דער גרויסער שטאַטסמאַן אַרטור בלפור, האָט אין נאָוועמבער 1917 אין אַן אָפֿן בריוו צו דער ברי־טישער יידישער קהילה, אויסגעדריקט זיין שטיצע פֿאַר דער אידעע פון אַ יידישן היים־לאַנד אין ארץ־ישׂראל.

דער בריוו, וואָס איז אַרײַנגעשריבן אין דער בריטישער מאַנדאַט־אורקונדע פֿאַר פּאַלעסטינע, האָט אַ היסטאָרישע באַדײַטונג אַפֿילו הײַנט, 85 יאָר שפּעטער. ווי אַזוי איז עס אַזוי געקומען, אַז אַ פֿאָרשלאָג, וואָס האָט אַ ריזיקע השׂגה אויף דער גאַנצער וועלט, איז אַזוי לאַנג פֿאַרבליבן אַ שטיין פֿון אָנשטויס אין דער ווייַטער אַנטוויקלונג פֿון דער מידל־מזרח־פּאָליטיק?

דער בלפור־דעקלאַראַציע איז אַ רעזולטאַט פֿון אַ קאָמבינאַציע פֿון פֿאַקטאָרן. אַ וויכטיקער פֿאַקטאָר איז געווען דער פֿאַקט, אַז אין דער צייט פֿון דער ערשטער וועלט־מלחמה האָבן אַלע גרויסע מאַכטן געזוכט צו באַקומען דעם שטיצע פֿון יידן אין זייערע לענדער. אין רוסלאַנד, וווּ עס האָבן זיך אָפּגעשפּילט גרויסע רעוואָלוציעס אין 1917, האָבן אַזוי ווי אין אַלע אַנדערע לענדער אויך יידן אַקטיוו פּאַרטיסיפּירט אין דער פּאָליטיק. אין אַמעריקע האָבן יידן אַ גרויסע ראָלע געשפּילט אין דער פֿינאַנצירונג פֿון דער מלחמה־השׂגה. אין פֿראַנקרײַך, וווּ עס האָבן זיך אויך אַ סך יידן אַקטיוו באַטייליקט אין דער מלחמה־השׂגה, האָבן יידן אַ גרויסע ראָלע געשפּילט אין דער פּראָפּאַגאַנדע.

אין אַלע דרײַ לענדער האָבן יידן אַ גרויסע ראָלע געשפּילט אין דער פּראָפּאַגאַנדע, וואָס האָט אָנגעזאָגט, אַז דער מלחמה־השׂגה וועט אויפֿהאַלטן דעם אַנטי־סעמיטיזם אין דער וועלט. אין אַמעריקע האָבן יידן אַ גרויסע ראָלע געשפּילט אין דער פּראָפּאַגאַנדע, וואָס האָט אָנגעזאָגט, אַז דער מלחמה־השׂגה וועט אויפֿהאַלטן דעם אַנטי־סעמיטיזם אין דער וועלט. אין אַמעריקע האָבן יידן אַ גרויסע ראָלע געשפּילט אין דער פּראָפּאַגאַנדע, וואָס האָט אָנגעזאָגט, אַז דער מלחמה־השׂגה וועט אויפֿהאַלטן דעם אַנטי־סעמיטיזם אין דער וועלט.

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Health & Lifestyles

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New cancer support group in Edmonton

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Jewish women undergoing cancer treatment in Edmonton are helping each other cope with the trauma of cancer diagnosis and treatment through a new suppport group.

Jan Joseph and Gitta Lederer, both 51, who founded the group, went through radiation at the same time for breast cancer and recognized the need to communicate and with support each other.

"Although there are other support groups in the community, we felt that there was a need for a cancer support group for Jewish women," said Joseph in a telephone interview.

Joseph said the Edmonton group was formed to lessen the feeling of isolation that often accompanies a cancer diagnosis.

"Cancer is a very private matter, but holding it in isn't healthy either," she said.

Five years ago, when Joseph changed doctors, her new doctor insisted that she go for a mammogram – the first in her life, she said. Her previous doctor did not believe she was old enough to require one.

Elizabeth Erlich (left) co-founder of the L'Chaim Cancer Support Group in Toronto, and co-founder and current president Marsha Urowitz (right) with Jan Joseph, founder of a similar support group in Edmonton.

"It was shocking – I was lucky she sent me for the mammogram as there were no signs. It saved my life."

After having undergone surgery, chemotherapy and radiation, she urges women of all ages to have mammograms.

Joseph and Lederer got the idea for the group after they saw an article in *The CJN* on L'Chaim Cancer Support Group for Jewish Women in Toronto, which was formed in 1999. They contacted the group for more information and Joseph said they have been "very helpful."

"They provided us with copies of their video on survivors, a diskette with informational sheets for their binders, training material for volunteers, samples of their gift bags and even copies of inspirational material," she said.

She and Lederer then met with Dr. Michael Handman, director of psychology at Cross Cancer Institute, who agreed to be the group's facilitator.

Today, there are 10 women in the Edmonton group, which holds one meeting a month. Along with a communications network, the groups hosts educational programs with guest speakers.

Joseph said although the women in the group are between 45 and 60 years old, everyone is welcome.

Because cancer strikes with no rhyme or reason, a support group can help others, Joseph said, and it "gives a purpose to what we have gone through."

Elizabeth Erlich, who co-founded the Toronto group with Marci Tenenbaum, which now has more than 50 members, said in an interview that other communities have also made inquiries about forming Jewish support groups for cancer patients and survivors.

"We would be happy to work with groups to form branches across the country," Ehrlich said.

The Toronto group offers two services, she said. Their primary service is a telephone support network. New patients are matched with survivors with similar histories who provide ongoing support throughout the course of treatment.

The group also visits with newly diagnosed patients and brings them gift bags that include a binder with resource materials, including information about local support group meetings.

For more information on the Edmonton group, call Joseph at 780-489-1492, and for more information about the group in Toronto, call 416-633-0409.

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New leukemia treatment focus of million-dollar trial

Health Canada has recently approved Fludara oral, a new treatment format for a class of drug that works to destroy white blood cells in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia (CLL), a common form of leukemia. Approximately 4,000 Canadians have the disease.

"Fludara intravenous (IV) is already a treatment mainstay for CLL and is increasingly used as first-line therapy," says Dr. Peter Anglin, medical oncologist at Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga, Ont.

Fludara oral showed a promising efficacy when it was tried in the United Kingdom and other countries as a second-line therapy in patients with CLL who have failed with other conventional therapies. It is very well-tolerated, offering little or no hair loss, and only transient nausea and/or vomiting.

The approval of this new treatment comes on the heels of the news that a large Canadian trial will study the use of Fludara oral as a first-line treatment for CLL. It is being conducted by the National Cancer Institute of Canada Clinical Trials Group (NCIC CTG) and sponsored by Berlex Canada Inc., a Montreal-based pharmaceutical company.

The two-year study, which has recently been activated and is recruiting patients, will span 25 centres across Canada, including Toronto and Montreal.

At the trial's completion, an assessment will be made based on the extent of a patient's disease at the end of treatment, compared with the patient's status at baseline.

The NCIC CTG is an independent research organization that carries out clinical trials in cancer therapy and supportive care across Canada and internationally.

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Netanyahu will be foreign minister, if polls are early

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced Sunday night that he would accept Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's offer of the Foreign Ministry – but only if Sharon calls early elections.

Sharon's office responded with a statement saying that the prime minister "welcomes Netanyahu's willingness to join the government he heads," but is still examining the terms Netanyahu has set – which, in addition to early elections, include a series of political conditions.

In a television appearance following their meeting, Netanyahu said that these conditions included getting rid of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, changing the location of the security fence between Israel and the West Bank and opposition to a Palestinian state.

Sharon, his aides said, was furious that Netanyahu had gone public with these terms, noting that, in addition to not agreeing with them, the prime minister also felt that acceptance would almost certainly cause a rift with the United States.

A rift would be problematic at any time, his aides noted, but is especially problematic now, on the eve of a possible American attack on Iraq, as Sharon has repeatedly promised U.S. President George W. Bush to do nothing during this period that might deflect attention from the Iraqi issue.

At his meeting with Sharon, Netanyahu justified his demand for early elections by saying that this would strengthen the Likud, as current polls show the party will receive more seats in the next Knesset. But Sharon associates accused the former premier of engaging in "political trickery."

"[Netanyahu] is purporting to act in the Likud's name, but he is actually promoting the demise of the Likud government instead of helping to stabilize it," said one Sharon aide.

"If we want to call early elections, we don't need Netanyahu," he added. "That we can do by ourselves."

But Netanyahu, speaking on Channel Two television Sunday night, noted that he has been advocating new elections ever since Ehud Barak's government collapsed two years ago, on the grounds that it was impossible for any party to govern when it commanded only 19 seats in a 120-seat Knesset. New elections, he predicted, would double the Likud's parliamentary strength.

New elections were also essential for the economy, he argued, since in a minority government comprising six parties besides the Likud, "the government will be paralyzed, and will be blackmailed by MKs every day... Anyone who has eyes in his head understands that we are heading toward economic collapse, so we must go to elections."

Meanwhile, Sharon is proceeding with talks to establish a narrow coalition. His associates said he was determined to keep a government together at least until the budget had passed in the Knesset and as long as the region appeared to be in the run-up to a war on Iraq.

Suicide strikes condemned

Continued from page 1

The report's writers reject the distinction drawn by some Palestinians between attacks on Jewish civilians living in the West Bank and Gaza and strikes on Israeli civilians inside the Green Line. International law, the authors declare, prohibits terror attacks against both types of civilians, as well as strikes on reserve soldiers and soldiers who are not on duty.

The new report charges that the Palestinian Authority failed to act to stop terror strikes. The Palestinian Authority's failures in this respect apply to periods when it still had the wherewithal to constrain terror (this was before major parts of the Palestinian Authority's security apparatus were destroyed).

The report's authors say PA officials have behaved as though their duty to put murderous terrorists on trial is open to negotiation, and not unconditional.

ANNOUNCING

THE BRONFMAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIPS IN ISRAEL 2003

For the seventeenth consecutive summer, a group of outstanding Jewish teenagers in the U.S. and Canada, coming from a wide variety of backgrounds and entering the twelfth grade of school, will be recipients of the Bronfman Youth Fellowships*. They will spend five fulfilling weeks of study, dialogue and travel in Israel.

The Bronfman Fellows will be selected on the basis of character, intellectual interests, special talents and leadership qualities. Merit, not financial need, is the program's selection standard. Fellowship activities begin June 30th, with a return from Israel August 6th. All meals will be kosher, and Sabbath activities will be in keeping with the sanctity of the day.

While in Israel, the Fellows will engage in an intense interaction with a diverse faculty of master educators, representing a wide range of Jewish perspectives. They will explore Jewish texts against the background of Israel's land, culture and customs, meet with Amitei Bronfman, our parallel Israeli fellowship and take part, at a time of rapid change, in seminars with some of the country's leading political and cultural figures. Simultaneously, they will debate a constant flow of ideas and search for insights on the various ways to define oneself as a Jew today — all in an atmosphere of mutual respect and open dialogue.

The purpose: to return home with a new understanding of the myriad issues facing the Jewish people and the Jewish state, and a new appreciation of the need for dialogue among Jews of all kinds.

* Fellowships cover all expenses including roundtrip transportation between New York and Israel, room and board and travel in Israel.

Completed applications must be postmarked by January 31, 2003

For a descriptive brochure and application form, please call or write at once to

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GALA SUNDAY DINNER * November 17, 2002, 7:30 p.m.

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GALA CLOSING BANQUET, MONDAY * November 18, 2002, 7:30 p.m.

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TICKETS FOR THE ABOVE EVENTS are available to the public by advance reservation. Please call the **National Office of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO** by November 14, 2002, at **(514) 937-9431.**

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One in five Israelis poverty-stricken – 1.17 million in all

By RUTI SINAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Nearly one in five Israelis is living below the poverty line, according to official statistics released Monday.

The report also showed that more than half a million children – almost 27 per cent of all children in the country – are living below the poverty line, an increase of 1.7 percentage points over last year.

Labor party chair Benjamin Ben-Eliezer tabled a no-confidence motion against the government Monday as a result of the findings.

The figures for 2001, compiled by the National Insurance Institute [NII] and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, showed that the number of Israelis living below the poverty line rose by 81,000 last year – 50,000 of them children – bringing the total number of poverty-stricken Israelis to 1.17 million, 19.6 per cent of the total population, a rise of nearly a full percentage point. Of them 531,000 are children.

By the end of next year, with deep cuts planned in welfare benefits in the 2003 State Budget, NII researchers estimate that nearly one in three children could be living in poverty.

The study shows that the cities of Haifa and Bat Yam have been particularly hard hit economically. In 2001, the number of families living below the poverty line in Haifa jumped to 14.8 per cent from 11.6, and in Tel Aviv's satellite city of Bat Yam, to 19.6 per cent from 14.

The report was based on economic standards for 2001, under which an Israeli couple is considered poor if their monthly earnings fall below NIS 2,768 ($584 US). The poverty line for a couple with two children was set at NIS 4,428, ($934) and with four children at NIS 5,881 ($1,241).

Responding to the release of the figures, Meretz MK Ran Cohen, chair of a Knesset panel studying the socio-economic levels of Israeli society, said he was "not surprised, but struck dumb. These are the statistics of a catastrophe, pointing a finger at us as a societal monster.

"This is a mark of Cain on the foreheads of those who brought about this situation," Cohen told Israel Radio, referring to the ruling coalition. He called for the resignation of Labor and Social Affairs Minister Shlomo Benizri of Shas, who last week voted for the cuts in the 2003 budget.

At the same time, the gap between upper and lower classes widened appreciably. The share of the earnings of the three lower deciles in Israeli society as a percentage of the nation's total economic income declined from 4.5 to 3.5 per cent, while that of the top two deciles increased by 1.3 percentage points, to 53.9 per cent.

Departing from official custom, the report discussed the expected consequences of current plans to slash NIS 6 billion in NII benefits in the 2003 state budget. NII researchers estimated that even after receiving social security supplements, the percentage of all Israeli families living under the poverty line will climb from 17.7 per cent in 2001 to 19.1 per cent in the period 2002-2003.

During the same period, the estimated number of Israelis living below the poverty line is expected to climb to 1.29 million in 2002-2003 from 1.17 million, representing 21.7 per cent of all Israelis. Estimates indicate that the number of poverty-stricken children could reach 605,000 in this period, or 30.6 per cent of all children. This would mean one in every three children would be living below the poverty line.

IDF approves U.S. 'road map' for peace

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The "road map" drawn up by the American administration as the basis for a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict "for the most part answers Israel's security needs," according to the professional opinion of the Strategic Planning Branch of the Israel Defence Forces.

The branch therefore recommends that Israel's political leadership accept the blueprint, while adding some remarks and reservations about some of its paragraphs.

The branch, headed by Brig.-Gen. Eival Giladi, is currently working on Israel's formal response to the "road map." It will be handed to the Americans after it is approved by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State David Satterfield is due to arrive in Israel on Nov. 11 to present an updated version of the U.S. blueprint, which will include the remarks of the sides and those of the so-called international quartet, made up of the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations. The final text will be completed and authorized, according to plans, in December.

The opinion of the IDF, presented to Sharon last week, is that the "road map" acknowledges several of Israel's diplomatic demands – first and foremost that the diplomatic process should be phased, and that every advancement should be measured against the "test of implementation."

The IDF also welcomed the requirement that the Palestinian Authority come through with basic security and administrative reforms, and the fact that this requirement is more binding than in the speech of U.S. President George W. Bush on June 24. Other clauses welcomed by the IDF were the demand that Arab nations be part of the process, and that they drop their support for extremist groups.

According to the "road map," a Palestinian state will be set up within temporary borders by the end of 2003, following the withdrawal of the IDF from PA territories and the holding of elections for a new parliament there. The country within the preliminary borders will then begin negotiations with Israel on a permanent agreement with a view to reaching one in 2005.

According to the IDF, the timetable for the "road map" takes into account the expected U.S. campaign against Iraq. This is the reason the United States is proposing that Israel and the Palestinians begin formulating a new security working plan only in the second stage, between January and May 2003, when it is thought the war in Iraq will have ended.

The IDF's major reservation is that the "road map" lacks specific security demands of the Palestinians in the first stage of its implementation. It speaks merely of a leadership statement about ending violence and terror and the end to incitement by official sources, but leaves practical steps to a later stage.

The IDF also has reservations about the proposal that verification of the implementation of the plan will be left to the mechanism of the quartet.

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Partisan politics motivated Ben-Eliezer

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

A bitter budgetary dispute was Benjamin Ben-Eliezer's ostensible reason for resigning last week as Israel's defence minister and pulling the Labor party out of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's 19-month-old national unity government.

Ben-Eliezer, the Labor party's leader, quit over Sharon's refusal to allocate about $145 million (US) to settlements rather than to pensioners and students. Since the sum in question represented a mere drop in the ocean – 0.26 per cent of Israel's $56 billion annual budget – Ben-Eliezer's explanation for bolting was, at best, disingenuous. A month ago, he declared that "only a crazy person and a crazy party" would leave the government on the eve of a probable war in Iraq and in the midst of a Palestinian uprising and a worsening recession.

As Sharon correctly surmised, Ben-Eliezer actually left for partisan political reasons, concerned that his grip on the anemic Labor party, with 25 Knesset seats, would be jeopardized if he stayed on in Sharon's right-wing cabinet.

The Labor party, which was trounced in last year's election and has been a declining force for the past 25 years, faces a leadership primary on Nov. 19. Trailing his two opponents – Haim Ramon and Amram Mitzna – by a wide margin, Ben-Eliezer calculated that he could improve his chances by distancing himself from Sharon.

Benjamin Ben-Eliezer

Ben-Eliezer, a certifiable hawk, is very much associated with Sharon's repudiation of the Oslo accords, his attempt to isolate and topple Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, his re-occupation of the Palestinian autonomous areas, his emphasis on maintaining the settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and his reluctance to negotiate under fire.

Indeed, Ben-Eliezer and Shimon Peres, the foreign minister, were so closely identified with Sharon's policies and attitudes that dovish voices in the Labour party had accused them of providing legitimacy to the prime minister's government.

The dissatisfaction over Labor's partnership with Likud occasionally boiled over. Three weeks ago, Labor's secretary-general, Ofir Pines-Paz, called for the breakup of the alliance with Likud. Arguing that Labor should offer Israelis an alternative to Sharon instead of cohabitating with him, Pines-Paz suggested that a cessation of violence and a return to bilateral talks with the Palestinians were not likely to occur with Sharon in the prime minister's seat.

Prior to Pines-Paz's outburst, Shlomo Ben-Ami, the former foreign minister, resigned from the Knesset in protest over Labor's participation in the government, and Dalia Rabin-Pelosoff, citing similar qualms, stepped down as deputy defence minister.

Theirs were not the sole voices of dissent. Last June, Yossi Beilin, one of the party's brightest doves, announced his intention to break away and form a new left-of-centre political movement. Meanwhile, Avraham Burg, the Knesset speaker and a former leadership contender, warned that Labor risked irrelevancy by "holding on to power."

Judging by a recent survey, he may be right. One third of Israelis who voted for Labor in 2001 disclosed they would switch to another party in the next election.

By any yardstick, Labor's marriage of convenience with Likud was a rocky affair, punctuated by seemingly endless policy disputes pitting Peres, one of the architects of the Oslo accords, against Sharon, one of its chief denigrators. However, they did agree on an incremental approach to Arab-Israeli negotiations, and both dismissed the attempt by Sharon's predecessor, Ehud Barak, to sign an end-of-conflict accord with the Palestinians.

Yet on an issue-by-issue basis, from the counter-productive siege of Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah to the re-occupation of the Palestinian autonomous areas, Peres and Sharon were invariably at odds. As well, Labor backbenchers constantly complained that Sharon was not offering the Palestinians a "political horizon."

This was a government with a brief shelf life, and its eventual collapse was to be expected.

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CJ Kids

KIDDISH
Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

The Flood

this story is based on Genesis and the Midrash

The scent of gardenias wafted over the valley. Birds chirping melodically soared overhead, and the early morning mist drifted over the primeval landscape. The rising sun swathed the nearly completed ark in rosy light.

"Are you still working on that stupid boat?"

Noah put down his hammer, and looked up at the thugs looming over him. "Good morning, Mogo. Good morning, Tiny. I see you've brought your friends. Yes, I'm still working on this boat. Thank God I'm nearly finished."

"Nearly finished?" laughed Tiny. "It only took you 120 years!"

"And all this time I've been warning you. God is going to to destroy the world. He knows all the terrible things you've all been doing. The things you think are normal. Murdering innocent people, marrying animals, and stealing everything from food to people's wives." Noah's voice rose. "No, it's not OK. This is not the way the world is supposed to be. And if you don't all do something about it, God will flood the world. And all you sinful people, you wicked people, will die."

The giants were glaring at him menacingly. "Yeah?" mocked Crusher. "We're all going to die, huh?" He bent over and gave Noah a hard shove, sending him sprawling into the dirt.

"Even if the world would flood, we're so tall the water couldn't reach our necks!" scorned Mad Dog.

Noah got up and looked around for his hammer.

"Nice hammer," said Squeaky, grabbing it before Noah had a chance. "I think I'll take it."

"Give that back!" demanded Noah, lunging for his hammer.

"Catch!" yelled Squeaky, throwing it to Mad Dog. Noah ran toward *him*, but before he got to Mad Dog, his hammer went hurtling over his head to Tiny, to Mogo, back to Squeaky. Noah thought he'd never get it back, but after an hour of keep-away, the giants got bored. Crusher sent the hammer sailing into the side of the ark, and Noah cringed as the plank shattered.

"Be happy I didn't do more. I've got half a mind to smash your whole boat right now. Nah, I'll wait till you're finished building it."

The giants lumbered away, laughing.

* * *

"Noah! It's starting to rain!" shouted Noah's wife Na'ama from the ark's door. "What are you doing out there? Did you forget some animals?"

"No, they're all in there!" shouted Noah back.

"So come in already! What are you waiting for?"

Noah ignored his wife. He was looking at the world. The beautiful world. He was looking at the delicate blades of grass quivering under the raindrops. He was looking at the distant mountains covered in flowers, at the birds seeking shelter from the rain. No. God wouldn't destroy a world as beautiful as this. There was no way a flood would happen.

A bolt of lightning ripped through the clouds, and powerful thunder roared over him. The rain was coming down harder now, the drops were getting bigger. Still, Noah hesitated.

What was that? Boiling geysers were beginning to erupt! The water was getting deeper. It was up to his ankles already! The rain began falling so thickly that Noah could barely see the ark. The world was gray, blurry. Ghostly voices echoed around him, and he sensed forces of death approaching. He ran to his ark, forcing his way through the churning waters. The rain was getting fiercer, hotter.

His son Shem was waiting for him at the bottom of the ramp. "Let's go," he urged his father, who was happy to comply. They reached the top of the ramp, and began raising it. Through the still open door, all Noah could see was a wall of gushing water. But in the distance he could hear, "Noah was right!"

"Well, don't let him get away! If we're going to die, at least he'll die with us!"

"Let's flip his boat over!"

"Let's break it in half!"

"This is it," thought Noah to himself. "It's all over."

But none of the giants reached the ark. It sounded as if fierce animals were fighting them off.

The ramp lifted, sealing out the outside world. The ark was moving now, bobbing slightly in the water. Slowly, the waters lifted the ark from the ground.

For 40 days and 40 nights the rain fell.

The entire world was obliterated.

And in the Ark, Noah, his family and the animals lived on.

WORD SEARCH

The animals marched in two by two. Can you find each of the animals in this word search *twice*?

m	e	b	e	a	r	j	o	x	e	l	e	n	p
a	r	z	s	t	c	t	n	a	h	p	e	l	e
m	f	i	u	d	s	i	e	n	r	o	r	i	b
u	z	o	o	g	l	g	l	p	e	s	u	o	m
s	m	o	m	q	i	e	e	n	e	k	a	n	s
s	o	r	a	t	b	r	h	e	t	i	g	h	k
o	n	a	i	s	n	k	a	n	g	a	r	o	o
p	k	g	s	n	k	a	n	f	x	h	o	r	p
o	e	n	m	a	b	e	g	r	f	s	a	s	o
r	y	a	p	k	h	o	r	s	e	e	k	e	s
o	p	k	o	e	p	l	m	n	b	m	y	e	s
p	e	f	f	a	r	i	g	a	n	t	g	l	u
p	s	k	n	a	m	o	n	k	e	y	i	e	m
e	l	e	p	h	a	n	t	i	g	e	r	p	o

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Winter Fashion

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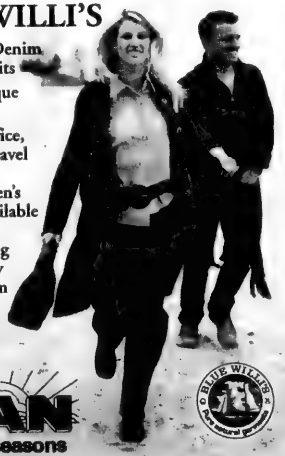

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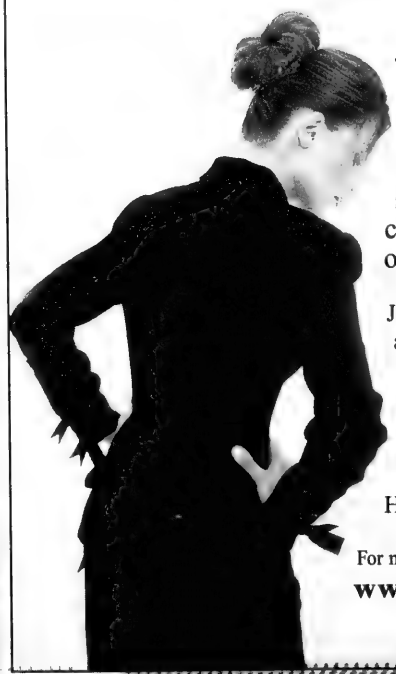

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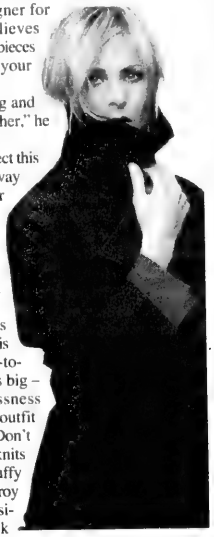
Winter Fashion

Casuals combine richness and comfort this winter

This winter season, casual clothing will emphasize good, solid "wearables" that combine style, rich colour, easy-to-care-for fabrics and comfort so you can forget about what you're wearing and get on with your life.

"It's time for casual clothing to return to its own basic roots and do what it is meant to do," says Michele Kesten, owner of The Casual Way on Yonge Street.

"Besides the obvious protection from the elements, [winter casual clothing] is there to make you feel good," Kesten says. "Nothing more, nothing less."



Donald Johannesson, a designer for French Dressing Jeanswear, believes casual wear is about taking classic pieces and casually mixing them up in your own personal way.

"There's no need to think long and hard as to how to put a look together," he says.

The colours for this winter reflect this mood. Blue denim still leads the way in "forget-about-it" dressing, whether it's lightly stonewashed or softly rinsed. Indigo has become the staple colour for the beginning of the 21st century, capable of being combined effortlessly with almost any other colour.

Black is also important this season; do not underestimate it. This non-colour, whether worn head-to-toe or played off other shades, is big – again, because of the effortlessness involved in putting together an outfit that looks great any time of day. Don't be afraid to mix chunky ribbed knits with supple leather, lace with fluffy angora and suede or stretch corduroy with silky satin. It's this juxtaposition of textures that makes black so fascinating.

The other colours of the upcoming season that mix with all others for no-fuss dressing are midnight, stone and taupe. The red family is very important for the fall as East meets West – think rich Moroccan carpets heaped beside coppery pots and deeply glazed pottery – and brings us red, burgundy, claret, cranberry and rust. Raisin and purple add a zap of intense colour while camel, truffle, mud, mushroom and khaki finish the palette.

You can accent the other colours with metallic shades of gold, silver and the new bronze. These shiny shades look spectacular woven into knobby, loopy knits.

Fabrics this winter focus on the simple and uncomplicated. Denim and stretch denim, cotton twill and corduroy all have wonderfully soft, lived-in qualities, but are very gently weathered this season to maintain their rich appearance and versatility.

The new story is "plush" – invest in stretch versions of corduroy or velvet for any time of the day. Or go "lux" in sheened fabrics with polished or lavish hands such as satin or sateen.

For winter 2003, everything is clean and understated, with a paring down of unnecessary detail and excess fabric. Bottoms are available in a range of minimalist fits, from narrow straight legs to wider straight legs, boot cuts and flares. Shirts are semi-fitted and have spare detailing.

Also for the upcoming winter, skirts and jumpers are either just above the knee or at the ankle, usually pencil straight, though slight A-lines are starting to emerge as are gored or pleated versions in either length.

Vests and jackets are key elements of the winter wardrobe. Vests have an almost suit feeling as they become longer, while jackets run from 23" boxy windbreaker looks and 25" western or suit-inspired pieces to 29" barn shapes, a new 34" car coat and the elongated 50" duster, the denim item of the season.

A great way to update your wardrobe for the season without mortgaging the house is to add some new accessories. If you only invest in one item for this winter, make it a scarf – the longer, the better. Wrap it once around your neck and then let it hang down to your knees. Choose one in a chunky striped knit, crocheted cotton, cozy polar fleece or faux fur.

Other key accessories this winter:

Handbags, too, remain important, with the large "doctor's bag" making the biggest statement. Whatever you choose, keep it big, soft and slouchy.

Bold, chunky jewelry, including chandelier earrings and pendants on leather or suede chains, will be everywhere.

Velvet anything, from hair accessories to belts and bags should take its place in your wardrobe.

Boots, boots and more boots are in, with knee-high boots the newest look. Chunky heels are out; laced-up stilettos or the next highest heel you can find – if you can walk in them! – are in.

Winter 2003 fashion is all about lifting the spirit. Get things that are simple, elegant, well-fitted and comfortable. Put them all together in an uncomplicated way and then get on with your life.

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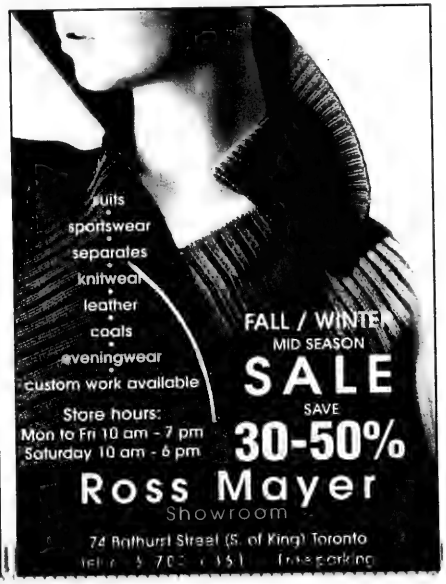


Winter Fashion

BEAUTY SHOP

By CAROL WISE

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS

According to Steve Mulholland at **SpaMedica** the *FotoFacial RF* is the next evolution in light- based skin rejuvenation. The *FotoFacial RF* combines intense pulsed optical and radio frequency energy in the same pulse. It treats and improves pink and brown discolorations of the face and minimizes the appearance of wrinkles and pores. It enhances skin tone, improves the skin's elasticity and therefore increases firmness – not bad for "no surgery required."

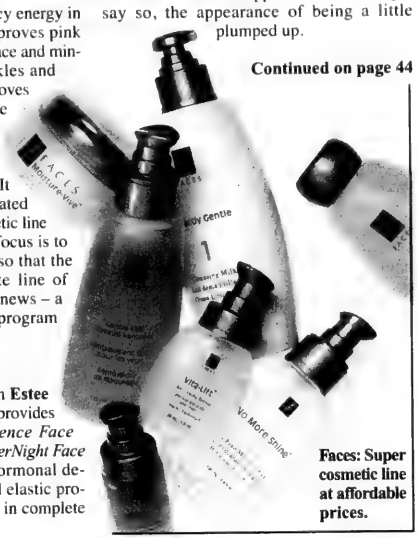
Faces, the Canadian cosmetic retailer is buzzing once again. It has new ownership that is dedicated to bringing forth a superior cosmetic line at affordable prices. Their new focus is to open stores rather than kiosks so that the consumer can have a complete line of colours. And the most exciting news – a 21-product complete skin care program called *Faces Skin Essentials*.

CAROL'S TIPS

SKIN CARE: A breakthrough in **Estee Lauder's** scientific research lab provides a new addition to their *Resilience Face Crème*. Called *Resilience Lift OverNight Face and Throat Cream*, it targets hormonal depletion that affects collagen and elastic production while bathing your face in complete hydration.

Youth Prolongator from **Lancaster** helps to prolong the vitality of a younger-looking skin. It is targeted for those 30 to 40 years old and helps to increase cellular activity, creating more radiance, suppleness and, if I might say so, the appearance of being a little plumped up.

Continued on page 44



Faces: Super cosmetic line at affordable prices.

Fashion as art

Fashion can be glamorous. But can it be art? For those of you who view fashion merely as pairing cute tanks with cute skirts, I'd like to introduce you to my world.

Many people view my infatuation with fashion as a two-dimensional interest that will only last for another few years. People say it's just a stage, but I am here to prove them wrong.

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

When I lose myself in the pages of *Vogue*, I become entranced in a fantasy land full of genius designers, such as John Galliano and Alexander McQueen, who are true artists in every sense of the word.

Their designs cover magazine pages and billboards all over the world, yet the average teenager is oblivious to them.

Walking down the halls of my school, I see Louis Vuitton, Gucci and Prada logos. It amazes me how close to superior style people can come without reaching it because they are too pre-occupied with the name. If you look beyond the name and discover the genius, your money can go much farther. Next time you're at Holt Renfrew, I urge you to browse through Marc Jacobs, my favourite designer. I am by no means telling you to drop $600 on a jacket, but looking can be just as much fun.

To me, looking is like viewing paintings at a gallery. You're not exactly going to blow a million dollars on a painting, but you can still appreciate it. Fashion is wearable art. The designer's canvas is the body and their paints are the fabrics they use.

Fashion shows are another piece to the exhibiting of art in the fascinating world of fashion. Toothpick-skinny models strut down the catwalk wearing millions of dollars-worth in everything from alligator leather to plastic wrap. Cameras flash, reporters scribble and die-hard fans tear up as the designers walk down the catwalk. People like me become so enveloped in the style and grace that it is hard to see clothing in any other way.

Though this world is far away from school walls, it is easily accessible. You might doubt my ranting and raving's relevance to you, but if this has sparked any interest, I suggest you look further. Pick up an issue of *Vogue*, watch an episode of *Sex and the City*, look it up on the Internet. I guarantee you will discover that the world of fashion is a world of art and that it is closer than you thought.

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Wear it. Be Proud.

Winter Fashion

Continued from page 43

BEAUTY SHOP

By CAROL WISE

Biotherm complements its *Age Fitness* collection with *Age Fitness* for eyes and an *Age Fitness Essence*. Both contain the dual-action pure olive leaf concentrate. They contain high proportions of anti-aging molecules and have an exceptional reparative power that encourages the synthesis of collagen.

Vichy's *Oligo 25 Anti-Dull Skin Hydrating Treatment* will benefit your skin using an exclusive association of active ingredients, as well as reactive microcirculation to help your skin reveal its lustre.

Scrub yourself down with **B. Kamin's** new *Maple Sugar Body Scrub*, which uses sweet maple to create a scrumptious treat for your whole body. It's a luxurious dual-action moisturizing and exfoliating treatment that leaves your skin sparkling clean and soft as silk.

Chanel's *Precision* line presents a new eye creme called *Age Delay Eye*, which helps to prevent wrinkles and gives the area around the eyes a real boost.

A new addition to **Orlane's** *B21 OLIGO VIT-A-MIN* line is *Cooling Balm Eye Contour*, which treats puffiness and dark circles. It contains 46 components that combine to revitalize and provide excellent results.

Lancome's new *Impactive*, a triple performance creme that silkens, hydrates and creates cellular stimulation is really quite a little marvel!

FOUNDATION: The new foundation from **Christian Dior**, called *DiorSkin Fond de Teint Osmose* or *Skin-True Makeup*, is light as a feather. It's designed for all skin types and its "water-in-silicone" formula leaves the skin's oxygen supply intact, leaving your skin free to breathe and looking as natural as can be. Its counterpart, *DiorSkin Compact*, is equally impressive with its fine texture and refillable container.

Chanel introduces a new foundation: *Vitalumier/Satin Smoothing Crème*. Its water in oil emulsion is particularly good for mature skin – actually provides moisture all day. It is available in an ultra-gliding fluid or a creme texture for medium coverage.

CHEEKS: Variations in pink (the new red) turn up in **Chanel's** new collection of *Les Perles*, a jewel of a makeup compact created with precious cream pearls to bring a touch of luminous radiance to the face, whether for the eyes, the cheeks or the lips. The silky texture makes skin simply glow with a sheer iridescent finish.

MAC's pink flurry blush in their winter *Snowgirl* collection is fabulous and it's so iridescent it will reflect even dark club lights – perfect for you club girls.

FRAGRANCE: A sexy, deep blue bottle from **Christian Dior** houses its latest scent, *Dior Addict* – feminine, fresh and very vanilla. Thierry Wasser, a world-renowned nose and the creator of this gorgeous aroma says he has finally achieved the tension between sensuality and energy in a fragrance.

Lacoste Pour Homme is not for boys, but specifically for very masculine and mature men. Their advertising campaign – the image of a naked man sitting with a cup of tea – delivers a strong message. The scent indeed oozes with sensuality.

"Youth Prolongator" from Lancaster helps to prolong the vitality of younger-looking skin.

Fabulous and new from **Jo Malone** is a fragrance called *Wild Fig and Cassis*. It envelops you in a cloud of sun-warm figs with top notes of fresh grass, soothing cassis and a dash of cherry.

Tommy Hilfiger presents *Tommy Girl Tickled Pink Shimmer* – a collection of scented body accessories, including body mist, body shimmer and a sparkling fragrance gel – so festive and fun. The pearly-pink spray lightly scents the body and leaves behind a feather-like sheen.

Continued on page 45

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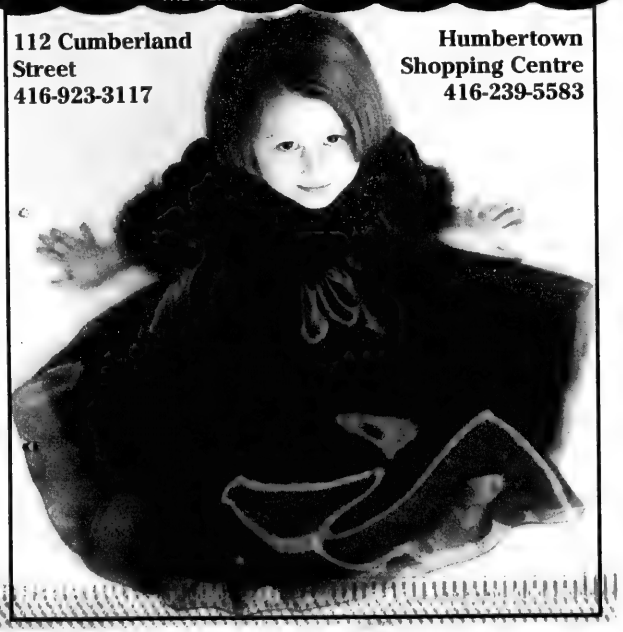

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Winter Fashion

Continued from page 44

Bvlgari's *Tea Blanc* is a delicate fragrance of warm, intimate and relaxing notes designed for moments in luxury. This very rare white tea is hand-picked in China on only a few days of the year. Be patient. It's available in Spring 2003. Also new from **Bvlgari** is *Object Desire*, an ideal purse-size coffret containing **Bvlgari's** *Pour Femme* fragrance – total luxury.

The latest perfume creation from **Salvatore Ferragamo** is *Ferragamo Parfum Subtile*, an ultra-feminine floral scent that is classic, yet subtly sensual. Exclusive at Holt Renfrew this fall.

Romeo Gigli, the "master of understatement" and the "romantic intellectual" exemplifies his philosophy in a fragrance called *Romeo di Romeo Gigli*. A unique bouquet of soft and sharp, fruity and sensual aromas makes for a most interesting experience. The unique bottle is exquisite with its rare shape and white bow.

The unmistakable style of **Robert Cavalli** is embodied in his first signature women's fragrance sheathed in his famous leopard, tiger and zebra prints. It captures the vivacious and seductive energy of every woman's soul and even has a shining austere boa sinuously wrapped around the top of the bottle protecting the sexy pink liquid inside.

EYES: Maybeline has a new mascara called *Lash Expansion* that volumizes every lash with its unique brush with hook-like bristles.

Revlon's *ColorStay Lash Tint* promises to stay on up to three days. Wake up to dark lashes without smudging or flaking! It colours safely with natural botanicals and plant-based conditioners.

Rimmel's new *Crystal Tip Mascara*, is a clear mascara infused with tiny particles of silver. Sparkle your lashes, eyebrows and hair and party on down – great for the young and the young at heart.

Looking for a little Holiday drama? Check out **Estee Lauder's** *Holiday Dramatic Palette*, which offers deep vivid shades of plum and gold for eyelids, rich, velvety reds and browns for lips and a champagne creme patina for cheeks.

MaxiMeyes from **Dior** is an outstanding mascara. In one short stroke, you will receive extra volume, curl and length.

LIPS: Just smashing is *Street Chic Dior* – a duo of *Dior Addict* lip colour in the most gorgeous packaging. Definitely a perfect gift. The sleek box is gunmetal-grey metal with a perforated **Dior** logo and a large black cotton strap pierced with eyelets, so that you can attach it to your wrist, belt or handbag.

Revlon's *ColorStay Overtime Lipcolor* does double duty with its double-ended package. One end contains the liquid colour-lock colour, the other end features the glossy top coat that keeps the lips moisturized. Results are exquisite and last up to eight hours.

Spectacular is the word to describe **Estee Lauder's** *Pure Color Velvet Lipstick* in Velvet Kiss – what a colour, and does it ever feel luscious!

Another wonder from **Elizabeth Arden** – four eight-hour cream sheer lip tints with an SPF 15. The shades are easy to wear, and it will help relieve chapped, cracked lips leaving them smooth, soft and intensely moisturized.

Continued on page 46

Chanel's products (below) bring a touch of luminous radiance to the face, whether for the eyes, cheeks or lips.

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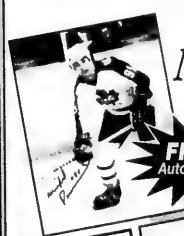
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Cont'd from page 45

BEAUTY SHOP

BY CAROL WISE

HAIR: Did you know that Lisa Kudrow wore a $10 smashing Goody hair clip at the Emmy Awards show? Sometimes it's not about the dollars but about the style. **Terry Ritcey Salon** (122A Yorkville Ave., 416-926-0123) is really bustling for the holiday season. According to their expert artists, hair will be full of spirit and full of bounce. Whether the style is long or short, the key is movement, vitality and a sense of well being. Free and soft are the way to go. Most popular colour shades will be varying hues of red, with maybe a touch of terra cotta.

New Jo Malone fragrance Wild Fig and Cassis (left). Dior's Street Chic Dior (above) makes a great gift.

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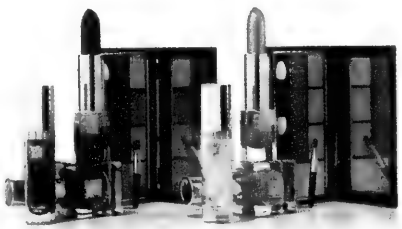

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Winter Fashion

Hair talk for men

By FRANCES GOODMAN PELLATT
Special to The CJN

Much fuss has always been made over women's hair. The cosmetic industry has customarily targeted the female half of the population with a multitude of concoctions to colour, straighten, curl or thicken women's tresses. What about the other half of society?

A man's mane is also important to his overall look, and although we are all familiar with the expression "clothes make the man," what about above the neck? How a man wears his hair can reveal a great deal about him. He may be dressed in Armani, but his hair can give a different message.

"It's fashion trends, clothes and TV that influence men's hair styles," said Gaetano Pirollo, who has been styling men's hair since the 1950s.

"People see what is being worn, how actors wear their hair, and they want to copy them... and the hair styles go with the clothing styles," explained Pirollo who has an artistic eye and a good imagination for creating the right hair look for his customers.

Men also must consider their hair type and how much time they want to spend on maintaining their chosen look. They can opt for a spiked fashion (a shorter version of the '80s punk style), which can be worn by men with any hair texture, or longer lengths that may require more maintenance. And young men are even opting to put streaks or highlights in their hair. Hair fashion, for men as for women, is heavily influenced by film and television.

For example, several years ago, actor George Clooney combed his hair over his forehead – a look quickly adopted by many men, especially those with receding hairlines. And heartthrob Tom Cruise, at one point, was sporting a medium-length hairdo. Hair can be worn behind the ears or pulled back in a pony tail, and men with rather straight hair can get away with this look – even for the office.

Another option is the bald look first sported by Yul Brynner decades ago. It's now becoming a look of choice for many men, young and old, who are losing their hair. This is high maintenance, however, since you must visit your stylist once or twice a week to keep your dome sleek and clean.

Of course, you could do it yourself at home, and Pirollo stresses remembering to soften the hair follicles with hot towels (or a shower) before shaving your scalp, and closing the pores with cold towels afterwards, including a shpritz of aftershave.

Pirollo maintains that it's the structure of a man's face that is the foundation for how the top of his head should look, and he stresses that hair should never be just cut, but styled.

"When I first started [in this business] men wore brush cuts," he said, "and mothers would bring in their sons and say, 'Make it short, cut it short.'... When they became teenagers, the boys would want to copy their friends and I would make suggestions, leaving the hair longer on top to create a wave."

Men's hair fashion has come a long way since the bowl-on-top-of-the-head look, and Pirollo believes there should be individuality in men's coiffures.

"A man with a long face should wear longer sideburns. Hair has to be balanced... longer on the sides and shorter on the top to frame the face," he said, explaining how the length of the sideburns can fill in the face.

"If you have no chin, for example, a beard completes the face, fills in the contours of the face... and a mustache left longer over the upper lip camouflages small facial defects, like thin lips or crooked teeth," Pirollo added.

It's not just women who can be accused of being vain. Men also take pride in their personal appearance. And they are not ashamed to use hair-enhancing products, including gels and mousse, hair wax and pomades to create the style they want, even enduring soft perms to achieve curls and hair dyes to maintain a more youthful look.

"If he doesn't have a nice [nape], then I leave the hair longer in the back and thicker," said Pirollo, who believes a man should style his hair in a fashion that suits his personality and lifestyle and makes him feel comfortable.

Men are taking more control over their hair and adopting a variety of ways to wear their locks that reflect their lifestyles and who they are.

"Everyone today wants a natural look," Pirollo concluded. "The way a man dresses depicts how he should style his hair... one falls into the other and makes a statement of who he is."

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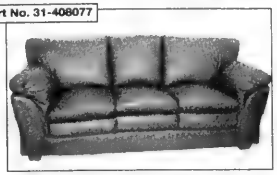

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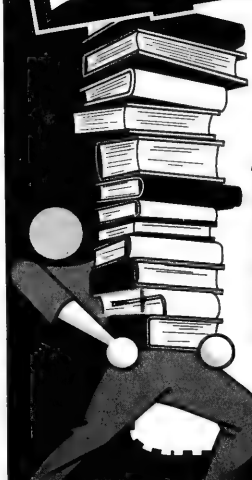

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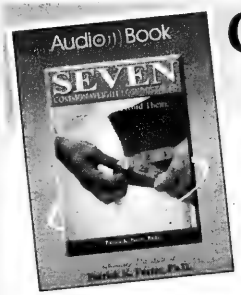

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Mandy Patinkin

Patinkin says *Mamaloshen* celebrates all cultures

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

With his 50th birthday approaching at the end of this month, Mandy Patinkin says he's just getting going.

"I'm excited about being 50," he said last week, with a hearty laugh that reverberated over the phone from Boston, where he was performing on tour. "I feel that the best is ahead of me. I've been more than blessed."

The Emmy and Tony award-winner – a native of Chicago now based in New York – brings his Yiddish-language concert, *Mamaloshen*, to Toronto on Nov. 14, at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. The concert, which was last here in 1999, will be the only Canadian stop in his current tour.

Patinkin's schedule this year has him alternating three concerts: A pops concert, *Mamaloshen*, and *Celebrating Sondheim*, which was recorded live in February for a CD that was released last week, *Mandy Patinkin Sings Sondheim*. The Sondheim show will run from Dec. 2 to Jan. 6 at New York's Henry Ford Theater two nights a week and Christmas Eve.

Patinkin said he was also waiting for word on a new television series, a dark comedy in which he plays "the Grim Reaper, but I'm a good guy." The pilot was filmed in Vancouver for Showtime and could represent his return to series television following the demise in 2000 of *Chicago Hope*, in which he played heart surgeon Jeffrey Geiger.

Among his other projects, Patinkin is working on a *Mamaloshen* book, a long-term project with a scheduled completion date of two years ago, he laughed.

On a more serious note, he mentioned he's planning a trip to Eastern Europe and "hopefully" Israel – a trip he is planning to make in conjunction with his writing. The main purpose, he said, would be to walk in the footsteps of his ancestors and those of Joe Papp, the late Broadway producer who set Patinkin on his Yiddish journey.

As a supporter of Peace Now, Patinkin has not wanted to visit Israel because he did not support Israeli government policies. But now, Patinkin has changed his tune.

"I'm going now," he said. "It's a time to show myself that life is to celebrate and not be afraid of anything. My struggle in life is to turn darkness into light...There's no darker place in the world where I'd like to bring some light both to myself and to Israel.

"It's also an important time to make a statement as an American Jew that Israel's not a place any of us should be afraid of visiting, and to spread the word for peace for all humanity."

Even after years of working on his Yiddish repertoire, Patinkin still hasn't figured out why the music of his ancestors touches him so deeply.

"Wherever you come from," he advises, "even if you've never heard the music, the lyrics, or the history of your culture, dip into it. Without a doubt it will leave you with the most enigmatic, wonderful feeling," he said.

Mamaloshen is "very much a celebration of all immigrant cultures, told through Jewish immigrant eyes," he said.

Unlike his new pops concerts, *Mamaloshen*, which is based on his 1998 CD of the same name, is "a set, formal piece," he explained. The wide-ranging Yiddish songs are linked by snippets of Paul Simon's *American Tune*. This year's concert includes a couple of new encore songs, he said.

In keeping with the formality he mentioned, Patinkin wears a black suit for the performance, albeit with a t-shirt – the combination reflecting to an extent the intensity found in songs like *Belz*, and the fun of an all-Yiddish medley that includes *Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious*.

In the wake of last year's terrorist attacks on Washington and New York, Patinkin said, "This is not a time when I am going out to raise money," referring to fundraising he has done during past performances. "I'm going out to raise spirits."

Classic Creations Says Thanks To Its Clients

Tucked away at the north end of Toronto, in the Newtonbrook Plaza, is one of the city's true treasures. Classic Creations was once referred to as one of the best kept secrets in Toronto. Now in their 19th year, brothers Ami and Sam Freiberg credit their success to the loyalty of their clients. "Our business has grown strictly by word of mouth," Ami told the CJN.

The "Dynamic Duo", as they have been affectionately referred to as, travel the world extensively to bring back the latest in jewellery fashion and design. "Our clients have come to expect the newest styles at unbeatable prices, never sacrificing quality." Classic Creations Say Thanks To Their Clients

When you first step into their new location, you feel as though you have been transported to a beautiful jewellery store in Europe. The friendly and knowledgeable staff makes you feel at home. "The right attitude is everything." "When we first discussed moving into our newer and larger home we kept emphasizing to our designers that we don't want to lose our 'Haymishe' feel." You can sense the warm friendly atmosphere the second you arrive.

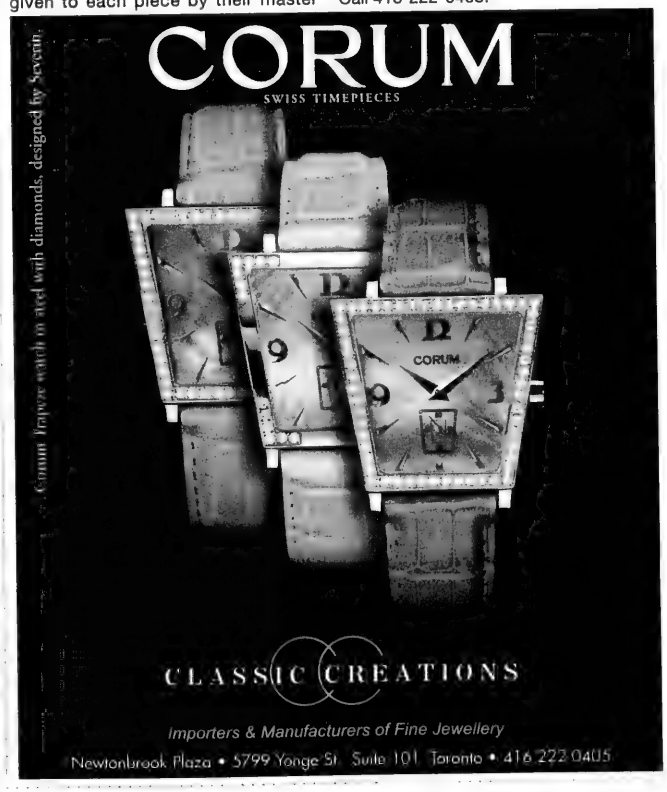
Their custom design work is outstanding. The care and attention given to each piece by their master craftsmen is only surpassed by the delight and joy on the face of the recipient.

Where their true strength lies is in their diamonds. "We take great care and effort in selecting that 'perfect diamond'. We have a great selection of shapes and sizes at prices that have made us the talk of the town."

They have a large collection of watches, such as Concord, Baume & Mercier, Movado, MontBlanc, Raymond Weil, TechnoMarine, Swiss Army, Lancaster, Ritmo Mvndo, as well as other affordable brands.

Their newest line of watches is the Corum brand. "We are very excited that Corum has chosen us. With such models as the Bubble, Trapeze, Heart Watch, Sugar Cube and Lady Oval to name just a few, Corum has become the benchmark for creative innovation by offering models that are different from other watch brands."

Classic Creations is at 5799 Yonge St. Suite 101 in the Newtonbrook Plaza, just north of Finch. Their store hours are Monday-Wednesday 9:30-6, Thursday 9:30-8, Friday 9:30-7, Saturday 9:30-6 and now Sunday 12-5. Call 416-222-0405.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It's possible to 'do' China in under two hours

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

SHENZHEN, China — China is an immense country, its touristic points of interest scattered far and wide.

It would normally take a visitor weeks, if not months, to visit the most important ones.

But in Splendid China, a theme park in Shenzhen, a mainland Chinese city only about an hour away from Hong Kong by car or train, you can "do" China in a day, and, in fact, in less than two hours.

It's a virtual tour, of course, but after you've walked through Splendid China, you know what's worth seeing and lingering over in the People's Republic of China.

The 67 sights, from the Great Wall of China to the Forbidden City in Beijing, are one-fifteenth of their normal size and set in a beautifully landscaped park of expansive lawns, coconut palms and stone lions, elephants and camels.

When you gaze upon the scale models, you are immediately and effortlessly transported into an exotic and mesmerizing world of temples, pagodas, palaces, mausoleums, tombs, mountain peaks, waterfalls, grottoes, forests and terra cotta figures.

The Buddhist Stone Sculpture.
[Sheldon Kirshner photo]

Looking at these wonderfully crafted miniature models, you feel as if you're in an airplane at an altitude of a few thousand feet.

Apart from the Forbidden City, among the models that most impressed me were the Three Gorges of the Yangtze River, Sun Yat-Sen's Mausoleum, the Stone Forest, the Ming Tombs and the Buddhist Stone Sculpture.

While you're in the vicinity, take time out to visit the adjacent China Folk Culture Villages, which preview 21 of China's 56 ethnic groups in their life-sized dwellings.

The landscaping here, too, is magnificent, with ponds and foot bridges and manicured flowerbeds, trees and shrubs.

The gentle greenery creates a placid atmosphere that is at once pleasant and relaxing.

The highlight of China Folk Culture Villages is doubtless the the awkwardly named Grand Folk Costume Poetic Spectacle.

An hour-long sound and light show featuring exquisitely costumed dancers and the flare and sizzle of pyrotechnics, it is indeed a sight to behold and savour.

Shenzhen itself, in a special economic zone created to foster capitalism in Communist China, has come a long way in two decades. In 1980, Shenzhen was a backwater with little to recommend it. Today, it's a booming city filled with cars and bristling with red and yellow building cranes, a gateway to southern China.

Yet, in the name of progress, Shenzhen appears to have lost some of its inncocent charm. The rice paddies that once graced its outer fringes are all but gone, having been largely replaced by a bluish and greenish wall of skyscrapers.

Play sets Canadian bootlegging couple's story to music

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

At the heart of every bootlegging couple is emotional intimacy and romance. Or so *Whiskey Serenade* would have us believe.

In its world premiere run from Nov. 8 to Nov. 23 at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, the musical depicts the true story of Rocco Perri and Bessie Starkman, an Italian mobster and his Jewish wife who rose from city slums to run a successful criminal network in Toronto in the 1920s.

Not only did they smuggle whiskey to Mafia families in upstate New York, the Canadian version of Bonnie and Clyde also shipped booze to Chicago's Al Capone.

Staged by Tribal Productions and written by Ralph Small and Michael Kitz, the criminal love story swirls around themes of ambition, loyalty and rags-to-riches success. And all this from two bootleggers with cravings for cash.

"They were making millions when even making a million was unheard of," says director Eli Lukawitz. He adds that *Whiskey Serenade* is above all a human story with romantic brushstrokes – so don't expect *The Untouchables*.

The story centres on Starkman and her control of the illegal activities that consumed the couple.

As a Jewish woman in the underworld, Starkman (played by Jennifer Gould) became a symbol of empowerment and leadership, Lukawitz says, adding that she perhaps should be considered a pioneer feminist.

In the 1920s, women were rarely appointed to positions of power, but Starkman battled stereotypes to become the force behind the bootlegging and racketeering network. In fact, Perri (played by Sam Owen) had less say in business matters than his wife.

"Without her, Perri would have never succeeded like he did," says Lukawitz.

In the play, the financial rewards inspire the couple to sing a tune appropriately titled *Let It Roll*.

Elements of Judaism from Starkman's life, such as Yiddish phrases and Shabbat candles, add flavour. And a scene involving an inspirational zaide also helps explain Starkman's ambitions.

Lukawitz, a founding member of Tribal Productions, says he was attracted to the story's romantic elements and underworld backdrop. And his love for the Mafia genre blended well with the tale of these local crime legends who rose from poverty.

"I wanted to do a show about Canadians, by Canadians, for Canadians," he says, adding that many people believe the country's history is bland and tame. But he hopes audiences will see the aspiring couple as a testament to the idea that love conquers all – even the law.

Other upcoming shows for Tribal Productions this year include a comedy called *Wild Guys* and an adaptation of George Orwell's *1984*.

For tickets to *Whiskey Serenade*, call Ticketmaster at 416-870-8000.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

ACCOMPLISHED TEENAGED MUSICIANS TO PERFORM AT BETH SHOLOM

The Stars of Tomorrow – Today! features four young musicians as part of the Beth Sholom Music Series. They are **Rebecca Brenner**, 12, violinist; **Dylan Rosenthal**, 13, vocalist; **Sara Perlmutter**, 14, pianist; and **Mindy Perlmutter**, 15, vocalist.

Cantor **Eric Moses** is MC; dessert reception follows. Beth Sholom Synagogue. $18. Wednesday, Nov. 13, 8 p.m. 416-783-6103.

* * *

Adath Israel Concert: Conductor **Boris Brott** and tenor **Mark Dubois** headline Adath Israel Congregation's 100th Anniversary Concert, which also features cantors **Eric Moses**, **A. Eliezer Kirshblum**, **Yaakov Motzen** and **Israel Rand**. Limited general admission tickets, $25. Saturday, Nov. 9, 8:15 p.m. Reservations, 416-635-5340.

* * *

***Parchment* Launch:** Editor **Adam Fuerstenberg** hosts the launch of the 11th annual edition of *Parchment*, Canada's only journal of contemporary Canadian Jewish writing. The event, which is part of the Jewish Book Fair, features select readings, coffee and bagels. Free admission. Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor. Sunday, Nov. 10, 11 a.m. 416-924-6211.

* * *

Markus in Concert: Myriads of children and families across North America have enjoyed Markus concerts, which are a blend of joyful music and stories that capture the imagination and get toes tapping and hands clapping. Part of the proceeds of his upcoming date in the Toronto area go to a Na'amat Canada campaign to assist women and children living in shelters and to provide holiday gifts for needy children.

Vaughan City Playhouse, 1000 New Westminster Dr., Thornhill. Adults $14, children and seniors $12 (plus service charges). Sunday, Nov. 10, 1 and 3:30 p.m. 416-872-1111, www.ticketmaster.ca.

* * *

Silverman in Concert: Canadian pianist **Robert Silverman** performs pieces by **Brahms**, **Handel**, **Schumann** and **Gershwin** at a concert in the home of **Toby and Saul Feldberg**, 28 Post Rd., with part of the proceeds going to Beit Halochem, Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel. $65, tax receipt available. Presented by the Koffler Centre's School of Music. Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7:30 p.m. Adrienne Cohen, 416-636-1880, ext. 228.

* * *

Names in the News: The *London Jewish Chronicle* reports that the charity Oxfam has declined a donation of £5,000 British from retired philosophy professor **Ted Honderich** because of statements he made in strong support of Palestinian suicide bombers in his recent book *After the Terror*. The money is worth about $12,000.

The Canadian-born Honderich, who lives in England and formerly taught at University College in London, is a member of the Honderich family that has long been associated with the *Toronto Star*.

An Oxfam representative said they told Honderich they weren't interested in his money "because you condone acts of terrorism and we can't accept donations from someone taking that standpoint."

* * *

Jewish Films in London: Three thematically Jewish films are being screened this month as part of the third annual Jewish Film Festival in London, Ont. *Gloomy Sunday* is a 1999 German-Hungarian production (with subtitles) about a love story set in Budapest during the '30s and '40s; it opens Saturday, Nov. 23, 8 p.m., with a reception following.

The other two films are *Promises*, a recent film that focuses on Israeli and Palestinian children, and *Time of Favour*, an award-winning Israeli film made in 2000 and set in Judea and Shomron. Screening times for both are Sunday, Nov. 24 at 2 and 8 p.m. respectively.

All three have won audience awards and critical acclaim. Admission, $25 for three or $10 each. London Central Library, Galleria, Wolf Performance Hall. The festival is seeking patrons: write c/o Rosner, 1062 Lombardo Ave., London, Ont., N6A 2X8.

* * *

Trace Your Jewish Roots: The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) presents a beginners' workshop led by **Garry Stein**. Topics include Holocaust research, Internet resources and Jewish towns and surnames. $10 in advance; $15 at the door; free for members. Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 470 Glencairn Ave. Sunday, Nov. 10, 1 to 5 p.m. Registration, workshop@jgstoronto.ca or 905-882-2259.

* * *

At the Galleries

- The Fall Show of the Willowdale Group of Artists features more than 50 art works in a variety of media. North York Central Library, Auditorium Lobby (Level 2), Nov. 2 to 29. Opening reception, Sunday, Nov. 10, 2 to 4 p.m. Free admission.
- Venice, The Invisible City is an exhibition of 40 black and white photographs by **Sabrina Francescut**. Joseph D. Carrier Gallery, Columbus Centre, 901 Lawrence Ave. W. Until Nov. 23. 416-789-7011.

Giardini, Venice from Sabrina Francescut's exhibition Venice.

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Film explores how survivors turned to each other for love

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

"We were young when we were liberated. With no place to go, we turned to each other. Some might say Hitler was our matchmaker."

The speaker, a Jewish woman, is a Holocaust survivor, and the sentiments she expresses were quite common among survivors after World War II.

Torn from their loved ones during the Shoah, and more than ready to resume their lives after the war, these survivors sought what we all want: peace and quiet and normality.

Turning to each other for comfort and empathy, they formed intimate relationships that often solidified into durable marriages.

In *Undying Love*, a documentary to be screened at the Bloor Cinema (506 Bloor West) on Sunday, Nov. 10 at 7 p.m., Helene Klodawsky explores the healing power of love.

The 87-minute film, the first to my knowledge to touch on this theme, tells the stories of several individuals, now living in Canada and the United States, who reconstructed their lives in the wake of this unprecedented catastrophe.

Produced by Ina Fichman and narrated by Molly Parker, *Undying Love* unfolds through on-camera interviews, vintage clips from Hollywood and Yiddish movies and dramatic re-enactments.

It's a poignant film, and deserves an audience.

After the liberation in 1945, David Rybowski, a Polish Jew from Lodz, was "hungry for love." By chance, he ran into Zenia, whom he had known, and fallen in love with, in Poland.

Zenia was not really in the market for a husband, but, being lonely and in need of companionship, she agreed to marry David. Eventually, she learned to love him.

Bluma Klodawski, the director's mother, endured hunger in a ghetto and hardship in several concentration camps.

Standing forlornly on a railway platform in Frankfurt, she saw a young man emerging from a train. It was, of all things, her old boyfriend. Bashfully, she acknowledges that sex was part of her emotional re-awakening.

David and Anna Newman met in a labour camp in 1943, but were separated shortly afterward.

In Buchenwald, remarkably enough, David persuaded a sympathetic German guard to let him write two letters to Anna.

"She was destined to be my wife," he says.

And so she was.

Joe Korzenik had lost faith in humanity after spending some of the best years of his life in a ghetto and in concentration camps.

He hated everyone.

But after meeting Ruthie in the United States, where he had settled in 1946, he rediscovered life. "Ultimately, I learned that when you hate, you are the one that hurts."

Helen Schwartz, the daughter of a matchmaker from Bialystock, met her husband-to-be, Eric, in a labour camp. He promised her food and protection if she agreed to marry him after the war.

She said yes.

Separated for a year-and-a-half, they found each other in Bergen-Belsen, a camp in Germany.

"Life is as good as you make it," she says. "I think I was the best wife a man could have."

Tania Rozmaryn was 18 when her mother introduced her to Mendel. She thought Mendel could provide Tania with financial security.

Tania did not like Mendel, who was temperamentally too different from her for her tastes. Nevertheless, she married him. Her mother had threatened to kill herself if she spurned Mendel.

Predictably, their marriage was less than successful. On the day she enrolled her son in medical school, she asked Mendel for a divorce.

To her amazement, she met another man, and now believes in love.

A re-enactment from *Undying Love*.

Lilly Friedman and her two sisters together survived Auschwitz and a forced march.

In a displaced persons camp, she met a man who became her fiance. He was a resourceful person, trading cigarettes and coffee for a German parachute whose fabric was used for Lilly's bridal gown. Subsequently, the gown was worn by 17 other brides.

"We had no parents or grandparents to advise us," says Lilly. "We had to rely on ourselves."

Not too surprisingly, the Jewish birthrate in DP camps soared. Indeed, it was one of the highest in the world.

As *Undying Love* ends, David observes that nothing is as important as love.

"You said the right thing," Zenia counters.

He could not have put it better.

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Rules: To be eligible to win please print your name, address and daytime phone number on a piece of paper along with the answer to this question:

In which hit TV kids' show are Judy & David the stars?

(Hint: the answer can be found in their advertisement printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by 3 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15, 2002 are eligible. The winning entries will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Monday, Nov. 18, at 10 a.m. The winner will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received.
The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.

Send your response to: **Judy & David Contest**, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 416-391-0949.

Employees and family members of The CJN are not eligible to enter.

Message to *CJN* Snowbirds

If you will be spending all or part of this winter outside of Canada, there are three options available to you regarding delivery of your *Canadian Jewish News*.

1/ Continue regular delivery to your home, and arrange for Canada Post to forward *The CJN* on with your other mail each week.

2/ Advise our Circulation Department to suspend delivery until your return to Canada with no weeks lost in your subscription period.

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Arts & Travel

Grey Zone *creator happy his movie had no Hollywood involvement*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Tim Blake Nelson, the writer and director of *The Grey Zone*, one of the most chilling and powerful films ever made about the Holocaust, is now glad that Hollywood studios failed to option his movie.

"Thankfully, there was no studio involvement," he said in a telephone interview last week from his home in New York City.

In fact, *The Grey Zone* was financed by two independent Israeli producers – Avi and Danny Lerner of Los Angeles-based Millennium Films – who found his script compelling and irresistible.

The Lerners were so committed to it that they did not expect to recoup their $4 million (US) investment, Nelson said.

Tim Blake Nelson

Starring Harvey Keitel and David Arquette, *The Grey Zone* takes place in Auschwitz on the eve of a 1944 prisoners' revolt, the first and only one in that concentration camp.

In retrospect, Nelson realizes that if *The Grey Zone* had been bought by a major studio, it probably would have been tainted by untenable artistic compromises.

Speaking of his association with the Lerners, he said, "I didn't have to soften or sentimentalize the subject matter for commercial appeal. There were no such pressures. Had it been made by a studio, it wouldn't have been what it is."

Currently playing at the Cineplex Odeon chain, *The Grey Zone* turns on a doomed group of Hungarian Jews in a sonderkommando squad. Sonderkommandos helped the Nazis exterminate their fellow Jews in exchange for certain privileges and a longer life.

Nelson, whose grandparents fled Nazi Germany on the eve of Kristallnacht in November 1938, does not see it as a strictly Jewish film, despite its setting.

"I consider it a film about being human under terrible circumstances," said Nelson, referring to the moral dilemma the sonderkommandos suddenly face when they are forced to decide what to do with a Jewish girl who has miraculously survived the gas chamber.

"Their decision was human, not Jewish," he added.

The genesis of *The Grey Zone* was a play Nelson worked on about his family's emigration from Europe.

His grandparents, Herman and Kate Kaiser, as well as his mother, were German Jews who got out just in the nick of time. They joined relatives in Tulsa, Okla., where Nelson was born 38 years ago.

"After a year of researching and writing, I decided that the play would have been redundant. Others had said the same thing better. So I kept doing my research."

Then he read Primo Levi's essay *The Grey Zone* in the book *The Drowned and the Saved*.

"It was one of the most provocative pieces of writing I had read," said Nelson, a graduate of Brown University and the Juilliard Theatre Center. "Levi is the patron saint of this project."

Raised in a fairly conservative Jewish household, he was captivated by Levi's nuanced depiction of life in Auschwitz, his steadfast refusal to sanctify Jews just because they had been victims and his view that the Holocaust is infinitely repeatable.

"I admired his bare-bones honesty."

The movie, which originally took the form of an off-Broadway play, was also inspired by the memoirs of Miklos Nyiszli, a Hungarian Jewish doctor who helped the infamous Dr. Josef Mengele with his gruesome medical experiments in Auschwitz.

Nelson, whose father Don was a petroleum geologist, spent five months planning and filming in Bulgaria.

His wife, Lisa Benavedes, whom he met at Juilliard, has a supporting role in the movie.

There were rough moments during the 41-day shoot. "Sometimes, I felt it was like climbing Mount Everest with bowling shoes."

Although the sets, including the crematoria, had been constructed with meticulous attention to detail, Nelson had them destroyed when the shoot was finished."I didn't see any reason to leave them so they could be exploited for other reasons."

The Grey Zone, which has earned about $3 million (US) in North American box office receipts so far, was originally scheduled to be released last year after its debut at the Toronto International Film Festival.

But after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, Lions Gate, the distributor, held back.

"They feared no one would want to see a film as relentless and intense as *The Grey Zone*."

Lions Gate also felt that "incorrect connections" might be drawn between Sept. 11 and the Holocaust.

"I urged them to release it, but I ended up agreeing with their reasoning," he said.

Nelson, who is also an actor, having appeared in such films as *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* and *The Thin Red Line*, is pleased with the critics' reaction.

"The majority have responded positively... [*Chicago Sun-Times* movie critic] Roger Ebert gave it four stars."

Even critics who did not particularly like it expressed a measure of admiration, he said.

Prior to *The Grey Zone*, Nelson directed *O*, a modern adaptation of Shakespeare's *Othello*, and *Eye of God*, a thriller.

Currently, he is considering an offer to direct Sylvia Plath's *The Glass Jar*.

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Business Profile

Canadian film company gets respect in Tinseltown

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

When Peter Sussman was a young lawyer working in the entertainment division of a Toronto law firm, he got lucky and met the founders of Atlantis Communications, a fledgling Canadian film company.

The individuals in question, Michael MacMillan, Seaton McLean and Ted Riley, were rising stars in the business.

One day, MacMillan called Sussman and asked him whether he would like to join them. Atlantis Communications was growing. That was in 1985.

Seventeen years on, Atlantis Communications, founded in 1978, has morphed into Alliance Atlantis Communications, one of Canada's leading producers and distributors of filmed entertainment, and Sussman has become a principal shareholder and a chief executive officer of one of its divisions.

Formed from the 1998 merger of Alliance Communications and Atlantis Communications, the company is divided into three operating units, some of which seem to overlap.

The entertainment group, of which Sussman is in charge, acquires, produces and distributes movies and television shows including the black comedy *Dirty Deeds* and the CBS TV detective series *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation*.

The motion picture distribution group, Canada's largest distributor of movies, has links with New Line Cinema, Miramax Films, Artisan Entertainment, USA Films and Studio Canal. Its films run the gamut from *Lord of the Rings* and *Ararat* to *Spy Kids* and *Bowling for Columbine*.

The broadcast group, which launched Canada's first two cable channels, Life Network and Showcase, now has a roster of channels, some of which are Home & Garden Television, History Television, Discovery Health and Food Network Canada.

Sussman was born and raised in Toronto. But for the past 11 years, he has lived in Santa Monica, a fashionable seaside suburb of Los Angeles, and has represented Alliance Atlantis in Hollywood.

"I like L.A. a lot," Sussman said.

The brain behind a forthcoming two-night mini-series on Adolf Hitler, Sussman is what is commonly known in the industry as a "player," a person of influence in Hollywood.

"Hollywood takes you seriously if you're talented and can deliver," said Sussman, who was recently in Toronto to promote a raft of Alliance Atlantis movies – among them *Frida* and *The Quiet American* – at the Toronto International Film Festival. "They don't care where you're from. In L.A., it's all about the product."

According to Sussman, Hollywood is mercurial – cold and alienating if you're an outsider, warm and friendly if you're an insider.

Alliance Atlantis, he said, commands respect in Tinseltown because of its size, scope and reliability.

The facts tell the story.

Sussman's entertainment group has produced approximately 250 movies and more than 75 TV drama series, which have won some 200 major prizes, including a coveted Academy Award.

His first television film, *Cowboys Don't Cry*, was followed by *The Ray Bradbury Theatre*. The latter was not only a hit, but a door-opener. It essentially introduced Sussman to Hollywood.

He is particularly proud of two of his projects.

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation, now in its third season and with a mean audience of 25 million, was recently nominated for a Golden Globe. A spinoff, *CSI-Miami*, debuted on Sept. 23.

Bowling for Columbine, a feature-length documentary written and directed by satirist Michael Moore and unveiled at the Toronto International Film Festival, brazenly asks viewers: "Are we a nation of gun nuts, or are we just nuts?"

Sussman, who is partial to director-driven movies, plans to release a number of new films soon. They include *The 51st State*, starring Samuel Jackson; *The Good Thief*, starring Nick Nolte; and *Owning Mahowny*, starring Philip Seymour Hoffman.

A master of the TV mini-series, Sussman has overseen a panoply of award-winning prime time television movies. *Joan of Arc* received 13 Emmy Award nominations, while *Life with Judy Garland: Me and My Shadow*, drew 20 million viewers and was the most-watched TV movie of the 2001 season.

Peter Sussman (second from right) appears with actors Sam Neill (left), Michael Caine and Bryan Brown at the premiere of *Dirty Deeds*, unveiled at the Toronto International Film Festival in September.

Brought up in a Conservative Jewish household, Sussman has always taken a special interest in mini-series films dealing with Jewish topics.

Nuremberg, with Christopher Plummer and Brian Cox, turned on the 1946 trial of Nazi war criminals in Germany.

Haven, based on a book by American foreign correspondent Ruth Gruber, dealt with the refugee aspect of the Holocaust.

Sussman's latest project on the Holocaust, whose working title is *Hitler*, is currently being filmed in Prague and Munich, and will be broadcast in Canada and the United States next May.

In general, some projects can be delivered within two years, he said. But others, he explained, can take a decade to flesh out and develop.

"Projects are funny. Some are meant to be made at a certain point in time."

Now 44, he is married to Heather, a freelance journalist, and the couple have two children.

He was raised in a middle-class neighbourhood near Forest Hill, the son of Murray (Sonny) and Norma Sussman. Murray, a mortgage banker, works with his other son, Sandy.

Sussman attended Bathurst Heights Secondary School and then York University, where he studied law.

"I practised law for a year, but I had other aspirations," he said, referring to the entertainment business.

After joining Atlantis Communications, he wrote his California bar exam "to keep doors open." Sussman knew the company would have to open an office in Hollywood sooner or later

As he put it: "You can only do business in L.A. by being a member of the community."

Sussman, who controls 73 per cent of the company's shares along with his partners, is confident that Alliance Atlantic will prosper

"So far, every year has been better than the last. I hope we'll make similar progress in the future."

His strategy is hardly a secret, being contained in the company's glossy annual 2002 report: "We are committed to producing and selling high quality, commercially appealing content while focusing on reducing higher cost production and the capital we invest in it."

It sounds bland, but it sums up Sussman's philosophy in a nutshell.

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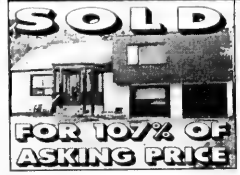

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BAYVIEW GLEN
New price! $1,290K. Beautiful contemp. home features 5+1 bdrm, 5 baths, fin'd bsmnt w/oak wet bar, gas frpl, mn flr study, hdwd flrs, loads of extras! M. Noik* & D. Zaikin** ext. #289/545

CUSTOM HOME/HILDA & STEELES
$699K. Features 4+1 bdrms, 5 baths, mn flr study, open concept liv & din room, hdwd flrs thru-out main & upper level, fin'd bsmnt w/walk-out. M. Noik* & D. Zaikin** ext. #289/545

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$1,090,000. Well maintained home on a prestigious street. 4+1 bdrms, 5 baths, finished basement w/walk-out rec rm, wet bar, nanny's quarter's, 3 pce bath, beautifully landscaped. M. Noik* & D. Zaikin** ext. #289/545

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Bath./Wilson, 3 bdrm. bung., compl. renov., new kit. & bath., cac & vac, deck, all appls., steps to TTC. $24000 + util., immed. Call 416-209-0605.

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80 SHORT TERM RENTAL WANTED

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Century Village, Boca Raton, 1+1½, designer furn. $1500/mo US., min. 4 mos. Roberta Dash, 561-789-8647.

Aquarius, Hollywood, lux. 2 br. 2 bth, excellent condition furn. condo on ocean, excellent views. Avail. Jan. 8, 3 mo. min. $2500/mo US. 416-661-1389 (9 am-5 pm).

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BIMBLICH, Abram – on Oct. 7, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
BERGER, Sam – on Oct. 7, 2002, late of 400 Walmer Rd. W., #708.
KATES, Harry – on Oct. 8, 2002, late of 1925 Steeles Ave. W.
PASTERNAK, Lucy – on Oct. 8, 2002, late of 1650 Sheppard Ave. E.
SHANNON, Joseph J. – on Oct. 8, 2002, late of 85 Searle Ave.
BOIMILE, Max – on Oct. 7, 2002, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
CHARNEY, Sally – on Oct. 6, 2002, late of 38 Kennard Ave.
RAUCHWERGER, Helen – on Oct. 9, 2002, late of 44 Garnier Crt.
WORTZMAN, Charlotte – on Oct. 10, 2002, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
ALTMAN, Alfred – on Oct. 11, 2002, late of 33 Canton Ave.
KAITZ, Bertha – on Oct. 11, 2002, late of 2550 Presidential Way.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

BERNFELD, Susan – on Oct. 23, 2002, late of 23 Invermay Ave.
COVANT, Paul – on Oct. 22, 2002, late of 7250 Yonge St.
OZERSKY, Leonard – on Oct. 23, 2002, late of 2 Neptune Dr.
ZEITMAN, Morris – on Oct. 23, 2002, late of 2 Buchan Crt.
WINKLER, Miklos – on Oct. 23, 2002, late of 7440 Bathurst St.
WOLKENSTEIN, Haya – on Oct. 25, 2002, late of 65 Stonedene Blvd.
WAJNTRAUB, Mayer – on Oct. 24, 2002, late of 15 Prince Charles Dr.

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women seeking men

ZEST FOR LIFE

Single Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, fit, 5' 5" and good natured. Seeks single Jewish traditional male between 45-55 yrs young with 6', handsome, established, exciting, caring, non smoker and one who loves life **AD#1414**

A RARE GEM

Unique, attractive Jewish female, 5' 5" tall, brown hair/eyes, kind, sincere, creative & lots of fun to be with Seeks traditional a Jewish gentleman under 55 yrs young w/ handsome over 6" genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoker, financially stable & humorous **AD#1478**

OPTIMIST

Single Jewish professional woman, would like to meet Jewish male, 45-55 yrs, non smoker. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. **AD#1172**

LOOKING FOR YOU

Hi I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs I'm a warm person, honest, very open and out going I'm a good listener and good to communicate with. I'm friendly, and I enjoy people I'm looking for a widow 54-62 yrs for friendship first **AD#1403**

GIVE ME A CALL

This 65 yr old female is a radiant shapely beauty. She's independent, educated, articulate and with a zest for life. She is seeking an easy going witty man to dance, hike and attend the theatre with **AD#1275**

ARE YOU MY MATCH?

Hi there, I am a feisty, fun, focused, funky, sometimes foolish, flirtatious and perhaps a little fussy female, who has yet to find her match I am a successful & accomplished 35 yr old Jewish gal who is looking for an equally successful & accomplished 35-40 Jewish guy **AD#1056**

PASSION & ZEST

Do you have a passion and zest for life & adventure? Hi, I'm a mysterious, European female. I'm 5'2", 43 yrs mother of 2, with an adventurist spirit & wide range of interests and a very easy going nature. I'm looking man between 38-55 yrs, 5' 10" who's up for friendship leading to marriage **AD#1113**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

HI, I'm a single female in late my 30's. I'm slim & attractive. I have brown hair,light blue eyes. Some of my interests include swing dancing, biking, hiking, tanning on the beach & nature walks. I'm interested in meeting a single man that is family oriented & attractive, 35-55 yrs **AD#1160**

LET'S MEET

Hi I am a youthful, 58 yrs old, warm, kind compassionate female. I don't smoke, I'm financially secure and would like to meet someone to share my interests. I enjoy going to movies, theatre, and taking romantic walks. I'm looking for loving partner for enjoying life with **AD#1032**

DOWN TO EARTH

I'm a Jewish widow and I would like to meet a widower, 55-63 I like music and old movies. I'm a caring, sharing, romantic and warm person I'm down to earth and like to smile a lot. I have no baggage, and would like to meet someone with similar interests **AD#1191**

ROMANCE & LOVE

I am a widow in my 50's, and I'm starting over. I'm a non smoker, who's friendly, down to earth, loves cooking and baking, enjoys people, romantic quiet times listening to music and sitting in front of a fire. I would to like to meet a widower, 55-60 yrs. Please call. **AD#1344**

CALL ME

Hi, I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs old I'm a warm person, honest, very open, out going, good listener and good to communicate with. I also friendly, and I enjoy people. Looking for a widow 54-62 for friendship first **AD#1403**

MAKE YOU LAUGH

I am a professional woman in my mid 50's. I have been a widow over a year and would like to meet someone. This person must be someone who's single and professional, with whom I can share my interests with. Preferably someone who lives in metrotoronto. I am outgoing, funny to be with and easy to talk to **AD#1461**

QUIET TIMES

I am widow in my 50's and I'm starting over I'm a non smoker, friendly, down to earth, love cooking and baking. I enjoy romantic, quiet times listening to music and sitting in front of a fire. I would to like to meet a widower 55-60 **AD#1344**

WARM SMILE

I am a Jewish widow, and would like to meet a widower 55-63, likes music, old movies. I'm a caring and sharing, romantic, warm person, who's down to earth and likes to smile a lot **AD#1191**

YOUNG AT HEART

I'm a youthful, 58 yr old single female who's warm, kind and compassionate. I don't smoke and I'm financially secure. I would like to meet someone to share interests with like going to movies, the theatre, walking and other interests. Looking for loving partner to enjoy life with, **AD#1032**

WIDOWS ONLY

Would like to start a widows group social, 50-60 yrs only, no divorcees **AD#1040**

A REAL FIND

I'm a smart, kind hearted, loyal, very very funny female who's cute, youthful, physically fit, & professionally successful with no strings, I'm looking to meet a wonderful Jewish man 50-60 yrs of age to share, enjoy & enrich our life experiences **AD#1158**

A MENSCH FOR ALL SEASONS

Michelle is an engaging, fun-loving, energetic, fanatically-fit widow with a zest for life & a passion for work & family Friends say she is attractive & fun to be with. She is looking for a mensch (by definition a life loving man of integrity) **AD#1012**

LET'S MEET

Hi, I'm a sincere lady with a warm smile. I'm kind, caring & compassionate. I'm also honest & have a good sense of humour I love animals & seek a gentleman for companionship between 60-65 yrs. I also enjoy long walks, dancing, theatre & music **AD#1447**

FINER THINGS

Hi, I'm an attractive professional woman in my early 50's. I'm 5' 6", red hair and have 2 grown wonderful children. I'm sincere, respectful, caring, romantic and fun loving. I enjoy cooking, fine dining, dancing, theatre, opera, travel, walks in the park, and I love to sing. **AD#1402**

NEW LIFE WITH YOU

I'm a widow who would like to rebuild a new life with a widower or a single male 54-60 yrs. I'm active, outgoing and down to earth. I enjoy life, non smoker. I like art, adventure & travel. Seeking a mature relationship. **AD#1383**

LET'S MEET FOR COFFEE

Hi, I'm 39 yr old single female. I'm seeking a male 39-49 yrs, who's attractive, hard working like myself, and easy going. Looking for friendship, hopefully leading to a relationship I like dancing, going out to eat & movies. **AD#1269**

STARTING OVER

I'm a widow in my 50's, who would like to start over. I'm a caring & sharing individual, a good listener, non smoker, positive person w/ a smile. I enjoy life & people and humour. Would like to meet a single man in his 50's w/ similar interests **AD#1236**

EUROPEAN WIDOW

European, retired widow, is looking for a loving relationship w/ widower or divorced man, loves music, art , swimming, walking & tennis. **AD#1182**

SPEND TIME TOGETHER

I'm a widow looking for a widower between 50-60 yrs. I enjoy music and reading. I'm very open, caring, romantic, enjoy country drives and holding hands Looking for a warm person with a great smile, and sense of humour with similar interests **AD#1380**

STREETCAR NAMED...

Hello my name is Stella, looking for a serious relationship w/ a honest man who is intelligent & has a sense of humour who likes the outdoors, music, travel & many other things I enjoy outdoor activities, I'm sincere, outspoken person Seeks quality time w/ someone **AD#1460**

PLAY GAMES WITH YOU

Hi, I'm a tall, attractive, Jewish woman, 39 yrs, independent, honest, down to earth, love to read, do crossword puzzles, play scrabble, dance, long walks, I'm looking for a tall Jewish, warm, intelligent & kind man who knows what he wants out of life **AD#1152**

SIMPLE THINGS

I'm a slim, shapely, very attractive, 50'ish, single Jewish female who's 5' 4" tall, dark hair & eyes, a great smile, warm & affectionate. As far as interests are concerned, the simple pleasures of life are the very best. For me it's laughter, good conversation, sipping wine at a cafe **AD#1029**

SOULMATE SEARCHING

33 yr old female, with long brown hair & eyes, very good looking, out going, charming, loves to have fun. Looking for a down to earth attractive male between 30-40 yrs, non smoker, who shares same interests as me. I,'m looking for my soul mate, if your interested please respond. **AD#1406**

DESTINATION: LOVE

Hi, if your interested in meeting a special single Jewish female, baggage free, has air miles & loves to travel you've answered the right ad. I'm a very attractive, slim, shapely, fun loving, 50'ish, single Jewish female with a warm smile, integrity & many interests **AD#1061**

HIGH CLASS

Larissa is attractive, Jewish, 55 yrs, 5' 3" tall and seek an interesting accomplished, classy gentleman between 55-65 yrs for companionship & more. **AD#1443**

CALL ME

Cindy is a petit, brown eyed brunette, 5' 2", very friendly, intelligent, loving, compassionate looking for a profesional gentleman, between 50-60 yrs, who shares similar qualities with whom I can enjoy companionship & happy times. Some interests include movies, theatre & music **AD#1185**

LIFE PARTNER

Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, petite, cute, attractive, pretty and slim She enjoys music, dancing, nature, hiking, quiet beach walks, non smoker, non drinker, looking for a life partner, preferably an easy going, single jewish male between 35-55 yrs with similar interests **AD#1200**

I AM FOR YOU

Unique, Jewish female, attractive, 5' 5", intelligent, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established, male 45 yrs young, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable and over 6 feet tall **AD#1240**

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP

Attractive, 40 yrs, single Jewish female, seeks male 40-52 yrs who's attractive, hard working like myself. I like to go out to eat, dance, movies & a bit of sports, If you have similar interests, leave me your name & number. I'm looking for a serious relationship **AD#1037**

KILLER SMILE!

Hi, my name is Debbie. I'm 47 yrs almost, a Virgo—Sept 6th is my birthday, divorced for 8 yrs and very comfortable with that. I'm 5' 3" with short brown hair & brown eyes, and a smile that will knock you dead. Little bit overweight but working on it diligently I love the outdoors. **AD#1038**

LOVE CONNECTION?

Jewish female, pretty, creative professional, young lady, 5'5ft, slender, enjoys travel,theatre & fine dining. Seeks an established & fit male, between 43-53 yrs, complimented by sincerity & spontaneity to share in the zest of life **AD#1151**

SHARE WITH YOU

Marianne is 5' 4", with hazel eyes and dark hair She enjoys sports, concerts, walks and dancing, and is seeking a male to share those interests. She describes herself as outgoing, friendly, straight forward & easy to talk to **AD#1382**

RESPECT & SINCERITY

40 yr old honest caring, sensitive female writer, looking for compatible male in his 40's to share meaningful moments, I enjoy long walks, talks, cafes, movies, art, poetry, nature, animals, I'm open minded. I value respect & sincerity, friendships & genuine relationships. **AD#1401**

LET'S MEET

Great personality, easy to please, lovely lady, who's considerate intelligent, good natured and attractive. 53 yrs old, hoping to meet a nice polite gentleman for genuine relationship between 55-73 yrs old. **AD#1138**

WALKS BY THE LAKE

Barb is very young, 50'ish, a single mom w/ 2 grown children. She lives in central Toronto and seeks a Jewish gentleman to develop a friendship with to laugh, cry & grow with. She enjoys walks by the lake out in the country, movies, sharing and cuddling **AD#1204**

VIVACIOUS FEMALE

Montrealer who now lives in Hamilton. She's vivacious, fit, slim 5' 5", 120 lbs, seeks male for tennis partner Also for dining, movies, walks & willing to explore a little bit Looking for a compassionate man for a wonderful relationship **AD#1166**

LOVE, FUN & LAUGHTER

Single female, 44 yrs young, attractive, intelligent, honest, sincere, down to earth, funny & good natured. She enjoys music, dancing, reading, travelling. If you seek love, fun & laughter, call me. **AD#1132**

PEOPLE PERSON

Financially secure, professional female who loves travelling & meeting new people, seeks a companion to enjoy theatre, sports and fine dining with. If you are between 60-70 yrs please give me a call. **AD#1250**

FUN & COMPASSION

Single female from Montreal, 50's, non smoker, fit, classy, kind, sense of humour, conservador She enjoys art, dining, dancing, travel and the beach Seeking a male between 51-65 yrs, non smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured, conservadox, w/ similar interests, willing to travel **AD#1360**

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Single Jewish female, 65 yrs, sensual smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, w/ wide variety of interests. Seeking Jewish male between 65-75 yrs, who's honest & romantic for a long term relationship **AD#1457**

men seeking women

JOIN THE WAR ON LONELINESS!

33 yr old professional male, seeks recruit 25-35 for Operation ROMANCE Must be university educated & preferably spiritual not religious. Let's be all we can be. For security reasons, all baggage must be left at the door. **AD#1469**

THE WASTED WARRIOR

Seeking a free spirited female, 40-45. No commitments. Take the challenge If you dare. **AD#1475**

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP

Hello my name is Michael. I'm a 41 yr accountant, and have been working for many years. In my spare time during the summer I enjoy playing baseball, bike riding and hiking. I also enjoy getting together with friends I'm looking to meet a young lady with similar goals, which hopefully leads to long term relationship. **AD#1370**

INCURABLE ROMANTIC

Jewish male, non smoker, in his 70's going on 50. A university graduate, 5' 5", 145 lbs, I have many varied interests including theatre, music, dancing, the arts, tennis, golf, dining, travelling. I'm also an incurable romantic & social drinker with a great zest for life. **AD#1235**

PROFESSIONAL MALE

Hi I'm a single 40 yr old male, professional, physically fit easy going, who enjoys meeting people and have a joy for life. I'm looking for a female 30-40 yrs, who meets my common interests. **AD#1286**

ROMANTIC MAN

Hi, I'm a Jewish male, late 50's, who's looking for a sharing & caring woman, non smoking, 45-58yrs. I'm a romantic who likes long walks & enjoys nature, quiet evenings cuddling together eat fireside. **AD#1478**

DIAGNOSIS: LOVE

I'm 51 yrs and work as a medical doctor. I have 2 daughters that live with me and I'm a devoted father. I'm slim, fit, energetic, and intense My interests range from art, philosophy to foreign languages & ballroom dancing. I'm looking for a younger female of intelligence, energy and beauty **AD#1469**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

I'm a man in my 50's w/ blue eyes, dark brown hair, who would like to meet a woman, also in her 50's. She should enjoy travel, museums, the arts & musical theatre Looking for someone who can share lots of laughs w/ a good sense of humour. Home cooked meals would be a definite bonus **AD#1234**

HEALTHY WEALTHY

Hi my name is Arnon, I'm a white executive living in Thornhill. I look in the mirror & I see a healthy young 1939 model w/ no deficiencies, I'm told that I'm not bad to look at either. I've got salt & pepper hair, beautiful blue eyes, slim,. 5' 10" and I have good teeth too. My passions are the sun & sea **AD#1005**

UNEMPLOYED BUM

Are you looking for a ugly, short, fat, bald, unemployed bum? Well keep looking because I'm none of the above. I'm honest, successful, good looking with no dependents. I love gourmet foods, wine tasting, movies & I'm a very good cook. Seeking a woman between 38-48 yrs. **AD#1227**

LET'S MEET

Hi my name is Marvin, I'm a warm & thoughtful person, single, 60 yrs old and I live in GTA. I'm a romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who loves to travel, watch movies, take long walks, rides in the country. I also enjoy great conversation, nice quiet times at homes, and I love to read. **AD#1074**

DO YOU JUBU?

Physically & spiritually active male, 33 yrs old. Seeks non materialistic female with weight aged between 23-35 yr old for mind-it's a compassionate relationship **AD#1316**

FRIENDSHIP & LOVE

Single Jewish male of Indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family **AD#1459**

FUN GUY

Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things. Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading, Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands. **AD#1368**

HEALTHY WEALTHY

I want to enjoy all the things in life like any normal person. I'm not interested in marriage. but would like a steady relationship. If you're slim, good looking, with a nice personality & would like to meet a nice, funny, good looking, 70 yr old, 5' 6", slim guy, let's talk. **AD#1055**

PICTURE THIS

I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more. If you find this brief introduction interesting, leave a message **AD#1442**

EASY GOING

Steve is an easy going Jewish male, fun loving, enjoys walks and good conversation Seeks attractive female up to age of 39 yrs who's easy going, enjoys the simple things in life, such as going out for dinners and other things. **AD#1390**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Chaim, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs, 5' 6", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family. In a wonderful atmosphere. Please call and leave a message. **AD#1238**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED

Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1178**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'

Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook. He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate. **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET

Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female (Jewish preferably), around the same age, who's honest sincere female and shares the same interests, If interested please leave a voice mail **AD#1070**

MUSIC & WINE

Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-65yrs He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports. **AD#1280**

AM I ASKING TOO MUCH?

Divorced Jewish male, 47 yrs with 2 teenaged children, seek women 25-40 yrs, thin, good looking, who likes rock n roll, sports, 3 stooges, Howard Stern, partying & swimming because I have a pool. Am I asking too much? Give me a call **AD#1318**

KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN

Bob is 48 yrs, professional, seeking to meet female who's into cycling and would like to explore the city/country. If you're interested in meeting a very nice guy to have fun with and get a little exercise. **AD#1238**

LOOKING FOR YOU

37 yr old male, 6' 3", 230 lbs, with black hair, brown eyes & goatee, He enjoys spending time with family & friends, likes playing golf and surfing the net, and seeks a nice lady who has similar interests. **AD#1083**

LET'S TALK

Dave is 37 yrs old, slim and handsome, with brown hair, blue/grey eyes, and has a BA. He enjoys the outdoors, travelling, dining, and baseball He's a good conversationalist, and seeks a Jewish female between 32-38 yrs who is tall & attractive. If you like what your reading **AD#1158**

WILLING TO SETTLE

Alan is 42 yrs, 5' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes He's very active, enjoys exercise, boating and camping. He seeks an honest, generous, romantic, female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down He is honest & straight to the point **AD#1439**

NEW IN TOWN

Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love. **AD#1051**

A GENTLEMAN

A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

FRIENDLY FELLA

Martin, 48 yrs, is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets. He seeks a friendly good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well. Kids are okay. **AD#1206**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST

Jewish male, 46 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling. **AD#1438**

HONEST AND CARING

Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship **AD#1130**

COFFEE TALK

Hi, there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice and good looking - but the the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me. Let's talk over a cup of coffee. **AD#1224**

SHARING AND CARING

Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship. **AD#1340**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!

Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes. Exterior: Tall, handsome, good body. Interior: Compassionate, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink caddie, 1962-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded **AD#1252**

HEART OF GOLD

Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented. **AD#1177**

KIND & CUTE

46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile. Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating. Also seeking long term relationship. Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park. Kind and caring wants future family **AD#1095**

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Old clubs, old friends, old stories

By DAVID HIMELFARB
Special to The CJN

"Irv, is that you?"

You heard a lot of that at the Y All-Clubs Reunion held Oct. 22 at the Bathurst JCC's Leah Posluns Theatre. Before vigorously shaking hands, hugging or even choking back a tear, you had to be sure it was an old friend whom you hadn't seen for so many years.

The reunion was a celebration of 50 years (give or take a few) of friendships forged in high school and cemented through years of dating, softball, basketball, Crystal Beach, hi-jinks and socials (weren't we quaint?).

It was an after-school life that centred around being a member of the YMHA, first on Brunswick Avenue, then at a variety of downtown locations: 12 Major St., 44 St. George St., and as of 1953, the spanking new building at Bloor and Spadina, where practically every downtown Jewish boy belonged to a club.

For so many it was their home away from home.

With a few posters, a nutty invitation, lots of word-of-mouth and a timely article in *The CJN*, about 150 "Y Old Boys" showed up to eat, drink, jog their memories, renew acquaintances, tell wild stories and laugh.

Sure, their appearances have changed over the years, but it wasn't exactly the good, the bad and the ugly.

It was more like a scene you might find in Dr. Bernstein's waiting room. A few more pounds here, a few more pounds there, and more hair on faces than on heads. An ambitious wig-maker could have made a fortune.

Or as one wit was overheard to have said, "I feel like I'm at the reception from my big fat geek wedding."

Where did it all start? About five years ago some members of the Y's Club Kenton and Club Demaurie decided they still liked each other's company well enough to get the guys together for breakfast on the first Thursday of every month. Pretty soon word got out, and other old Y clubbers started showing up.

These were guys who were keen to renew friendships and relationships and to hold on to what they once had. Call it camaraderie, male bonding or whatever. They knew it made them feel good, and they wanted it back.

Spurred on by the impetus of Kenny Borden, Sonny Langer, Hy Himmel and Herbie Fruitman, a committee was soon formed to pull all the pieces together.

Back in a previous lifetime, Sonny had been a member of Club Kenton and later became a professional worker in the teen department at the Bloor Y. He had maintained contact with many of his old friends so it was relatively easy for him to put the word out. And it spread like wildfire.

An event of this nature had been talked about for some time, but this time, perhaps inspired by the life and recent death of Murray "Squirt" Tonken, the committee was determined to bring it to fruition.

"Squirt" was a mainstay of the old Y scene who did everything from organizing sporting events to running the now legendary Sunday night dances. A special tribute was paid to him at the reunion and the entire evening was dedicated to his memory.

It was an event that had to happen, and boy, did it ever. They started showing up at 6:00 p.m. and they kept coming and coming.

It began with polite hand-shaking, then looks of bewilderment and finally smiles as some looked in awe at their old friends. Many hadn't seen each other in more than 30 years. They spent the next few hours trying to erase those intervening years. It was like a walk along College Street again.

After the shmoozefest, they all sat down at their respective club tables to enjoy a delicious buffet dinner catered by Sonny Langer (it's good to have a friend in the food business), with an open bar conducive to jogging sweet memories.

Some wonderful entertainment was supplied by story teller Jack Gelman, Jerry Gray of the Travellers, and Irv Pancer. Even if you'd heard some of Pancer's jokes before, his uncanny delivery made you laugh all over again.

Everyone received a commemorative T-shirt to remember the evening, whose proceeds are being donated to the Bathurst JCC.

And it was agreed not to wait another 50 years to do it again.

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Haifa stuns Manchester United in Champions League play

By ORI LEWIS
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

NICOSIA, Cyprus — Maccabi Haifa last week recorded perhaps the greatest-ever result by an Israeli team in European competition by beating the mighty Manchester United 3-0 in the Champions League at a Haifa home game played in Cyprus.

Having already assured themselves of winning the group, United fielded a depleted lineup still hoping to maintain their unbeaten record, but they came unstuck against a Haifa side that played with passion and commitment and fully deserved to win.

Haifa, who were thrashed 5-2 by United in their first meeting at Old Trafford in September, gave their travelling army of supporters, an estimated 10,000 fans who flew and boated to Cyprus, plenty to cheer about.

If their debut in the Champions League at Old Trafford was hailed at the time as an historic chapter in the annals of Israeli soccer, the performance last week made the joy complete and made worthwhile the expense of travelling to Cyprus for home matches. (Israel is prevented from hosting international games due to the security situation in the country.)

Haifa looked like the much better team for the entire match, while United appeared to slow the pace sometimes looking as if they playing a practice game.

The first half was played with Haifa giving all it had against a team that was a pale imitation of the one that 12,000 United fans (almost all from Cyprus) had come to see, even if the club's superstars were missing.

Haifa held the majority of the possession and threatened more than their opponents, but it was United who had the first credible attempt at goal, when Paul Scholes shot from outside the area, forcing Dudu Awate to parry the ball for a corner.

While other flawed attempts by United players either ended up with weak or wide shots, Haifa tried to build moves, mainly through Giovanni Rosso, who created several dangerous situations that lacked a finishing touch.

But Haifa finally got their just reward when after a scramble, the ball fell loose for Yaniv Katan, who shook off John O'Shea and shot from 20 metres went high into the back of goalie Ricardo Lopez Felipe's net.

The second half started tamely, although Haifa, knowing that one goal would surely not be enough, continued to pressure United all over the field.

Their tactic paid dividends when defensive midfielder Raimondas Zutautas blasted a 25-metre shot from in front of the goal, leaving Ricardo no chance. It was almost a repeat of Katan's goal, but from even longer range.

The third goal, which completed the rout, came from an Yakoubu Ayegbeni penalty in the 77th minute after Zutautas had been brought down by Ricardo.

After the game, United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said Haifa was a worthy winner. "Two tremendous strikes that came out of nowhere, and they won it. After their second, they sat back behind the ball, played the counter-attack and made it very difficult for us."

United played without England captain David Beckham and countryman Nicky Butt, Argentina's Juan Sebastian Veron, Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, Welsh winger Ryan Giggs, French stars Fabien Barthez and Laurent Blanc and Irishman Roy Keane.

FLIP OVER FOR ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD.

Recommended Reading

FICTION

• ***In the Image***, by Dara Horn, W.W. Norton & Co., $35.99, SC.

This intriguing, beautifully written narrative, which at times makes use of biblical literary style, follows the lives of a young, American-Jewish woman and an elderly Jewish grandfather, tracing his family experiences back a few generations to 19th-century Europe.

• ***Three Daughters***, by Letty Cottin Pogrebin, Farrar, Straus and Giroux, $49.99, HC.

Three profoundly different, middle-aged sisters struggle to come to terms with their dysfunctional family history. An engaging, insightful novel, not lacking in humour.

NON-FICTION

• **The Fourth Commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day**, by Francine Klagsbrun, Harmony Books, $36.00, HC.

"Written with her usual warmth and evocative talent, Francine Klagsbrun offers in these ancient tales and personal memories an insight into the enchanting world of the Sabbath, a sacred time filled with song and serenity." – Elie Wiesel

• ***The Woman Who Defied Kings: The Life and Times of Dona Gracia Nasi***, by Andree Aelion Brooks, Paragon House, $46.50, HC.

A fascinating biography of one of the greatest Jewish women ever, who used her wealth, connections and business acumen for the benefit of her people. Also interesting in its description of the Renaissance period.

• ***Four Hundred Brothers and Sisters***, by Judy Gordon, Lugus, $25.00, SC.

The first recorded history of two wonderful Jewish orphanages in Montreal, 1909-1942. Includes photographs, reproduced documents and interviews with former residents who candidly describe their lives both during that time and afterward. (Royalties go to Montreal's Jewish Family Services.)

YOUTH

Ages 8 and up

• ***Invisible Kingdoms: Jewish Tales of Angels, Spirits, and Demons***, retold by Howard Schwartz, HarperCollins, $25.99, HC.

A stunning, enjoyable collection of mystical tales spanning many centuries with diverse cultural origins. Brilliant illustrations by Stephen Fieser.

Ages 7-10

• ***Snow in Jerusalem***, by Deborah da Costa, Albert Whitman & Company, $26.95, HC.

This beautiful, touching story, with lovely illustrations, is about two boys in Jerusalem, one Jewish and one Arab, who share a beloved cat.

Ages 7 and up

• Menorah in the Night Sky, by Jacques J.M. Shore, Gefen Publishing House, $24.95, HC.

Two young boys do their best to celebrate Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, during the darkest of times. A gentle, moving story of hope and survival.

Ages 5-9

• ***Chanukah on the Prairie***, by Burt E. Schuman, UAHC Press, $21.95, HC.

This heartwarming story, based upon true events, introduces the reader to a piece of little-known American Jewish history, the immigration of eastern European Jews to the American West.

Ages 2-6

• ***The Hanukkah Mice***, by Ronne Randall, Chronicle Books, $25.95, HC.

An absolutely adorable flap-up book about the holiday celebration, with gorgeous illustrations by Maggie Kneen.

Recommended Reading appears monthly and is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

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Honey Roasted Holiday Mix

6 cups popped popcorn
1 (5 oz.) can wide chow mein noodles
1 cup honey roasted peanuts
5 tblsp. butter
3 tblsp. sugar
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 tsp. cinnamon

In large roasting pan, mix popcorn and chow mein noodles.

Melt butter and sugar together, stir in vanilla and cinnamon. Pour over popcorn, toss to coat.

Bake at 250°F for 1 hour, stirring every 20 minutes.

Add nuts, spread on waxed paper or parchment paper to cool. Store airtight. Makes 11 cups.

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About Teens

Dear Karilani,

I recently got a part-time job at a store in the mall near my house. I enjoy working, and I like the other employees, but I am having some problems with my boss. He is not giving me as many hours as the other staff, and he is constantly scheduling mandatory meetings and not paying us for them. This is my first job, so I do not know how managers are supposed to treat their employees, but I don't feel I am being treated fairly. What do you think I should do?

Troubled Employee

Dear Troubled Employee,

What you are experiencing is a very common problem. Unfortunately, many teenagers are unaware of their rights, and because of that employers sometimes take advantage of them.

Try talking to your boss. Tell him how you feel and ask him to explain the way he runs the store. Often, more workers then needed are hired, and the result is that some people must work fewer hours than others. There may be reasons behind his behaviour that you are unaware of. As with anyone else, you should discuss your problems with him before coming to any conclusions.

It is also important that you do your research. Contact your provincial labour board or ministry of labour and tell them your concerns. They will be able to provide you with the laws and regulations that your boss must follow. If you feel he is violating any of them, present him with the information you have learned. Being educated is the key to getting him to take you seriously.

If you still have doubts about your job, it may not be the best thing for you right now. Working is supposed to be a learning experience, not the source of suffering. Maybe right now it's best to focus on school and not worry about a job. Or, it may be time apply elsewhere. Either way, this job was not a wasted experience. You have learned valuable lessons and have one more thing to add to your résumé.

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

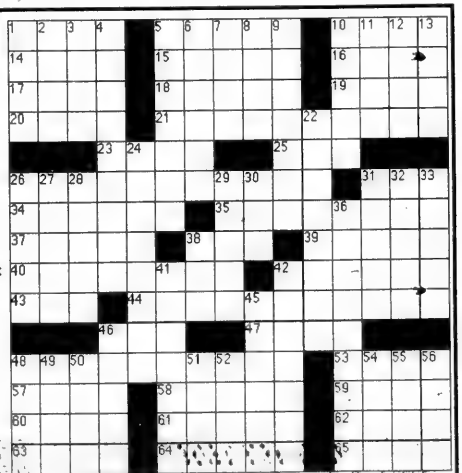
The Canadian Jewish News

(Answers to the crossword are on page 58.)

Jewish North America
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. First herdsman
5. Houston athlete
10. Load freight
14. Roman senator
15. Work
16. Region
17. Warm
18. Hebrew girl's name, meaning 'oak'
19. Mineo and hepatica
20. The Jews of Queens live on one
21. Mountain realm (second word shortened)
23. Pad Phak ____, Thai stir fry
25. ____ femmes
26. Building girder
31. Snooze
34. List of mistakes
35. Gallium ____, used in lasers
37. Iranian language
38. Ave.
39. Region on west of Asia Minor
40. Where one can buy chilled Lipton's?
42. Northern coastal diving duck
43. Antiepilepsy drug (acronym)
44. Calgary synagogue?
46. Army unit's duty, for short
47. Descriptor for morays
48. 92nd _____, in New York
53. British hit singer ____ Lovich
57. Sexual lit.
58. Hebrew for interdiction
59. Hebrew girl's name, meaning 'light'
60. What a marine worm lives in
61. "_____ only!", limited offer pitch
62. "It'll take a week ___", says mechanic
63. Giggle words
64. Danish mannequin artist ____ Jarner
65. Greek letters

Down
1. Part of Hamlet with ghost
2. Words with humbugs
3. And others
4. _____ side, part of NYC
5. Where Birmingham Jews live
6. Woman slayer, in opera
7. Mountain in Israel, abbreviated
8. Reagan and McDonald, for short
9. Seers
10. Perseveres
11. Middle East resident
12. Purvey
13. In N. America, we face ____
22. Regarding exceptional courage
24. The last possible step or stage
26. Photographic print option
27. Follow footsteps
28. Made a mistake
29. Not glossy
30. Shivering sound
31. The inning that counts
32. Farewell, in France
33. Daniel _____, z"l
36. Gallows rope, redundantly
38. Belgrade resid.
41. "_____ and Heaven, Too"
42. One of those clams, taking the heat
45. Finishes the bottom of a skirt again
46. Pistol ____ and namesakes
48. Son of Noah
49. Amiti, in English (honest!)
50. Wear this after the bath
51. Fabled Himalayan beast
52. Take them to let doctors see inside
54. Goofs
55. Court decree ____
56. World War II zone, and the like



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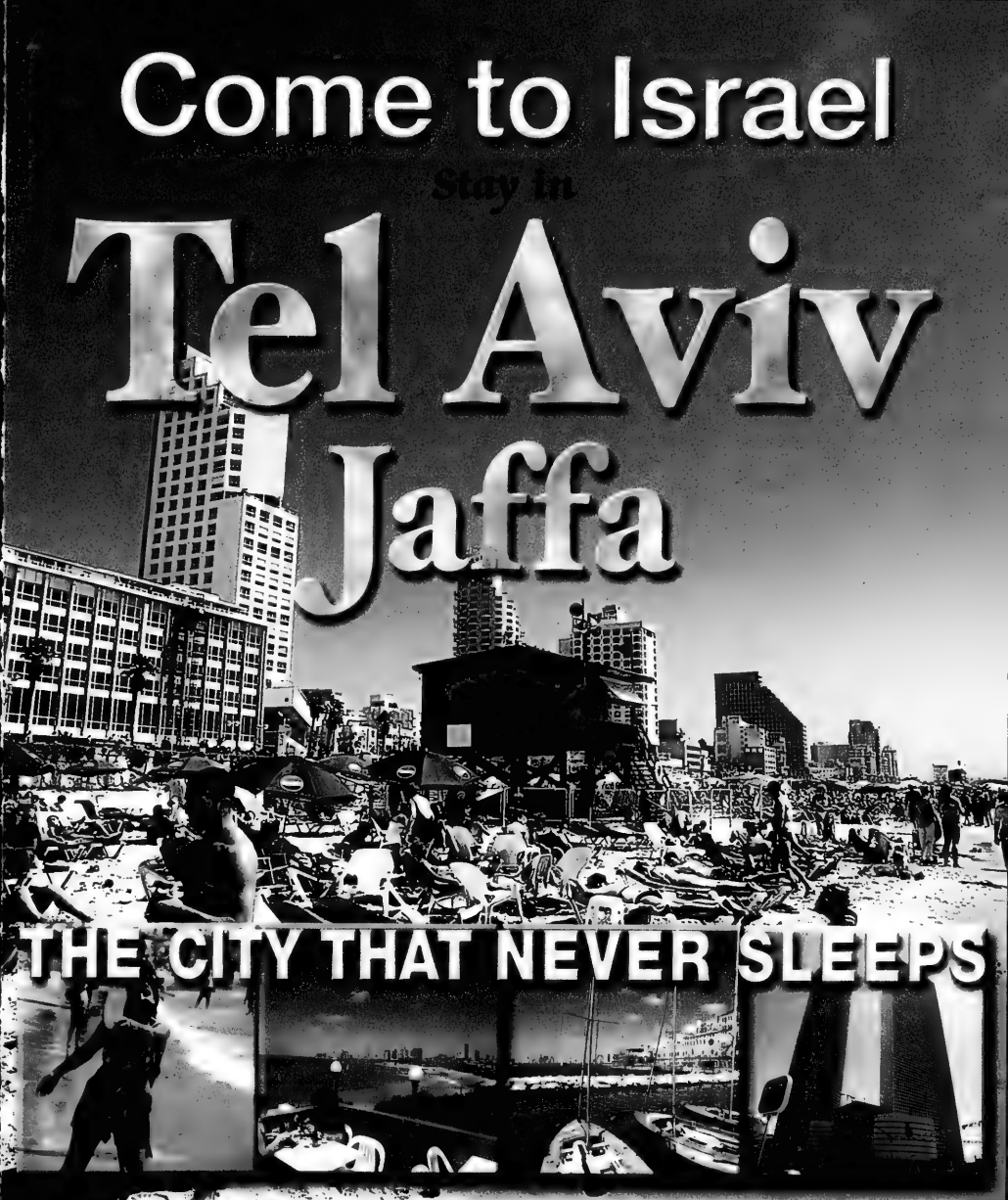

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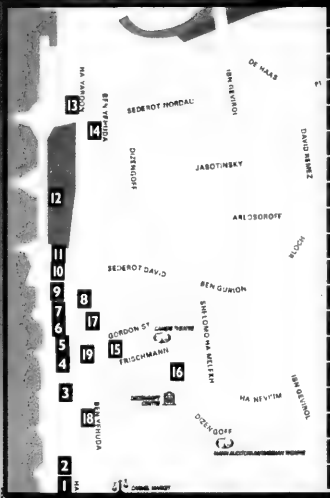

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2. David Inter-Continental
3. Dan Tel-Aviv
4. Prima Astor
5. Sheraton Tel-Aviv
6. Renaissance Tel-Aviv
7. Crowne Plaza
8. Basel
9. Sheraton Moriah
10. Mercure Marina
11. Carlton Hotel
12. Hilton Tel-Aviv
13. Tal Hotel
14. Grand Beach
15. Top Hotel
16. Center Hotel
17. Grand Deborah
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19. City Hotel

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Extra Night	83

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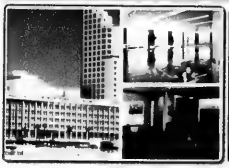
For Single Add	380
Extra Night	83

Sheraton City Tower

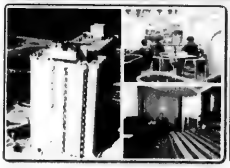
Double	1759
For Single Add	510
Extra Night	110

Dan Hotel / DanTours Select



Double	1789
For Single Add	540
Extra Night	128

Dan Panorama



Double	1545
For Single Add	310
Extra Night	73

Intercontinental

Double	1759
For Single Add	420
Extra Night	91

Metropolitan

Double	1435
For Single Add	180
Extra Night	39

Prices will publish periodically and advertised in the Jewish Newspapers, or call us for details. All prices are based on ELAL flights and are valid: Nov. 1-Dec. 13, 2002 and Dec. 25-Feb. 28, 2003. Other Tel Aviv hotels not listed in this flyer participate in this program - please call us for details.

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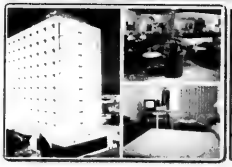

Double	1449
For Single Add	230
Extra Night	49

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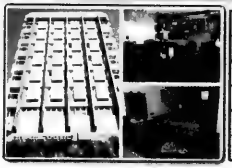


Double	1429
For Single Add	216
Extra Night	46

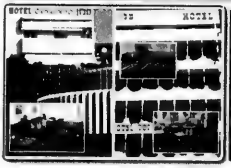
Basel

Double	1499
For Single Add	240
Extra Night	51

Sharon Herzliya / DanTours Select

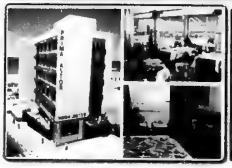
Double	1569
For Single Add	210
Extra Night	46

Center/Top



Double	1389
For Single Add	176
Extra Night	38

Prima Astor



Double	1419
For Single Add	190
Extra Night	41

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The Canadian Jewish news

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This Week

National

Canada's policy on funding Hezbollah draws fire.
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Businessman provides clothing for the homeless.
Page 6

Party Planner

Milestones: Celebrate a bar or bat mitzvah in Israel.
Section B

Arts & Travel

Bea Arthur brings her sharp wit to the stage. *Page 43*

Health & Lifestyles

Anti-Semitism is a big fear among Jewish women.
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Cranes over the Hula Valley

Tens of thousands of cranes arrived last week at the Hula Valley in northern Israel during their annual migration away from the harsh winter in Europe. Some of the birds fly on to Africa, but most remain in the Hula and return to Europe at the end of the winter. *[Israel Sun photo]*

First Nations and Inuit tour Israel

'From the Land of the North Star to the Land of the Star of David.'

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Four years ago, Rev. Roger Armbruster was addressing a Christian conference in the capital of the new territory of Nunavut in the north.

"I mentioned I would like to see some Inuit people visiting Israel," recalls the freelance minister, who is part of the evangelical Fellowship of Christian Assemblies. "There was a lot of enthusiasm, so we began organizing."

Since then, Rev. Armbruster, who is based in southern Manitoba, has led three Inuit tour groups to Israel and has a fourth scheduled to go in January.

He says the Inuit are not your regular North American Christian tourists, because they are not as interested in visiting religious shrines as they are in getting a feel for the land and the people.

Among the stops on the upcoming 10-day tour will be nature parks, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea, Mount Carmel and a Bedouin community. The group will also spend several days in Jerusalem, which will include meetings with government officials and representatives of the mayor's office.

Continued on page 32

A delegation of First Nations and Inuit stand in front of the Israeli Knesset last month.

Shabbat: Vayetze
Candlelighting: 4:35
Havdallah: 5:40

Greater Toronto Area

1836 today News week.

Zimbabwe's Jews considering aliyah — please see page 40

The News in Brief

CANADA

Project Hope

WINNIPEG — Nearly two dozen Christian clergymen and Jewish community officials were briefed recently about the efforts of Bridges for Peace to help Jews in the Former Soviet Union (FSU). Bridges for Peace, which promotes good relations between Christians and Jews, provides free services for needy Jews across the FSU, said Stanislaw Gawel, a minister and administrator of the organization's Project Hope program, which provides the Jewish poor with electric heaters, wood or coal for winter.

Hezbollah in Canada

OTTAWA — Opposition foreign affairs critic Stockwell Day slammed Foreign Minister Bill Graham for being "wrong again" about Hezbollah's legal status in Canada. In a news release, Day said the minister claimed in parliament that Hezbollah's military wing was "banned." However, Day said, "it is not a crime to recruit, organize or train for any branch of Hezbollah. While the government can confiscate the assets of the so-called military wing, the terrorist group is free to raise funds under the auspices of its political branch."

* * *

KINGSTON — Lt.-Col. Bob Chamberlain, a former military attache who was once kidnapped in the Middle East by members of Hezbollah, says Hezbollah is a terrorist organization and Canada's decision to separate its military and political sides makes no sense.

Holocaust Education

HAMILTON — UJA Federation of Hamilton will participate in the Asper Foundation Holocaust and Human Rights Studies Program for students in grades 9, 10 and 11. The program includes an 18-hour educational component and a visit to the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. followed by community volunteer work.

Realtor Mourned

TORONTO — Hundreds of mourners gathered at Temple Har Zion to pay their respects to Lisa Posluns, a 38-year-old realtor who was found stabbed to death in her Yorkville office building last week. Posluns was remembered by her sister, Helen, as a woman possessing great strength and "an impeccable code of ethics."

Submissions Sought

TORONTO — *Gam Yachad*, a new literary journal spearheaded by University of Toronto student Jason Rotstein as a response to the crisis in Israel, is issuing a final call for contributions to its first issue. Essays, drawings, poems, short stories and photos by Canadian Jewish youth (age 16 to 24) are welcome. Submissions, due by Dec. 1, should be sent to: gamyachad@yahoo.ca.

ISRAEL

Burial Box

JERUSALEM — The Israeli owner of a burial box believed to hold the remains of James, the brother of Jesus, is under investigation for allegedly acquiring the ossuary illegally. Oded Golan is suspected of illegally purchasing the burial box. According to the Antiquities Law, any artifact discovered or found in Israel after 1978 is state property.

WORLD

Senate Minyan

WASHINGTON — The Jewish presence in Congress has grown to 11 senators and 26 representatives, up from 10 senators and 27 representatives. In the House of Representatives, one new Jewish face emerged after Tuesday's mid-term elections – Rahm Emanuel, the former Clinton adviser. Emanuel will join Eric Cantor of Virginia, a staunch conservative and the only Jewish Republican left in the House.

In the race for the Senate, Democrat Frank Lautenberg won in New Jersey while the one Jewish senator up for re-election – Carl Levin of Michigan – was re-elected easily. With the victory of Norm Coleman in Minnesota over former vice-president Walter Mondale, the Senate's minyan grew to 11.

The Jewish incumbents in the Senate are Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), Russell Feingold (D-Wisc.), Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Herb Kohl (D-Wisc.), Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.), Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.), Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) and Ron Wyden (D-Ore.)

JDL's Rubin Dies

LOS ANGELES — A jailed leader of the Jewish Defence League was declared brain dead after making what police described as a suicide attempt. Authorities said Irv Rubin used a razor to slit his neck and throat and then fell or jumped from a prison balcony as he and other inmates lined up for breakfast. The incident occurred hours before he was scheduled to appear in court for a hearing in his case.

Rubin was arrested in December 2001 for conspiring to bomb a mosque and an Arab American representative's office in Los Angeles.

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Books and Buttons

TORONTO — Stop the Homicide buttons produced by Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region (CJC), the National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section (NCJW/T) and Jewish CUPE locals are being distributed to local Jewish book and gift stores.

The proceeds of the sales will be donated to the David Rosenzweig Memorial Fund for Victims of Terror.

Janice Landy, president of NCJW/T said, "While we are pleased to see the support of the Jewish book stores, we look forward to other book stores taking up the cause and joining us in distributing this button."

Lil Nobel, president of CUPE local 2063, which represents employees at UJA Federation, CJC Ontario and Jewish Immigration Aid Services said that "many of us were hurt and disappointed when CUPE Ontario endorsed what I can only describe as an appalling resolution against Israel. This is a small attempt to demonstrate that members from our locals stand in solidarity with our Israeli brothers and sisters."

The Canadian Jewish news

Vol. XXXII, No. 45 (1,572)*

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Canada's policy on funding Hezbollah draws fire

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz plans to participate in academic conferences in Israel at least twice in the next few months, he told a capacity crowd last week.

UJA campaign closes

"Going to visit Israel during these times of crisis is crucial," he said in an impassioned speech at the Sheraton Centre Hotel, where more than 2,200 people had gathered for the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's annual campaign closing.

For those who have considered making aliyah, Dershowitz said, "Israel has never needed your support more than now."

He urged audience members, who were celebrating a record campaign of $67 million – a significant percentage of which supports social service needs in Israel – to continue their support of the Jewish state (this year's campaign total was $16.5 million higher than last year, representing the third largest of its kind in North America), to pressure the Canadian government, write letters to the editor, train young people to become politically involved and to educate non-Jewish friends and neighbours.

Alan Dershowitz

"You are entitled as a matter of absolute morality to speak your mind and tell your government the truth," he said.

Dershowitz clarified that he is in favour of a Palestinian state – not in response to terrorism, but rather after leaders take steps to end terrorism.

It's a myth that the root cause of terrorism is desperation and frustration, said Dershowitz. The root cause of terrorism is its success in the eyes of the terrorists, he said, reiterating the thesis of his new book, *Why Terrorism Works* (Yale University Press).

According to Dershowitz, Palestinian terrorism has been "a paradigm of moderate success. There is no Palestinian state, but everyone in the world knows about the Palestinian cause."

Although there is much poverty and desperation in the world, only a small number of people have been willing to resort to terrorism, he noted, adding that although such circumstances may add to the pool of potential terrorists, the phenomenon is "top-down" (that is, driven by leaders) rather than "bottom-up."

Europe and, to some extent, Canada have rewarded terrorism, he said.

Dershowitz criticized the Canadian government for "naively [believing] it can distinguish between money that will go to the good causes of Hezbollah and the bad ones…

"Listen to the statement of your own foreign minister," he exhorted, referring to Bill Graham's recent justifications of Canada's policy of allowing the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah's to raise funds here for its "innocent doctors, teachers and other people."

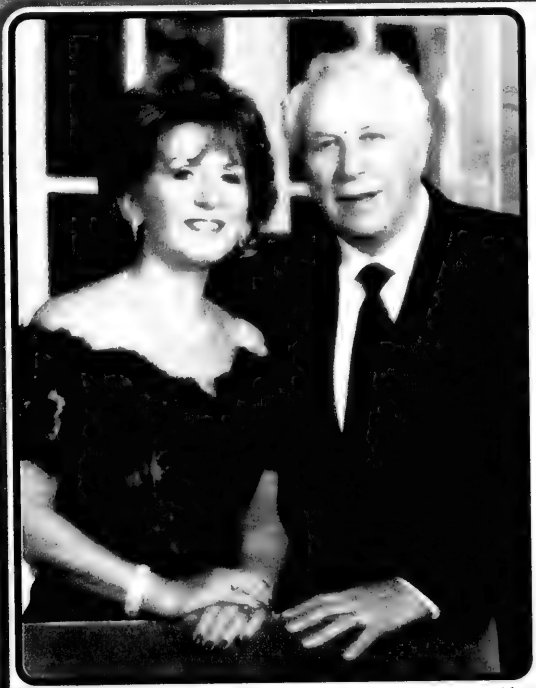
"Has he no knowledge of history? Does he not recall that the Nazi party had teachers, doctors, lawyers, and that they did, in fact, help to prevent inflation? Does he not remember that [Josef] Stalin provided some social relief to poverty?

"Your foreign minister is on the wrong side of history, the wrong side of morality and the wrong side of experience."

There is one area in which Canada's government has acted better than his own, said Dershowitz, referring to Graham's criticism of the new American law that requires Canadian citizens born in Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan or Syria to be photographed, fingerprinted and registered when they enter the United States.

Dershowitz says profiling is fine, but not on a racial, ethnic or national basis. He said better criteria would include a person's travel record, criminal record and statements in support of terrorism.

Continued on page 6



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A visit to Germany

From the editor's desk

In the late summer of 1945, my parents found themselves in Germany. They were displaced persons, refugees without a home, stateless, part of the pitiful remnant of eastern European Jewry, the one-out-of-10 Jews of Poland who had survived the long horrible night of Adolph Hitler's National Socialism.

In an irony so cruel it bordered on the surreal, they and some 200,000 other displaced persons were sent, after the war, to live in the very country and among the very people who had convulsed Europe in a six-year miasma of murder and mayhem, who had engineered the most singularly evil and efficient killing machine ever devised in human history, who had caused the destruction of European Jewry and the slaughter of one third of the total number of Jews then on earth.

Some 57 years after my parents' temporary shelter in Germany and some 54 years after they built their permanent home in Canada, I was invited to visit the Germany that has evolved since then and, in particular, the Jewish community newly burgeoning there.

It was not an invitation I had anticipated; it was not an invitation I handled easily. Like many of my peers, I had never thought to visit Germany; nor, frankly, had I wanted to.

After considerable soul-searching, however, I set aside my qualms and accepted the invitation. There was simply too much Jewish history there.

At the end of October, I returned from a seven-day visit sponsored by the Goethe Institut, Inter Nationes and the Press and Information Office of the Federal Government of Germany.

Over the next few weeks, I shall record some of my observations from that visit.

* * *

Germany is one of the few Diaspora communities, along with Canada and Australia, that is actually growing in size. Of the approximately 200,000 displaced persons who wound up there after the war, some 15,000 remained, too infirm or too lacking in skills to be wanted by any other country, and unable, for whatever reason, to find their way after 1948, to the then-nascent Israel.

These 15,000 Jews were the nucleus of the community that eventually evolved. A decade after the end of the war, some 30,000 Jews lived in western Germany, a figure that remained more or less the same until the beginning of the 1990s. But by the end of the decade, with the collapse of the Iron Curtain and the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, more than 70,000 Jews had moved to Germany from the FSU.

In Berlin, to find out more about the "new" Jewish community of Germany, I met with Stephen Kramer, the managing director of the *Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland*, the Central Council of the Jews in Germany.

The Zentralrat is "the head political, umbrella organization that lobbies government at the federal level on behalf of Jewish interests," Kramer explained.

Kramer is the chief civil servant of the Central Council, much younger than I had imagined he would be, a stout, energetic, mid-30s Jewish bureaucrat, whose spoken English was perfected in the United States.

His office is located in the Leo Baeck House near the famous synagogue on Oranienburgerstrasse. It is on the second floor of the meticulously-crafted, high-ceilinged, elegantly appointed old stone building. Like every other Jewish institution in Berlin, it is heavily guarded outside by the police and carefully protected inside by private security.

In Germany, Jews live in 90 Jewish communities throughout the 16 states of the federation.

Unlike anything we are used to in North America, Jews who wish to affiliate with their community must register with the state government, which then deducts a payroll tax for denominational purposes (*Kultesteuer*) and which is then remitted back by the state government to the synagogue or community centre with which the taxpayer is affiliated.

But this payroll tax yields far too little monies to accommodate the surging needs of Germany's overall Jewish community that has grown threefold in the last 10 years. Moreover, Kramer estimates, about 30,000 additional Jews living Germany are not registered with any local councils. This swells the demand for communal services without adding concomitant revenue to help pay for those services. One of Kramer's key tasks, therefore, is to find new sources of funds to help bridge that gaping revenue gap.

The young bureaucrat spoke quickly, in near-staccato cadence, pouring information into our discussion. When asked to identify the most pressing challenges facing Germany's Jews, Kramer chose three:

- The absorption and integration of Jewish immigrants from the FSU – amore than 10,000 are arriving each year – into the established Jewish and broader community of Germany.
- Waging the fight against xenophobia and anti-Semitism "which includes dealing with the change in generations among politicians and in their attitudes of looking upon historical events in Germany before 1945."
- Defining Jewish identity in Germany: enabling Jews to find a way back to their roots.

"The 90 communities in which Jews live are served by only 28 rabbis," Kramer said. "We are starting to lose our own roots. And this is wholly inadequate and quite problematic. Since we are Jews living here, not immediately planning to leave the country, somehow trying to build a future, what do we need and what do we want to do for our local Jewish institutions?"

That question was the key challenge on Kramer's agenda. It also steered my personal search throughout my seven-day visit.

—MBD

SeeJN

REMEMBRANCE DAY:
In honour of Remembrance Day, Sam Romberg, president of the General Wingate Branch 256 of the Royal Canadian Legion, spoke with the Grade 6 students of Bialik Hebrew Day School, sharing his experiences as a Jewish World War II veteran in France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Iraq not perceived as a serious threat to Israel

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Iraq probably does not possess the operational ability to launch conventional or non-conventional attacks against Israel, the former chief instructor of the Israeli army's Command and Staff College claims.

Holocaust Education Week

In an interview, Yaen Vered said that even if Iraq's missiles penetrate Israel's air space, they would not inflict great harm.

He also speculated that Iraq may attempt to strike Israel preemptively if it is convinced that an American invasion is in the offing.

A colonel in the reserves, Vered was brought to Toronto by Holocaust Education Week to deliver a lecture about the current situation in the Middle East.

His topic was Killing by Gas – The Threat to Israel.

Currently a senior Jewish National Fund official based in Tel Aviv, Vered said that Israel can theoretically block an Iraqi conventional assault.

"No problem. Iraqi mothers will cry," he declared, referring to the casualties Israel could impose on an Iraqi attacking force.

Vered, the JNF's representative in British Columbia from 1981 to 1985, said that Israel will not "stand aside" should Iraqi Scuds fall on Israel.

"We won't let the U.S. play with our lives."

During the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq fired 39 missiles at Israeli cities. Israel abided by a U.S. request to exercise restraint, and did not retaliate.

If the Israeli government is certain that an Iraqi attack is imminent, he said, Israel may try to knock out Iraq's missile bases in western Iraq.

In all certainty, he noted, the United States would itself attempt to neutralize these bases at the start of a military campaign designed to unseat Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his Ba'athist government.

Yaen Vered

Israel's newly developed battery of Arrow missiles, which he described as "the best in the world," can likely shield the country from an Iraqi missile onslaught.

Still, Vered acknowledged, there is an element of uncertainty in the equation, and Iraq is capable of causing as much property damage today as it did in 1991.

In his view, the United States has no alternative but to oust the Iraqi regime. "Saddam Hussein should go. The whole region, including Israel, would benefit."

He has no idea when Washington will launch a war.

"Since the destruction of the temple, prophecy is given to fools."

Vered accused Iraq of terrorizing Israel by virtue of its backing of radical Palestinian groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Turning to a related subject, Vered said that the main target of Islamic fundamentalists is the United States. "They want to erase everything Western."

But Israel is in their cross hairs, too.

Vered, who spoke to Chabad Lubavitch in Thornhill last week, said the current Palestinian uprising cannot be subdued militarily.

Ultimately, Israel and the Palestinians can only resolve their conflict politically.

"I don't see any other solution but a two-state solution," he said.

Asked to comment on the possibility that Hezbollah may open a front against Israel in the event of a war in Iraq, Vered said that it hinges on Syria's consent.

For more on Holocaust Education Week, please see pages 12, 15, 26

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Mother of two sheds 20 pounds with hypnosis and says:

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My name is Nancy Greenberg. I own my own New York style deli. I have been married to my husband, Arnie, for seventeen years. I have two children, Hailey and Harrison (who is having his Bar Mitzvah soon!) I dropped 20 lbs. of fat in 6 weeks. My story is so remarkable. I would like to share it with you.

"I avoided going out and dressed in tent dresses"
Nancy Greenberg before shedding 20 lbs.

For an entire year, I avoided going out. I dreaded parties and wore tent dresses. I was suffering mentally. I couldn't get over having failed to control my eating.

Dieting Failures. I had tried all the fad diets. I ate only protein and counted points. I was simply too stressed out. My weight always came back. I was tired of counting calories and knowing how many ounces I was eating. I own a restaurant and it was painful to sit and watch everyone else eat all that mouthwatering food.

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Nancy Greenberg after Hypnosis

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Businessman provides clothing for the homeless

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Coat manufacturer Paul Lindzon has made it his mission to help the homeless survive winter on Toronto's streets.

Lindzon, who is the chief executive officer of ITA Ltd., a manufacturer of shearling coats, and also the vice-president of Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee, is teaming up his company with Ve'ahavta to distribute ITA's sheepskin gloves to the homeless.

Lindzon says he believes he has a responsibility to "give back to the community both personally and corporately – to give back money, time and product."

A fashion fundraiser on Wednesday, Nov. 20, at the York Event Theatre, called Starry Knights, will raise money for Ve'ahavta's new daytime van program, part of the organization's Mobile Jewish Response to the Homeless.

Organizers hope the first annual kosher dinner, fashion show and silent auction will raise $100,000.

Ve'ahavta, which in Hebrew means "and you shall love," is a registered non-profit organization established in 1996. Its Mobile Jewish Response works in partnership with Na-Me-Res' (Native Men's Residence) Street Help Outreach Program to finance and staff a van that travels the city's streets two nights a week to provide the homeless with warm clothing, personal hygiene products and food.

Lindzon got involved with Ve'ahavta after he went with his 13-year-old son, Jared, on one of the Street Help vans.

Paul Lindzon

"My son and I were both very impressed with the work the volunteers were doing," says Lindzon.

Initially, volunteers for Ve'ahavta went out in the Street Help vans one night a week. (The Street Help Outreach Program has been in existence since 1995.) Today, Ve'ahavta's Mobile Jewish Response has expanded and now has its own van that goes out during the daytime three days a week.

Lindzon says Ve'ahavta is the first Canadian Jewish organization to go directly to the front lines to deliver these essentials right on the street. Last year, the Mobile Jewish Response's staff moved more than 400 homeless from the street, into "self-sufficiency" and "a better way of life," he says.

"This work gives me a feeling of fulfilment," says Lindzon. "You can't help the homeless solve their problems, but you can help them make it a little easier."

After he got his family and staff involved with Ve'ahavta, Lindzon turned to the fashion industry to raise money for, and awareness of, the organization.

Two years ago, he started the Shear Warmth project as part of ITA, asking other members of the fashion industry to donate coats, blankets, sleeping bags, mittens, socks and personal hygiene products to the homeless.

The Starry Knights fashion show, hosted by Susan Hay of Global Television's *Heart of the City*, will include clothes by 10 designers.

To reserve or volunteer for Starry Knights, call 1-800-265-4363 or visit www.shearwarmth.com. For more information on Ve'ahavta, visit www.veahavta.org.

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Photo of Original London Cast by Catherine Ashmore

Dershowitz favours national identity cards

Continued from page 3

It is "incredibly important" for Canada and the United States to work together because of their large border, he said at a press conference preceding the event.

The Sept. 11 attacks changed Dershowitz's thinking on the use of national identity cards. He said he is now in favour of them. "That does not violate a right of privacy. It might compromise a right of anonymity, [but] I'm prepared to compromise with that liberty."

The use of such cards would also make racial profiling "less necessary," he said. "So I think that actually helps civil liberties."

War crimes program update: more of the same

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) has released its fifth annual report on Canada's war crimes program, but there is very little in it to distinguish the government's efforts against Nazi-era war criminals from those of the year before.

The Department of Justice's war crimes unit launched one additional case in 2001-2002 when it began citizenship revocation and extradition proceedings against Vancouver resident Michael Seifert. In November 2000, Seifert was found guilty by an Italian military tribunal of war crimes, including murder and torture, committed while he was a guard at a German police transit camp in northern Italy.

Other than the Seifert case, no new alleged war criminals were brought before the courts.

"The stuff is moving at a glacial pace," said Jack Silverstone, executive vice-president and legal counsel for Canadian Jewish Congress. "The legal processes are continuing; it's a very protracted process."

The report, which is available on the Internet at www.cic.gc.ca/english/pub/war2002/index.html, repeats the longstanding federal government position that "the policy of the Canadian government is unequivocal that Canada is not and will not become a safe haven for persons who have committed war crimes, crimes against humanity or other reprehensible acts regardless of when or where they were committed."

The report states 18 World War II-era cases have been launched since 1995, of which 11 have been concluded and seven remain in the litigation phase. The report also addresses concerns about the relevance of the war crimes program.

In recent months, federal spokespeople have denied reports that lawmakers were considering eliminating the Nazi-era program. The report states that "despite the increasing difficulty in pursuing World War II cases, there is no strong rationale at this point in time for either eliminating or formally reducing the priority of the WW II component of the program. As activity levels decrease, resources can be transferred to the ongoing modern investigations."

The report notes that Canada has ratified the International Criminal Court (ICC) Statute and was the first country to introduce legislation (the Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act) to incorporate the treaty's provisions into domestic law.

Of the 18 Nazi-era cases, the report states, "eight had successful outcomes for the program in terms of either a successful decision at the Federal Court of Canada or a decision by the defendants not to contest the proceedings." Six defendants died during the proceedings and three cases are at various stages of the revocation process.

Silverstone said he was concerned by the paucity of new cases and the slow pace at which ongoing cases are proceeding. "We are constantly in touch with the ministers. We intend to meet with the ministers responsible [Justice and CIC] to make sure they have a full appreciation of this dossier."

Terry Beitner, director of the War Crimes Unit, said the unit "has work that is ongoing. There are matters pending and outstanding, but there were no new cases."

Beitner acknowledged that several years ago, "and especially after we had secured funding, we had set out an objective of commencing 14 cases… We commenced several, but not 14 as was originally anticipated."

Beitner said that once the files were examined more closely, only a few appeared to present "a reasonable prospect of winning the case." Recent proposals by the minister of immigration and citizenship to streamline denaturalization procedures by taking them out of the hands of cabinet and making them a purely judicial procedure could "save some time," he continued. "It certainly opens up the process and it would become more transparent."

While it would be difficult to predict how much time would be saved, "ballpark, I'm confident to say you could save a year or more," he said.

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Dry Bones
IN EVERY GENERATION THEY RISE UP AGAINST US!!
BUT EACH TIME WE SURVIVE TO CONTINUE OUR MARCH THROUGH HISTORY!
AND WHAT DOES THIS TEACH US?
THAT THE LORD ENJOYS A GOOD CLIFF-HANGER.

Indefensible policy

"It was not by cheer [sic] coincidence that Hezbollah turned into a struggle movement against the "Israeli" occupation. Because Hezbollah's ideological ideals sees [sic] no legitimacy for the existence of 'Israel,' a matter that elevates the contradictions to the level of existence. And the conflict becomes one of legitimacy that is based on religious ideals. The seed of resistance is also deep in the ideological beliefs of Hezbollah, a belief that found its way for expression against the Zionist occupation of Lebanon. And that is why we also find the slogan of the liberation of Jerusalem rooted deeply in the ideals of Hezbollah."

The preceding words appear on the English-language home page of the Hezbollah Web site. In the singularly tunnelled mindset that twists religion and hatred into violent liberation theology, they are both a declaration of faith and a declaration of war. Both are aimed at the Jewish state.

"Hezbollah's ideological ideals sees no legitimacy for the existence of 'Israel.'" Could any statement be more definitive? "The liberation of Jerusalem [is] rooted deeply in the ideals of Hezbollah." Could the aim of this "ideological, social, political and economical mixture" (also extracted from the Web site, but note there is no express inclusion of military into the "mixture") be more explicitly expressed? Is it not clear beyond any shred of a doubt that the aims and goals of the Hezbollah movement are to destroy Israel?

Yet, despite the overwhelming clarity of Hezbollah's own spokespeople and despite the fact that the Hezbollah itself does not bifurcate its movement into military and humanitarian arms, the Canadian government somehow finds it reasonable to do so for the purpose of allowing Canadian taxpayers to support the sending of domestically raised funds to the "humanitarian" arm of Hezbollah.

"We don't believe," said Foreign Minister Bill Graham last week, "it would be appropriate to label as terrorists innocent doctors, teachers and other people who are seeking to do charitable and other good works in their communities."

The minister's rationale is spurious. He draws a distinction without a difference in the face of the horrible truths about Hezbollah that mock him and the Canadian government.

Among those truths is the worrisome fact that Hezbollah has deployed more than 8,000 missiles – paid for by Iran and transported through Syria – along the southern Lebanese border with Israel. They are aimed at Israel's heartland. No doubt the missiles are a boost to the morale of some of those "doctors, teachers and other people who are seeking to do charitable and other good works" for Hezbollah. But should Canada help underwrite this deadly morale booster?

The government's policy is indefensible. It defies logic. And it evokes feelings of shame when one contrasts its permissive approach towards Hezbollah's so-called "humanitarian" arm with its punitive treatment of Canadian Friends of Magen David Adom, towards whom, remarkably, it shows no relenting in the campaign to strip the organization of its charitable status.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farhad Saleh, Dani (Hamid) Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

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Students passionate about Israel

In an article in *The CJN*'s Oct. 24 issue, "Defending Israel: Where are the Other Jewish Students?" York University student and Jewish Student Federation board member Miriam Levin poses two fundamental questions: How do we engage students and how can we foster greater Jewish involvement on campus? We sympathize with Levin's undoubtedly difficult experience and we commend her for her unwavering passion for Israel advocacy. But we cannot in sound judgment agree that her particular experience is reflective of that of the general Jewish student population at York. Now more than ever, Jewish students are passionate and enthused, active and vocal. They are making noise and ensuring Israel's voice is heard on campus.

Through the end of last year and throughout the summer, our student leadership worked to develop a plan for Israel advocacy on campus. It was decided that we must change from a reactive approach to a proactive one. This year, we stopped focusing on responding to anti-Israel rhetoric propagated by the small pro-Palestinian minority and began our own pro-Israel discourse aimed at the uninformed campus majority.

While we carefully monitor the activities of our detractors, attend their programs, read their pamphlets and challenge their every move, we have introduced new ideas to the campus. Israel for Peace, Israel is a Multicultural Society, Zionism is Jewish Nationalism, Israel is a Democracy and We Have Pride in Israel are the names of just a few of our campaigns. Each of these asserts a pro-Israel position to the widespread campus community, and is truly representative of the views and goals of York's Jewish Student Federation.

Daniel Held, Israel Affairs Co-ordinator
Seth Winberg, Education Chair
Jewish Student Federation, York University

* * *

Corrects record

In your Sept: 5 issue of *The CJN*, in an article titled "Sisters working for the cause: Eat to the Beat," you refer to "Willow" as the only known facility in Toronto to offer non-medical, peer support to breast cancer patients.

But as a board member of the Bayview Support Network, which is affiliated with the Toronto Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre, I am writing to inform you that the Bayview Support Network has, for 10 years, offered a variety of non-medical support services to cancer patients and their caregivers. These services include, among others, peer support, both individual and group; patient orientation; in-patient visitation; a patient library; a supervised playroom for the children of patients; and a quarterly newsletter. All are staffed by volunteers who are either cancer survivors or caregivers.

Bernyce Dick
Bayview Support Network, Board of Directors
Toronto

* * *

Let's fight Canadian MDA ruling

Many years ago, following countless contributions to the Red Cross, I wrote them a letter stating that until they recognize the Magen David Adom (MDA) in Israel, as they do the Arab Red Crescent, I shall give my donation entirely to MDA.

I am a firm believer in the fact that while individually we cannot make a difference, collectively we can have enormous power. I suggest we start a campaign of letter writing to our government representatives and bombard Prime Minister Jean Chrétien with petitions on the injustice of the Federal Court of Appeal's recent decision in favour of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency's (CCRA) attempt to disallow tax receipts for donations to Canadian Magen David Adom. The CCRA cannot be permitted to revoke the charitable status of this vital humanitarian organization, particularly in view of the current devastating suicide bombings. Such an act would be blatant government anti-Semitism and should not be permitted in our democratic country.

In the meantime, we should all donate wholeheartedly to Canadian Magen David Adom. Our contributions today are, tragically, more essential than ever.

Phyllis Sugar
Toronto

* * *

Objects to TV show

On the front page of the Sept. 26 issue of *The CJN*, an article about film executive Peter Sussman reports that he is producing a million-dollar television movie about Adolf Hitler and how he managed to fool the world into believing him ("Film exec defends Hitler mini-series," *CJN*, Sept. 26).

It seems that Sussman, a man born into a Conservative Jewish family, knows very little about who Hitler was. I have mourned all my life for my parents and for other family victims because of Hitler's bright idea to profit from the ashes of millions of Jews. Holocaust survivors will certainly take the movie as a terrible insult.

Sussman is sure his viewers will understand that Hitler and the Germans did not lose the war, as Hitler, a soldier during World War I, repeated ad nauseam, but were stabbed in the back by the Communists, the Jews, the Lenins and the Stalins. This propaganda appealed to German industrialists, who saw in Hitler the man who would save them and bring Germany to its feet. The future Fuhrer was caught in the putsch against the government and was sentenced to jail with his early supporters such as Rudolf Hess, who helped him to write the Nazi bible *Mein Kampf*.

Does Sussman know what this movie or other garbage about Hitler will do to help the neo-Nazis and anti-Semites?

There is no need for anyone to make a film about Hitler, particularly a Jew. The ancient Hebrews knew how to deal with the "Hamans" in their ages. Let Hitler burn for eternities in deepest hell and not be remembered as a vengeful soldier. There are enough Nazis who never forgot Hitler and will certainly appreciate this project.

Simon Schweitzer
Ville St. Laurent, Que.

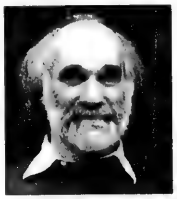
Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Jewish and on the left: a tricky place to be

By ERNIE LIGHTMAN

It's hard to be a Jewish lefty these days.

For those on today's left, political correctness demands absolute condemnation of Israel. Also in vogue is the questioning of the state's fundamental legitimacy. And a modest dose of old-fashioned anti-Semitism isn't out of place, either. To be a Jew who supports the state, even while criticizing many of its policies, brings immediate marginalization and loss of credentials as a bona fide lefty.



Ernie Lightman

Life, of course, is more complicated, but the lines are drawn in the sand, and you can be either a good lefty or a good Jew – but not both.

It wasn't always this way for me: Throughout my adult life I have fought the good fight for approved progressive causes, with a disproportionate share of those around me always seeming to be Jewish. In my youth, we marched against racial segregation in the American south; as a graduate student at Berkeley in the late '60s and '70s, I opposed the racist war in Vietnam; more recently, we got gassed at the World Trade Organization's summit in Quebec City in April 2001 and opposed the horrific Harris-Eves government since the day it was elected.

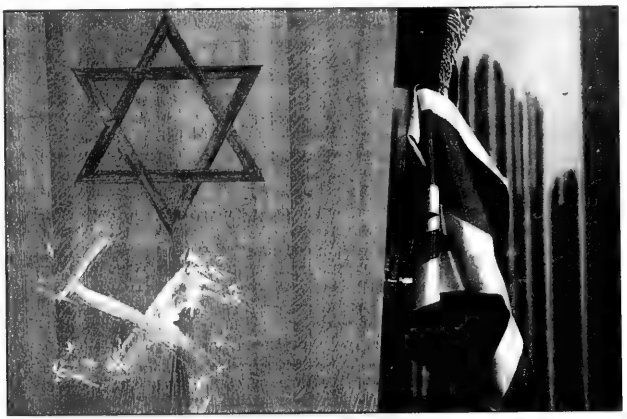
Demonstrators protest against Israel earlier this year at the U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. [RNS/Reuters photos]

Throughout that same time, I have been a Zionist: I travel to Israel as often as I can, I absolutely support the state, though not always the actions of its duly elected governments, and I endorse a two-state solution. I've never in the past experienced any incompatibility between these perspectives.

Recently, however, others have found a problem. The upsurge in anti-Semitism that people across the spectrum of the Jewish community have noticed, and experienced, creates a particular conflict for those of us on the left, as it is our erstwhile allies and comrades who now disown us for our views on Israel. The sense of alienation and isolation that many Jewish lefties now feel from our former friends and associates have made us deeply discouraged and pessimistic, both about Israel and even more about the left itself.

Many on the left believe this "new" anti-Semitism is directly attributable to the policies of the Sharon government and the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and that the end of both will bring peace in our time. But I don't buy this: though I fervently dream of Israel after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and after the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, I don't believe the "new" anti-Semitism is really new at all. It's old – very old, indeed. After 1945, anti-Semitism was dormant for a time, but the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has now made it socially acceptable once again, bringing all kinds of ancient anti-Jewish hatreds out of the woodwork.

The left has a need to look at the world in dichotomies: good guys, bad guys; underdog, oppressor. In general, I have no difficulty with such an approach, because I see the world in class terms, and in many cases, the issues are clear. But in the Middle East, the left has got it backwards. Israel is labelled the oppressor because it has had the temerity to survive – and to actually win some of its wars. While the Palestinians are clearly among the oppressed, their co-religionists across the Arab world are not. Wars create refugees, sad but true: If they are lucky, refugees will be compensated and resettled (as former prime minister Ehud Barak proposed at the failed Camp David talks). Nowhere else in the world do refugees claim a right of return half a century after their original displacement. Israel, assisted by world Jewry, absorbed and integrated those Jewish refugees who fled from Arab lands in the years after 1948. The Arab states, with their virtually infinite wealth, have shown no responsibility to the Palestinian refugees created by the same 1948 conflict; instead, they have kept them in refugee camps, a potent political symbol to divert attention away from their own domestically repressive regimes.



The defacement of this synagogue in London earlier this year contributed to a sense of palpably growing anti-Semitism in Europe in the wake of widespread anti-Israel sentiment as a result of the Jewish state's unresolved conflict with the Palestinians.

What is perhaps most troubling about the mindless anti-Israel sentiment on the left is its selectivity and its regular use of double standards, whereby Israel is condemned as an apartheid state, while far worse happens elsewhere without a peep. Israel is the only functioning democracy in the Middle East, the only society where women and minorities have legal rights, the only country where children receive widespread education and the only country with a viable, independent court system that on occasion actually produces important and progressive decisions. These rights and institutions aren't perfect, of course – far from it – but they are light years ahead of what transpires elsewhere in the neighbourhood.

If we want to criticize Israel's actions in the territories – and such a stance is certainly fair game – then let's show a minimum of consistency and integrity and also condemn some of the many repressive regimes elsewhere in the world. (Let's also remember who offered peace, and who sank the talks at Camp David). How about the genocide in Rwanda or the military despots in central and south America? Why not oppose the black slavery still openly practiced in the oil sheikhdoms or the treatment of women in those places? Or the treatment of our aboriginal peoples right here in Canada – or Toronto? Why the incredible silence over the wanton slaughter of kids attending a discotheque in Tel Aviv or buying pizza in Jerusalem? Or the failure to challenge anti-Semitism as a particularly virulent form of racism?

When it comes right down to it, few countries have their hands totally clean. It is the moral duty of the left to criticize these atrocities, but by focusing on Israel as if it were the only – or the worst – offender, the left serves only to discredit itself.

And what is a Jewish lefty to do when others on the left insist on their unthinking and mindless criticism of Israel – and the Jews? To some of us, our credentials as good, solid leftists are so intertwined with our essential being that we cannot contemplate breaking the official line; hence, we sit in agonized silence. For my part, however, I think those on the mainstream left have lost it – through their ignorant attitudes and behaviours towards Israel, their double standards and tolerance of anti-Semitism, they've lost their sense of direction, even their traditional ability to identify who is the real underdog.

'Most troubling on the left is... its double standards and tolerance of anti-Semitism'

If my words lead to expulsion from the left, so be it. For I know, deeply and intensely, that rather than those who kick in windows at Concordia University or attempt to embrace Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat as if he were some paragon of virtue, it is I – we – who hold true to the faith on the left. It is we, not they, who remain among the real progressives today.

Ernie Lightman is an economist and professor of social policy at the University of Toronto's faculty of social work.

What moves the sniper?

By the time you read this column, the tale of the sniper who terrorized Washington, D.C., and its suburbs will already be a part of history – a bad memory, but one consigned to the past.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

All along during those terrible days of anxiety and public fear, I found myself in the District of Columbia.

After a number of agonizing weeks, a pair of suspects were apprehended.

The alleged shooter, John Allen Muhammad, 41, and his young associate John Lee Malvo, 17, face state and federal counts in the shootings in Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C., that left 10 people dead.

The pair are also suspected in earlier killings in Louisiana, Alabama and Washington state. In the latter, they are also suspects in a shooting last May at a synagogue – Temple Beth El in Tacoma – that reportedly caused minimal damage (no one was in the building at the time).

I wonder what kind of a human being Muhammad is. He has probably dreamt all his life of possessing some power, rather than be the object of the whims of others. For once, he wanted to be in charge.

In a sense, his activity probably represented a form of revenge: he was paying back others with what he felt they deserved because of what he has experienced in his, from all accounts, meagre existence.

Every one of us responds in his or her own way to the challenges of life and, hopefully, we keep our response within the bonds of humanity.

But, as with everything else in life, there will be actions that are exceptions to the norm, and when these occur, they can be devastating.

Whatever the future brings, may it leave us room to act intelligently, aware of not only our needs and hopes, but also those of others.

None of us is the centre of the universe and our lives depend on those around us. We have to live with others, even as we have the need to live our own lives.

But it is this interaction with others that makes it all worthwhile, and it is in this interaction with others that each one of us wishes to be remembered.

* * *

On another subject, my 90th birthday was remembered by so many of you with kindness and generosity, and I have no other way to respond than to tell you, through this medium, of my profound gratitude.

Aging comes all by itself, but friendship does not.

Thank you again to all of you who have helped me to celebrate my special anniversary.

I shall always remember your generosity, which has so enriched my life.

Are gas masks part of life?

Given the implications, it should be unthinkable. It isn't. It should have felt a bit spooky. It didn't. It should have been deeply disturbing. It wasn't.

Truth be told, when my wife and I went to the army's local Home Front Command (HFC) centre the other day to get updated gas mask kits for our family, it was strangely banal. After all, we had been through this before.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

Lately, with the prospect of a new U.S. war against Iraq being ever more real, Israel is preparing for a possible Iraqi counterattack. As part of this effort, the government is encouraging people to get new civil defence gear (read: gas masks).

To that end, the HFC has opened special distribution centres and has launched a series of ads with the sobering slogan: "Gas mask kits – They're part of life."

The army now has 32 HFC centres around the country, including three in Jerusalem. The one nearest our home is in the large Malha Shopping Center in the south of the capital. At the mall, the HFC centre is virtually invisible. No signs point the way and only by asking did we find it, relegated to a dusty corner in the mall's huge, dimly lit parking garage.

It's an austere, makeshift operation run by a dozen male and female soldiers. While we stood in line, my mind flashed to a scene exactly 12 years earlier. In October 1990, on my first full day in Israel after immigrating from France, my wife and I lined up at a Jerusalem community centre that was then also serving as an HFC station.

It was just before the Gulf War and Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein had already invaded Kuwait and threatened to "incinerate" Israel with long-range missiles and unconventional weapons. So as not to take chances, Jerusalem was equipping the entire population – including newly arrived immigrants – with gas mask kits. I took the whole thing as my initiation into Israeli citizenship and the hard-boiled reality of life in the Middle East.

During the Gulf War, Saddam made good on part of his threat when he fired 39 Scud missiles at Israel. Fortunately, none contained his feared chemical or biological weapons.

Today, despite a sense of déjà vu, there seems less public angst than before the Gulf War. Citing its newly deployed Arrow anti-ballistic missile system and Iraq's depleted arsenal, the army claims Israel is in much better shape than it was in 1991 vis-à-vis Baghdad.

That's not to suggest that Israelis are complacent. The army is asking people to pick up new gas masks; the Health Ministry wants to vaccinate the population against a smallpox attack; the Education Ministry recently staged emergency drills in schools; and municipalities are fixing up public bomb shelters and preparing contingency plans for mass evacuation, just in case.

No doubt people in Tel Aviv and Ramat Gan, which bore the brunt of Iraqi missile attacks in 1991, have more reason for concern than Jerusalemites. Many feel Saddam wouldn't dare fire missiles (with or without non-conventional warheads) at Jerusalem for fear he might score a direct hit on the Temple Mount, Islam's third holiest site, or inadvertently strike nearby Arab neighbourhoods. But the actions of a desperate dictator are hard to predict.

Our visit to the HFC centre proved surprisingly swift, clinical and free of charge. In less than 10 minutes, we exchanged our aging gas masks for the 2002 models, which included a special drinking straw and syringes with antidotes for nerve gas attacks.

I'd like to believe that the millions of new gas mask kits now in Israeli homes will never be needed. I'd like to believe that one day they will be mere artifacts from another era, like telex machines. I just wouldn't bank on it.

Far more likely, given the murderous ambitions of Israel's enemies, I'll be back at the local HFC centre in a few years trading in my 2002 gas mask for an improved model.

Maybe there really was something to that HFC slogan after all.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il

Physicians for human rights - or anti-Semitism?

The flood of anti-Israel propaganda released in the past two years has begun to subside, and while progress is slow, some people are rethinking their positions in the face of brutal bus bombings and murderous attacks.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

The massive letter-writing campaigns and boycotts against virulent Israel-bashers in the media and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) are having an impact. Major newspapers have removed non-professional journalists whose support for Palestinian terrorism was their main calling-card.

The Economist, often described as the most prestigious news publication in the world, published a detailed article rejecting the canard of "double standards" regarding United Nations actions on Israel. Human Rights Watch, which joined in publicizing the "Jenin massacre" that never happened, has attempted to atone by recently issuing a (belated and limited) condemnation of Palestinian suicide bombing.

However, there is still a long way to go to defeat the disinformation campaigns at the core of the movement to demonize Israel.

A new example was produced and distributed recently by an NGO known as Physicians for Human Rights (PHR). In an eight-page cartoon pamphlet that can only be described as anti-Semitic, this organization displayed caricatures of heavily-armed Israeli soldiers "oppressing" innocent-looking Palestinians.

In one cartoon, two Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint are portrayed as mocking a pregnant Palestinian woman. The ambulances used to carry suicide bombers and explosives are conveniently erased in this crude propaganda, and inhuman Palestinian terrorism is not even mentioned. The pamphlet, distributed in Hebrew in an effort to propagandize Israelis through emotional manipulation, is a disgrace. (The English version can be viewed on the Internet at: http://www.phr.org.il/Phr/Pages/PhrArticle_Unit.asp?Cat=10&art=478)

While the Israeli branch of this organization is relatively small and of little importance, these marginal activities receive attention as a result of the advertising money that they collect and spend. Fifteen (!) sponsors are listed as having provided funds to produce, print, and distribute this crude propaganda. Among them are governments, led by the European Commission, Switzerland, and the embassy of Finland in Tel Aviv.

In addition to the dubious practice of using taxpayer's money for propagandizing against the policies of a democratically elected government, these governments have already been criticized for providing billions of dollars in aid – no strings attached – to the Palestinian Authority and its president, Yasser Arafat. Some of these funds (as in the case of the Karine-A arms ship) were used to purchase weapons, ammunition and explosives in order to murder Israelis, and other money disappeared into the bank accounts of corrupt officials.

Undaunted, these governments (as well as the Ford Foundation, which some people consider to be practically a government in itself) are also actively supporting the demonization campaign against Israel and the Jewish people.

While many of the sponsors are NGOs with the usual anti-Israel and "Palestinians-as-victims" agenda, others are clearly Jewish and linked to Israel. This group includes the well-known New Israel Fund and the Naomi and Nehemia Cohen Foundation, as well as a group of radical and highly vocal anti-Israel Jews in the Netherlands known as SIVMO.

Such Jewish sponsorship has long provided cover and legitimacy for anti-Semitic propaganda that is thinly disguised as "criticism of Israeli atrocities." At least three of the other sponsors of the PHR pamphlet are Christian and church organizations, including the Global Ministries of the Uniting Churches, a group known as Diakonia (both based in the Netherlands), and a Protestant organization called EPER.

To avoid criticism that they are perpetuating European Christian anti-Semitism, even after the Holocaust, these groups can conveniently point to PHR's links with Jewish groups involved in this outrage.

Diakonia's Web site proclaims its devotion "to the service of reconciliation in the world with the word of faith and the action of love." This love apparently does not extend to the citizens of the Jewish state and does not prevent anti-Semitism.

In order to fight back against this campaign, each of its sponsors must be challenged. For more than 10 years, Israelis and Jews were silent while the Palestinians built up their propaganda machine, and the results are tragically self-evident. It will take us at least as long to undo the damage.

The Kirshner File

Van Pelt delves into the Holocaust

Would it surprise you to learn that anti-Semitism is an insufficient explanation for the Holocaust? Robert Jan van Pelt, a historian and co-author of the recently published *Holocaust: A History* (Penguin Books), is a proponent of this theory.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Hungary, a nation once ruled by a pro-German, anti-Semitic government, proves his point. As van Pelt writes in his latest book – which Penguin is promoting as "a groundbreaking work" and "the definitive history of one of the greatest crimes human beings ever committed" – Hungary was somewhat of a haven for Jews until Germany's invasion in 1944.

Admiral Miklos Horthy, Hungary's ruler since the early 1920s, was a committed anti-Semite who backed anti-Jewish legislation enacted by various Hungarian governments. Yet Horthy, van Pelt explains in an interview, was a traditionalist with a strong code of honour. Although he opposed the disproportionate role of Jews in the economy, he abhorred the kind of genocidal anti-Semitism practised by Germany in occupied Europe.

Consequently, he stood firm against German demands to deport Jews to death camps in Poland. Indeed, Hungarian Jews were relatively safe until the spring of 1944, when Germany occupied Hungary and proceeded to deport them to Auschwitz and other industrialized killing centres.

As van Pelt, a professor of cultural history at the University of Waterloo, puts it: "It is clear that without anti-Semitism, there would have been no Holocaust, but the Horthy case shows that anti-Semitism is not sufficient as an explanation."

Van Pelt and his co-author, Deborah Dwork, the founding director of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University, claim that the historical antecedent of the Holocaust was the "revolutionary utopianism" of the Catholic Inquisition in Spain and Portugal and the Reign of Terror in France.

"We consider the Holocaust as a literally revolutionary act, a violent deed undertaken by the Nazis in the hope of creating a better society, an Aryan utopia," van Pelt says. "In general, until the mid-18th century, European society honoured customs and traditions, which means that it accepted the existing situation as legitimate and necessary. And as the existence of the Jews was a given, their place in society was *a priori* accepted."

The onset of modernity, he notes, shattered the status quo. Revolutionary upheaval became acceptable to create a better tomorrow, even if it meant the elimination of Jews.

As a historian of the Holocaust, Van Pelt is a "functionalist" rather than an "intentionalist." He and Dwork do not believe that Adolf Hitler set out with a predetermined plan to exterminate all Jews. "Initially, he simply wanted to get rid of German Jews through emigration," van Pelt says.

But this policy was rendered obsolete by two converging factors – Germany's swift conquest of European neighbours and, with it, the placement of millions of Jews under its military administration.

"After considering the option to send these Jews to some faraway territory, such as Madagascar and the Russian Arctic, the Nazis finally concluded that murder was the only viable option."

He maintains that the entry of the United States into World War II, following Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbour on Dec. 7, 1941, hastened Hitler's decision to opt for draconian measures against Jews.

"The Germans were happily massacring Jews on the eastern front after attacking the Soviet Union in June 1941, but they had not yet decided to murder all European Jews, including those in western Europe."

Van Pelt holds that Germany's strategy hinged on using western European Jews as hostages to keep the United States out of the war.

"This assumption was based, of course, on the anti-Semitic fantasy that Jews controlled American politics and public opinion, and that these Jews would not want to jeopardize West European Jewry by declaring war on Germany. Once Hitler declared war on the U.S., the Jews of western Europe lost their value as hostages, and now could be included in the genocide already taking place in eastern Europe."

They argue that many Catholics tried to help Jews in Poland, which was home to more than three million Jews. Out of 19,141 European Righteous Gentiles who risked their lives to assist Jews, Yad Vashem recognizes 5,632 Polish citizens as Righteous Gentiles. "Poles thus comprise more than one quarter of the total number of gentiles so recognized."

In fact, a great many more Poles were actually involved in rescuing Jews. "For every Righteous Gentile, there are many who were never recognized as Righteous Gentiles, but who showed decency, charity and courage."

In Van Pelt and Dwork's view, the rescuers broke nearly all the Ten Commandments. Citing an example, van Pelt refers to a Dutch rescuer who not only stole and lied, but even killed, to save Jews. "To be a rescuer meant that one had to become an outlaw and flout the laws imposed by the Germans and the customary ways of civilized behaviour."

The authors claim that the Allies' determination to eradicate Nazism forestalled attempts to negotiate the rescue of Jews under German occupation.

As van Pelt puts it: "Any such rescue could only be undertaken on the basis of negotiations. The fact that the Allies had a principled policy of non-negotiation with the Nazis made such talks impossible. SS chief Heinrich Himmler, the very man who was in charge of the murder of Jews, sought negotiations with the Allies in 1944. He offered them one million Jews in exchange for war materiel to be used against the Soviet Union. The Allies did not even consider this offer, as it would have harmed their alliance with the Soviets."

Robert Jan van Pelt

Van Pelt and Dwork decided to write their book after concluding that there was an urgent need for a good, one-volume account about the Holocaust that would meet the needs of two types of readers: the generally educated and genuinely interested person who knows little about the Holocaust's causes and consequences but who wants to learn about it, and the high school or university student who can read it as a required text.

Van Pelt is respectful of previous studies, such as Raul Hilberg's *The Destruction of European Jews* and Yehuda Bauer's *A Short History of the Holocaust*. But the emphasis in Hilberg's book is on the German bureaucracy of destruction, while Bauer's work, he says, appears to be out of print. He dismisses Lucy Dawidowicz's *The War Against the Jews* as "inaccurate" and "dated" and Leni Yahil's *The Holocaust* as "turgid" and "useless."

"We concluded that the absence of a concise, cutting-edge and multifaceted history of the Holocaust had become a significant problem in college and high school education, especially as the subject has gained recognition as an essential part of college course offerings and school curriculum," he explains. "We hope to fill that gap."

Born in the Dutch city of Haarlem in 1955, van Pelt is a graduate of the University of Leiden. He wrote his PhD thesis on the Temple of Solomon. He moved to Canada in 1987 to take up his present position at the University of Waterloo.

He began writing about the Holocaust in the mid-1980s, when the focus of his academic interests shifted from art history and classical archeology to the crematoria of Auschwitz. Since then, he has written *Auschwitz: 1270 to the Present*, co-authored with Dwork; and *The Case for Auschwitz: Evidence from the Irving Trial*.

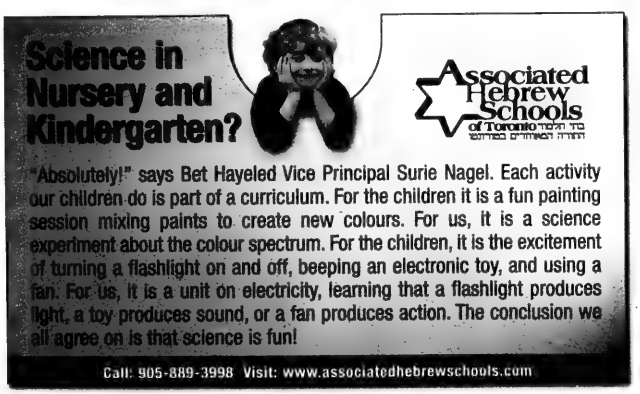
When David Irving, a British Holocaust revisionist, launched a civil suit against American historian Deborah Lipstadt, van Pelt was a member of her defence team. He was also a consultant in Errol Morris' documentary, *Mr. Death: The Rise and Fall of Fred A. Leuchter Jr.*, a film about an American Holocaust denier.

Asked about such propagandists, van Pelt replies: "I don't think Holocaust denial poses much of a danger, excerpt in the Middle East, where it is very prevalent as a way to delegitimize Israel."

Van Pelt's mother, who is Jewish, survived the war in Holland on false identity papers. His father, a physician, went into hiding after facing the prospect of being a forced labourer in Germany. "My great-grandfather was not so lucky. He died in hiding because of a lack of medical attention." Van Pelt's uncle, after whom he is named, died in Auschwitz.

Van Pelt claims that North Americans have a rather "sentimental" view of Holland's attitude toward Jews during the Holocaust.

"It is true that there was very little anti-Semitism before the war, and that German propaganda had relatively little impact on the Dutch," he says. "But most Dutch people were so absorbed with their own struggle to preserve a semblance of normality that they did not care too much about what happened to the Jews."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Eichmann captor recounts cloak-and-dagger tale

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

The man who nabbed Adolf Eichmann on a dingy Buenos Aires street 42 years ago, says he dedicates his feat to survivors of the Holocaust.

Holocaust Education Week

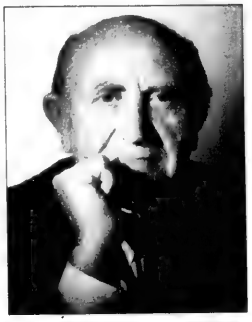
"I dedicate my capture of Eichmann to the survivors," Peter Malkin told a synagogue audience earlier this month. "For me, they are the heroes of the heroes."

Malkin, now 73, delighted a packed hall at Shaar Shalom Synagogue in Thornhill with his tales of espionage and derring-do, punctuated with light-hearted anecdotes.

But the audacious 1960 capture of Eichmann by elite Mossad agents in the broad daylight of Argentina's capital was deadly serious business, one that required careful planning.

Israel wanted Eichmann, considered the biggest Nazi who escaped Europe following World War II, even before statehood, Malkin said in a program that was part of Holocaust Education Week.

The notorious Eichmann had been head of the Department for Jewish Affairs in the Gestapo from 1941 to 1945 and was chief of operations in the deportation of three million Jews to extermination camps. He also played a key role in the 1942 Wannsee Conference, which laid out plans to deal with the "final solution to the Jewish question."



Peter Malkin

Historians regard him as an architect of the murder of six million Jews. Eichmann always maintained he was merely following orders.

Israel had long suspected he escaped to South America after the war, like many top Nazis, but could never pinpoint his whereabouts.

At the end of the war, Eichmann was arrested and confined to an American internment camp, but escaped. According to Malkin, the Americans let him go, unaware of who he was.

In any event, Malkin recounted, in 1958, the Mossad dispatched an agent to a rundown quarter of Buenos Aires called San Fernando to track a man known as Ricardo Klement. That was followed by a photographer, who secretly snapped pictures of Klement from every angle. Israel was satisfied Klement was Eichmann, and assembled an elite squad of seven Mossad agents, including Malkin, an expert in disguises and explosives and who held a black belt in karate.

The Mossad also committed 10 safe houses, eight or nine cars, a full-time doctor and cook, and a suitcase filled with $1 million in cash.

"We didn't know how long we would have to hold him," Malkin recalled. "We didn't know how long we would have to stay in Argentina."

After studying Klement's routine of coming home from work at the same time each night, the commando unit struck on May 11, 1960, at about 8 p.m. outside Eichmann's home, on the now famous Garibaldi Street. It was Malkin who physically grabbed him. "I only knew one sentence in Spanish, and I used it," he said. "It was '*Uno momentito, senor.*' (One moment, sir)."

Eichmann's capture has been immortalized in the books *The House on Garibaldi Street* by Isser Harel, Malkin's superior officer, and in *Eichmann in My Hands*, by Malkin himself.

Grabbing Eichmann and stuffing him in a car "was a moment that changed my life," Malkin recalled.

The young secret agent also wondered about Eichmann's humanity. "I said to myself, what is he like, this man who murdered millions? He was not a monster. He was a family man."

Over 150 members of Malkin's own family died in the Holocaust, he said.

During the capture, Malkin's gloved hands were around Eichmann's neck. But his orders were to bring Eichmann in alive and unhurt. Malkin jokingly said his superiors told him that "if you harm him, we'll kill you."

Told he would be tried for war crimes in Jerusalem, Eichmann said he would rather go to Frankfurt. "I told him they know you in Frankfurt," Malkin said he replied. "In Jerusalem, we don't know you, but we'll get to know you better."

Eichmann's controversial and highly publicized trial lasted from April 2 to Aug. 14, 1961. He was sentenced to death and executed in Ramleh Prison on May 31, 1962.

Malkin went on to become the storied Mossad's chief of operations, and retired in 1976. "I had 200 names," he quipped. "Sometimes, I didn't remember my own name."

A particularly poignant moment for Malkin in the Eichmann affair came when the Nazi told his Israeli captor that he had learned a few words in Hebrew following a 1936 trip to Palestine, conducted to study the enemy.

"I asked him what the words were, and he said, 'Shema Yisrael...'"

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Loftus predicts war will bring a better Mideast

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

In less than three weeks, the war in Iraq ends with a decisive American victory.

The incessant bombardment of Baghdad prompts an internal uprising. Nearly half of Saddam Hussein's army deserts him.

Jewish Book Fair

The chaos results in Iraq reverting back to its former rulers and the current ruling royals in Jordan – the Hashemites. Jordan and Iraq are now a consolidated kingdom.

To smooth over the change, the Shiites, Kurds and West Bank Palestinians each have their own self-rule within the kingdom.

Jewish settlers in the West Bank are granted joint Israeli-Jordanian citizenship.

Does this sound like a pipe dream?

Perhaps, but when the source of the information is John Loftus, a former American Justice Department prosecutor with access to CIA and top secret nuclear files, it may not be baseless prognostication.

In a matter-of-fact style, Loftus delivered an engaging speech entitled "The truth about terrorism" at the opening of the Jewish Book Fair at the Leah Poslun's theatre Nov. 2.

A Pulitzer Prize nominee and the first Irish-Catholic president of the Florida Holocaust Museum, Loftus has a positive outlook on the gloomy Middle East.

The author of four history books said, "I think this [war on Iraq] will be one of the best things that has ever happened to Israel."

He sees the war triggering a waning of Muslim fundamentalism in the Mideast, a trend already in motion as television and the Internet penetrate the Arab world.

"Ignorance is an essential tool for dictators," Loftus said. "Television has been able to pierce that level of ignorance."

As proof, he said opinion polls show "83 per cent of the people in Iran want the fanatical Mullahs out." And he speculated that there could be a domino effect of authoritarian Arab regimes falling.

But Loftus conceded there is a "50 per cent chance that this will work out."

Neither did he paint an entirely rosy picture, noting that Palestinians will launch terror attacks on Israel during the war and Hezbollah might fire missiles with chemical weapons into Israel.

But with Israel's population immunized and the limited potential of missile-launched biological weapons to inflict mass suffering, Loftus isn't concerned.

The kicker in this is oil, he said. He predicted that with an American-friendly merged Jordan-Iraq kingdom, Iraq's current output of one million barrels of oil a day will be boosted to three million.

That will negate the need for oil from Saudi Arabia, a country Loftus pinpointed as the main fundraiser of Islamic terrorism.

The dominant sect in Saudi Arabia are the Wahabbi's who Loftus described as a "militant, violent, puritanical sect... the Ku Klux Klan of Islam."

He said the Saudis fund 80 per cent of the mosques in the United States where clerics "teach Wahabbism as if it is mainstream Islam."

Continued on page 14

legacy of life

Max Guttmann 1932 – 1998

a presentation of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto

Being poor never stopped **Bertha** and **Sandor Guttmann** from giving all they could to those who needed it more. Every penny counted when there were so many mouths to feed, but still they managed to teach their nine children one very important lesson. As Bertha always said, "If somebody puts out their hand, give – even if you yourself have very little."

Their son **Max Guttmann** took that lesson to heart and spent a lifetime giving of both his time and his hard-earned money to those in need. Max's greatest loves were the Jewish people and the land of Israel, and he took great pleasure in doing his small part to ensure they both thrived. He was an ardent supporter of and canvasser for UJA Federation and State of Israel Bonds and helped countless charities and organizations including Baycrest Centre, Reena Foundation, Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School, ORT, Beit Halochem, Ha'agudah L'Maan Hachayal and Yad Vashem.

He also supported Israeli Victims of War, which has spent the past 16 years bringing Israeli children who have lost parents in military operations to Canadian summer camps and for a week of touring in Toronto.

"When Max heard about us the first thing he said was, 'What can I do to help?'" recalls **Fred Stoppel**, coordinator of IVOW's Toronto branch. "That's Max. Not only did he help us financially, but he and his wife **Sheila** hosted a barbeque at their home. These children paid their dues and soon will be serving on the front. With Max's help, they had an experience they'll long remember."

Max didn't work alone. Rather, the gregarious man had a knack for getting people to join him. So true was his commitment that many of his friends followed suit by joining a committee or becoming philanthropic themselves. Max was always urging his fellow congregants at Toronto's Beth Emeth-Bais Yehuda Synagogue to give, often getting them to increase their pledges if he knew they could afford more.

The Guttmann Family, Circa 1944, all survived the Holocaust. Max is bottom left.

"Max was forceful and strong but he was a real pussycat at heart, and charity was his hobby," says Sheila Guttmann of her husband of 40 years. "Through his enthusiasm, Max influenced many people to be charitable, too. He once said that if he ever retired he would go into charity work full-time."

Max was born in Czechoslovakia in 1932 and moved to Hungary with his family three years later. His parents spent the war in the ghetto while Max and several siblings were sent to an orphanage. The family was reunited in 1945.

With the war over, Max longed to go to Israel. He climbed the Austrian mountains and fled to Germany, where he lived in a Displaced Persons camp and learned the tool-and-die trade. He did make it to Israel and his family joined him there, but soon after they moved to Toronto, where Max's father took on janitorial work. Max found a job at Massey Harris (later Massey Ferguson), giving every penny he earned to his struggling parents.

Max went on to build the hugely successful Algood Casters Ltd. When his sons **Mark**, **Craig** and **Sean** joined him in the business, he taught them to give, too. Sheila recalls the time they were walking with one of their children through the streets of Tel Aviv when a poor man shuffled past. The man hadn't asked for anything, yet Max felt the need to help. So he turned around, ran after the man and handed him 100 shekels. Sheila quickly looked at her son and said, "Don't ever forget what your father did just now."

They haven't. Craig and Sean, who run Algood Casters, are big givers too. Among their many causes is an annual golf tournament in their father's name benefiting She'arim. They recently donated more than 200 wheelchairs to two Israeli organizations. Craig and his family are spending this year in Israel while brother Mark and his family made Aliyah eight years ago.

"Our Dad taught us tzedakah and a love of Israel at an early age," says Sean. "He said, 'That's your homeland and that's why you send them money, that's why you go and visit, and that's why you live there.' He felt we had to give to the people who are keeping it in a viable state and that we should be thanking them on a daily basis. We're trying to follow that example."

If you have a suggestion for future Legacy of Life profiles, please call Perri at the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto 416.631.5728.

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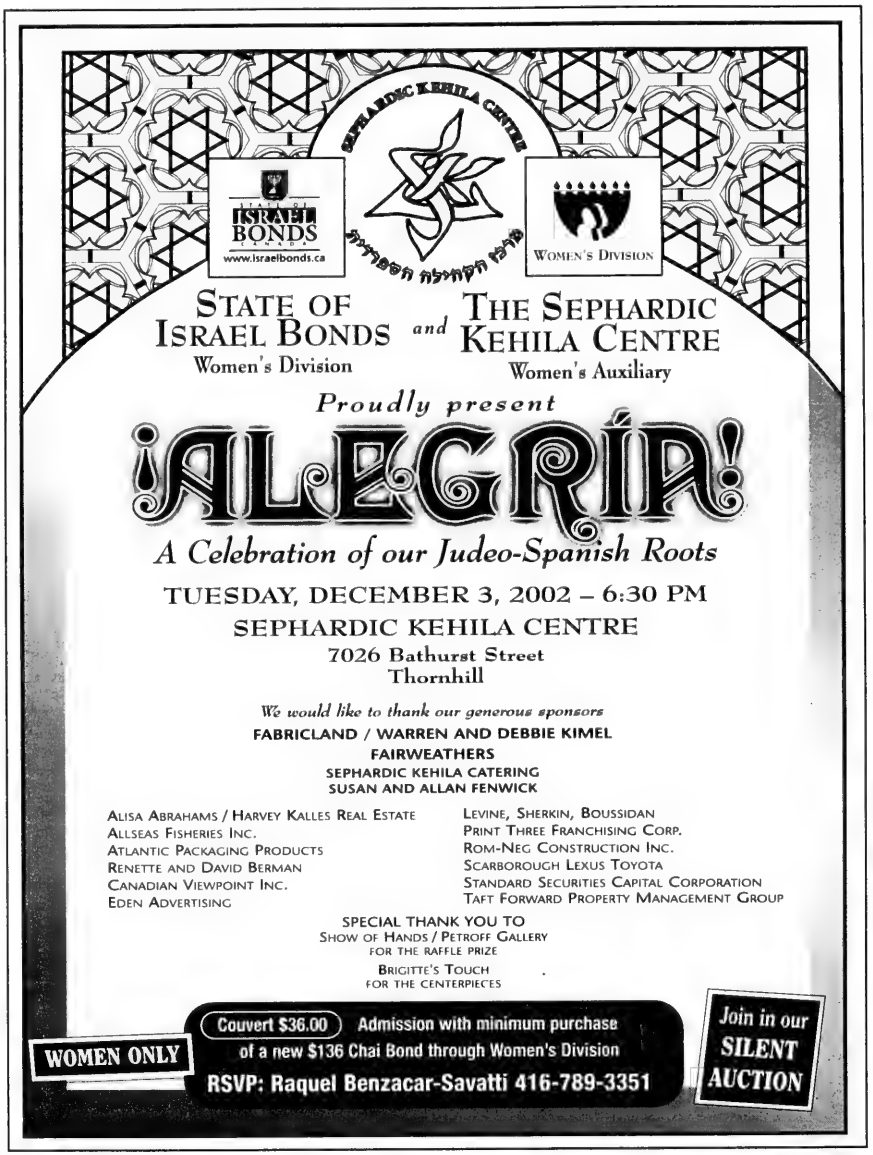

Greater Toronto Area

Book fair opens

Continued from page 13

Saudi money is funneled to "charities" based in Virginia. That money, for which the Saudis receive a tax break, is eventually used to fund suicide bombers, he said.

"Israel, when they raided Arafat's compound, found evidence of the Saudi funding," but the Americans encouraged Israel to "keep quiet" as the Saudis continue to sell oil to America at a discounted rate, he said.

Indeed, keeping quiet on the truth about Saudi Arabia is a must in CIA circles, Loftus said.

"At the CIA, if you want to ruin your career, all you have to do is write up an exposé on Saudi Arabia."

He said up to $300 million in Saudi money is paid to al-Qaeda, as "the Saudis bribe al-Qaeda to stay away from Saudi Arabia."

As sinister as this all seems, Loftus said the flow of dirty money paved the way for a lawsuit.

"If I donate money to charities, I can sue them to find out where the money went."

That is precisely what Loftus told the U.S. Department of Justice he would do unless they took action.

And they did take action, shutting down several Islamic charities in the United States, including Global Relief International, which was based in Illinois.

And this past August, Loftus and a team of more than 40 lawyers filed an unprecedented $1 trillion lawsuit against the Saudi royal family on behalf of the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

The author of *The Secret War Against the Jews* and *Unholy Trinity*, both of which he co-authored with Mark Aarons, is coming out with another book called *Prophets of Terror: Jonathan Pollard and Peace in the Middle East.*

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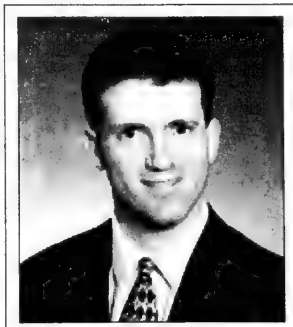

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Artist uses pop culture in exhibit on Holocaust

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Art that departs from traditional methods of Holocaust expression can portray unexplored aspects of humanity at its worst, the curator of the Jewish Museum in New York told an Art Gallery of Ontario audience.

Mirroring Evil – Nazi Imagery is a collection of 19 exhibits that attempt to make the Shoah relevant to this generation by using artistic elements usually associated with pop culture, Norman Kleeblatt said.

Holocaust Education Week

Today's documentaries of interviews with Nazi-trained students remind viewers that war-era Germans were very similar to our own parents and grandparents, he said, alluding to the illusory nature of evil.

Kleeblatt, who is the Susan and Elihu Rose Curator of Fine Arts at the New York museum, was in Toronto as part of Holocaust Education Week to describe some aspects of the controversial exhibition that appeared in the United States last spring.

Holocaust Education should attempt to portray the "slippery slope" to the unfathomable. Prevention can only come by looking at all tangents of evil to get closer to its source, he said.

The exhibition, which included Zbigniew Libera's LEGO concentration camps and Christine Borland's collection of sculptures of Dr. Josef Mengele, incorporated the works of 13 younger artists, one or two generations removed from the Holocaust, Kleeblatt explained.

Efforts were made by the artists to draw participants into the contemporary exhibits by using mediums usually associated with childhood, thereby "creating a destabilizing effect on the viewer's sense of moral certainty," Kleeblatt said.

By exchanging clear war lessons with conflicting messages, the exhibit can "hold the viewer captive," and position the participant in a grey zone of moral ambiguity.

At first glance, one assumes that the art will project a sense of innocence. A second look reveals that "this is innocence gone wrong," Kleeblatt said.

As an example of this new genre, he projected images from Art Spiegelman's *MAUS* – a comic book representation of the Holocaust.

Spiegelman, whose father was a survivor, portrays Nazis as cats, Jews as mice and Poles as pigs. His combination of "low art" with a Holocaust narrative was a breakthrough in the way the Shoah had ever been shown, Kleeblatt explained.

"Spiegelman's fusion of text and illustration offered a thinly veiled Orwellian allegory that initially circulated in... the limited domain of underground comics" for over 10 years until it finally earned its place in"high art."

MAUS crossed a number of sacred frontiers, he added. Its low art form, the portrayal of Jews as vermin, the conflicting nature of his father's racism, coupled with an anti-heroic and often unsympathetic survivor, betrayed many 20th-century traditions.

When describing some of the works that appeared in the New York show, Kleeblatt said there was a departure from art that focused mainly on victims and relied on the imagery of "identity, politics and multiculturalism."

Mirroring Evil attempted to describe the perpetrators by conflating "cool cerebral strategies" with "emotionally loaded subject matter."

In a disturbing video titled *Hebrew Lesson*, created by Boaz Arad, Hitler is presented speaking Hebrew.

By splicing together documented films about the German leader, the film juxtaposes Hitler's familiar warlike movements with the dictator's voice articulating the Hebrew words, "Greetings Jerusalem, I am deeply sorry."

In another exhibit by Piotr Uklanski, 145 portraits of Hollywood actors playing Nazi characters were presented along a bare white hallway, in order to "glamorize the image of the Nazi as seen in popular culture."

Photos of Nazis as Hollywood stars and sculptures of Mengele as a handsome man are meant to shock the viewer and explore the paradox between appearance and reality, Kleeblatt said.

However, for Judy Cohen, a Holocaust survivor and audience member, attempts to depict Mengele – the sadistic doctor known for the inhuman treatment of his victims – as a dashing movie star are simply offensive.

"How will the average viewer remember Mengele as he was, if the ugliness and horror of the man isn't clearly depicted?" Cohen asked.

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Jewish Life

Is intermarriage ultimate weapon of mass destruction?

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

Who's afraid of intermarriage? Apparently not Jewish communities around North America, as, more and more, the serious problem of Jews marrying other Jews less and less fails to attract as much attention as the Holocaust and suicide bombers.

I hope the irony of that picture is not too subtle.

It is frustrating to consider the relative apathy that so many singles-- especially women – face when trying to draw attention to the lack of available matches within the Jewish community and the paucity of infrastructure available to enhance those marital prospects.

Naturally the age of technology promises an end to this as to all other problems. With the advent of Internet dating services and online promises of love, the situation would seem to be more promising than in times past, where one was often more or less limited to the local talent. But these advances should not mask the fact that Jews are still marrying out in huge numbers.

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

The great leveller of secularism beckons everyone in the West with the promise that it no longer matters if you are a Jew or a Christian, just as long as you are a good human being. And since such a thought resonates with many as just plain common sense, it should come as little surprise when your child brings home that perfectly polite someone from another faith to clinch the deal.

Which brings us to Chanukah, a holiday that must rank near the top of the Jewish irony parade. Here is a festival almost universally celebrated in some form by Jews, even those who are thoroughly disinterested in many things Jewish.

With its bright candles, built-in military heroism and bundles of booty, Chanukah is tailor-made for the American dream. Yet at its root, it commemorates the most politically incorrect act of them all: killing a fellow Jew who has assimilated into idolatry.

Although linked in the minds of many to Christmas, the holiday actually triumphantly champions intolerance and the rejection of accommodations to progress. Call it obscurantist and an enemy of universalism, but Chanukah is a testimony to the desire for survival, especially on a spiritual level. But such survival is predicated by a biological and ultimately demographic necessity. Jews must populate and, to do so, they must marry other Jews.

Two of the most creative spirits in contemporary fiction, Philip Roth and the late Mordecai Richler, both made their careers documenting the fantasy of the gentile goddess (something they were only too happy to embrace in their private lives as well). I do not know how tenacious a hold such fantasies have on the psyche of the current crop of Jewish malehood, but they bode as ill for the long-term prospects of the Jewish nation as any more overt assault using weapons of destruction.

The only difference is that intermarriage is not the subject of public rallies in shuls and high-powered events that pay speakers lots of money to prognosticate about the Middle East.

I wonder which will undermine Judaism more in the long run – the evil of Yasser Arafat and Hamas or the fundamental decency of the non-Jewish and all-too-single woman next door?

Beware of biblical revisionists

By HENRY SREBRNIK

Guest Voice

A major debate is roiling the waters in the field of biblical studies, one that may have profound implications beyond academia. It may influence how we judge contemporary, and conflicting, claims to the land of Israel.

A small group of scholars is attempting to discredit the historicity of the Bible by maintaining that there is very little archeological evidence to support biblical stories about the existence of, among others, Moses, Joshua and King David. Philip R. Davies, a professor of religious studies at the University of Sheffield in England, contends that "the figure of King David is about as historical as King Arthur."

These so-called "minimalists," few of whom are actually archeologists, regard the Bible as a worthless source of history for the periods it describes. They share the basic view that it is essentially a fictional account that created a false national history at a much later time.

They write books with titles such as Keith W. Whitelam's *The Invention of Ancient Israel: The Silencing of Palestinian History*. And they will expound their theories at a forthcoming Bible and Archeology Fest, to be held in Toronto Nov. 22 to 24, and featuring academics from major American, European and even Israeli universities.

"They are not biblical scholars," the University of Arizona's William Dever, who is an archeologist, has said of these revisionists. "They are social engineers manipulating the biblical text for their own goals."

Dever is right. Theirs is a political agenda: they propagate their views in order to buttress Palestinian claims to the land. But these scholarly debunkers are in for an unpleasant surprise. If they proved to be correct, they might indeed undermine the religious and cultural foundations of the modern Jewish State of Israel. However, since the faith claims of both Christianity and Islam ultimately emanate from that same Hebrew Bible, these skeptics are just as surely destroying the veracity of those religions, and therefore undermining the position of the Palestinian Arabs, whose own identity – indeed, very existence as a self-conscious nation – has been shaped by the latter two traditions, especially Islam.

If David never existed, then Jesus of Nazareth obviously could not have been descended from his royal house, and so could not have been a potential messiah – if indeed he was an actual person at all. There would then be no factual or theological basis for Christianity.

As for Islam, since it regards all the prophets of the Jewish and Christian Bible as legitimate predecessors, it too would be left with no historical precursors, nor could Mohammed be considered the final messenger of a God who had already revealed Himself to the Jewish and Christian faithful.

If Israel is not a "holy land," a status based on the biblical texts, then what makes it significant to either Christians or Muslims? If the Temple Mount had not been the site of a Jewish temple, then why would Jerusalem be any more religiously important – to Palestinians as well as Jews – than Jakarta, Johannesburg or Juneau, Alaska? Why endow the location with such symbolism? Why revere it?

If the Hebrew Bible is mainly fiction and contemporary Israeli Jews thus have no historical claim to Israel, then neither do the modern Palestinian Arab people, who are the cultural progeny of the Christian and Muslim religions that built their own foundations out of the Judaic legacy.

Not to sound too facetious about it, but if both Arab and Jewish title to the land is based on a false history, then should it not revert to the Canaanites and Philistines who inhabited the region in ancient times? But of course these nations no longer exist. The descendants of these long-extinct peoples are, thanks to the three Abrahamic religions that supplanted the ancient creeds of the region, the very Israeli Jews and Palestinian Arabs who live there now! So in terms of legitimate claimants to the country, we will, ironically, have come full circle. And both Israelis and Palestinians will continue to press their respective demands.

Henry Srebrnik is a professor of political studies at the University of Prince Edward Island.

Jewish Life

The mezuzah: spiritual home improvement

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It is one of the most obvious signs of a Jewish home – a small, ornate box on the doorpost containing the mezuzah parchment. If you're in the middle of doing home improvements, now is the ideal time to look at a spiritual fixer-upper – your mezuzah.

The commandment for the mezuzah can be found in the Torah: "And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thy house and upon thy gates" (Deuteronomy 6;4-9, 11:13-21) **[http://shlk.com/191]**. As the Jewish Virtual Library points out, "The mezuzah is not, as some suppose, a good-luck charm, nor does it have any connection with the lamb's blood placed on the doorposts in Egypt. Rather, it is a constant reminder of God's presence and God's commandments" **[http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Judaism/mezuzah1.html]**.

The mezuzah must be handwritten by a *sofer*, a trained scribe, onto parchment made from a kosher animal. Consult with the sofer if you want to double-check whether your current mezuzot are kosher. He should be able to spot a perfect mezuzah and detect one with errors. To be able to detect errors yourself, take a look a copy of an error-free mezuzah online **[http://www.milknhoney.co.il/stam/mezuza.html]** and then take the "mezuzah challenge." You'll find a mezuzah that, at first glance, looks pretty good. But according to the site, it has over 25 errors. (Just one error disqualifies a real mezuzah.) **[http://www.campsci.com/mezuzah/mzcont.htm]**

When you are ready to affix a kosher mezuzah to your doorpost, you can find the basic instructions as well as the blessing at **[http://www.ahavat-israel.com/ahavat/torat/mezuza.asp]** and **[http://www.foreveryjew.com/childmezuza.html]**. But the laws for mezuzot can get quite complicated. For example, what do you do with an irregularly shaped door or archway? What if you're entering a tiny room? What if you're afraid that your outdoor mezuzah will be stolen? The Halacha-Yomi archives offer a detailed look at the laws of mezuzot based on an English translation of the definitive *Kitzur Shulchan Aruch* **[http://www.torah.org/learning/halacha/classes/class1.html]**.

Although the essence of the commandment is what goes inside the mezuzah, the Esek Web site points out that the decorative container is not unimportant. "The whole idea, which is consistent with all forms of Judaic art and practical items, is endearing God's commandments to us. We live in human forms that react to aesthetics. If something is attractive, we are more likely to give it honour or care" **[http://www.esek.com/sopher/mezinfo.html]**.

Whether you decide to buy the mezuzah parchment at a local store or through the Internet – there are many places to buy parchments and cases online – make sure you are dealing with a reputable scribe and company. You can find a long list of commercial mezuzah links at the Mish Mash site **[http://www.mish-mash.ca/mezuzot.html]** and at Maven's Judaica section **[http://maven.co.il/subjects.asp?S=138]**.

In addition to being a reminder that you are in a Jewish home, the mezuzah has long been viewed as having protective qualities. The Jerusalem Talmud tells the story of the Persian king Artvon who sends Rabbi Yehuda HaNasi an expensive stone and requests that the rabbi give him back something of equal value. So the rabbi wrote a mezuzah and sent it to him. When Artvon received the mezuzah, he said, confused, "I sent you something of great value, and you send me a cheap piece of parchment in return." The rabbi answered, "You sent me something for which I will have to hire a watchman to protect it, whereby I sent you something that will offer you protection" **[http://www.campsci.com/mezuzah/]**.

Many remarkable stories have been told about people who have recovered from illnesses after a faulty mezuzah was replaced with a kosher one. In one case, someone suffering from eye problems discovered that the Hebrew word for "your eyes" – "*aynaychem*" – had been misspelled in his bedroom mezuzah. When the mezuzah was replaced, the medical problem reportedly disappeared **[http://www.campsci.com/mezuzah/mzpart1.htm]**.

But I particularly like one rabbi's mezuzah story. The rabbi was approached by a neighbour who was concerned that his kids were becoming very religious. The neighbour didn't know what to do. When a local rabbi heard of the problem, he had this piece of advice for him: "Check your mezuzot. Maybe they're kosher!" **[http://www.ohr.org.il/ask/ask090.htm]**.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

Exploring a columnist's view of the post-9/11 world

***Longitudes & Attitudes: Exploring the World After September 11*, by Thomas Friedman, Farrar Straus Giroux, $37.00.**

About 20 years ago, I attended a rabbinical conference in Israel at which Pulitzer Prize-winning author Thomas Friedman was a guest speaker. He was impressively clear and logical in his presentation, knowledgeable about all aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and concerned about the great divide between the western and Arab worlds.

Friedman is a longtime columnist for the *New York Times* and his roving beat permits him to travel wherever he wishes in order to find an important story. This book is made up of the columns he published about Sept. 11, as well as a diary of his experiences and reflections thereafter, as he travelled from Afghanistan to Israel and from Europe and Indonesia to Saudi Arabia.

Sept. 11, writes Friedman, was shocking to most Americans and civilized people around the world because it breached a fundamental principle – the sudden, wholesale destruction of human-beings.

"If it is possible to recruit 19 educated young men to hijack four planes and commit suicide by flying them into the Pentagon and the World Trade Center, and thereby kill close to 3,000 totally innocent people who kissed their spouses goodbye that morning and a few hours later were phoning home to their loved ones (if they were lucky) and telling them they were about to die, then anything is possible," he writes.

For those who find some justification for terrorism in American foreign policy or unseemly behaviour, Friedman has a quick answer.

"America has done more to make this world a better, more liveable place for more people than any other country in history. Some people don't like that. They detest the freedom, the pluralism, the religious toleration, the secularism, the gender equality, the democracy, the faith, the free markets and the multiethnicity with which we have built our society, and which we urge others to emulate…

"There really are people who hate Christians, hate Jews, hate secularism, hate the equality of women. At some point you have to either kill those people or be killed by them. This is not a misunderstanding that can be cleared up by a few courses in multiculturalism."

Friedman projects a Palestinian majority in Israel, the West Bank, Gaza and eastern Jerusalem by 2010, and maintains that Israel will then be forced to rule in a manner similar to the way South African whites ruled blacks under apartheid. This would be a mortal blow to Israel as a democratic state. He asserts that the only hope for Israel is to get out of the territories – in any orderly way it can – and minimize its friction with the Arab world as the Arabs go through a wrenching internal adjustment to modernization.

"I applaud [U.S.] President [George W.] Bush's call for Mr. [Yasser] Arafat to be replaced. But it is a travesty that Mr. Bush did not act to 'reaccredit' Israel too, as a peace partner for a two-state solution with the Palestinians, by insisting that Israel begin pulling back from some of its far-flung settlements in Gaza and the West Bank."

Longitudes and Attitudes is essential reading – stimulating, controversial and eye-opening.

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MEMORIAL 2002

Greater Toronto Area

Ontario Tories change rules on Shabbat ballots

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Ontario's Progressive Conservative party has amended its constitution to allow observant Jews to vote in leadership races, which typically fall on Saturdays.

The two amendments passed at the party's annual convention held here recently will require the Tories to establish advance polls so Sabbath observant party members – Orthodox Jews and Seventh-day Adventists – can take part in leadership contests.

The move came as a reaction to last spring's leadership vote that saw Ernie Eves replace Mike Harris as leader and premier. Observant Jews were shut out from casting ballots because voting took place on Saturday.

Prior to the leadership race, the party's executive voted to reject advance polls, opting instead for proxy voting. But that was a non-starter for the Orthodox after it was determined that proxy voting is un-halachic.

Last March, *The CJN* consulted three rabbis, two of them Orthodox, all of whom ruled that Jews could not take advantage of proxy voting because it is counter to Jewish law to appoint someone – even a non-Jew – to perform a task that is prohibited to Jews on the Sabbath.

In one riding, York Centre, proxy voting was untenable anyway because the number of Sabbath-observant party members far outnumbered the non-observant, making a proxy vote mathematically impossible.

The inability to cast ballots angered many Orthodox party members in at least three Toronto-area ridings, who said they were being disenfranchised, just as the Tories were aggressively courting the Jewish community, particularly the Orthodox. Jewish Conservatives complained they were unable to reward the Tories for the Equity in Education Tax Credit, which provides tax relief for parents of children in religious schools.

One of the changes to the party's constitution takes the old provision – that in the event of a leadership race, an election "shall respect the principle that each member of the party has the right to one vote," and adds the following: "…and that the executive shall ensure that the right to vote of each party member is respected in any rules governing the leadership election."

The second amendment states that the party's executive "is required" (changed from "is authorized") to make provisions in the leadership election rules for an advanced poll and/or preferential ballot, or other means, in order to ensure that the voting process is accessible and respects the rights of all members to cast their votes."

A preferential ballot will allow a voter to choose more than one candidate should voting go beyond one ballot.

Both amendments passed with well more than the two-thirds majority required.

A driving force behind the amendments was Bruce Gilboord, an Orthodox Jew and member of the York Centre PC riding association.

Gilboord, who lashed out at his party last spring, welcomed the changes. "This party has come out leading the pack on religious liberty," he said.

"In general, it's a positive move," said Jeff Bangs, executive director of the Ontario PC party. "The party was hamstrung by its own constitution."

Also favouring the amendments was onetime leadership hopeful Jim Flaherty, who insiders said had the most to lose without the Jewish vote. Of the five contenders, he was said to be the biggest booster of the education tax credit.

Ironically, the debate on the amendments took place on a Saturday, and Gilboord was forced to present his briefing via videotape. In the end, Gilboord said delegates went beyond his expectations, strengthening the language of the amendment to an even stronger degree.

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גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה

מפלגת העבודה פרשה מן הקואליציה, רשמית עקב התקציב המופלג שמיועד להתנחלויות. במציאות חיכו שם להזדמנות ליציאה, בעיקר לאור הסקרים שמנבאים שמפלגה זו, שהנהיגה את ישראל מקום המדינה ועד 1977 נמצאת בסכנה של היעלמות מוחלטת. לדעת רבים- הישארות בממשלה שמושכת ימינה מביאה לחורבן מפלגת העבודה. בניגוד לקודמיו, נדמה לי ששרון יצליח להנהיג קואליציה צרה, ימנית מאוד, שלא תתאמץ במיוחד למצוא פתרונות מדיניים, כי תומכיה הם רבבות של אנשים שמאמינים שליהודים אסור לוותר על חלקים מארץ ישראל.

בכל העיתונים כאן הציגו את שר הביטחון החדש, הרמטכ"ל לשעבר שבקושי סיים תקופת צינון של שלושה חודשים. מה לעשות, במדינה שבה הצבא כל כך דומינטי, רוב המנהיגים הם אנשי צבא לשעבר, אנשים שהעבירו את השנים הקריטיות בחייהם במערכת בלתי דמוקראטית. ממש לא בריא. רק להיזכר במנהגיהם הדמוקרטיים של שרון, ברק, דיין, ולקבל חלחלה. נכון, היו גם יוצאים מן הכלל, כמו ידין ואלון, אבל היוצא מן הכלל מלמד על הכלל.

כמעט משעשע לראות את שרון מנסה לגייס לממשלתו את נתניהו, יריבו הגדול להנהגת הליכוד. ממש הלך העורב אל הזרזיר. גילו הביולוגי המתקדם של שרון והתמוטטות מפלגת העבודה מבשרות שנתניהו הוא השם העתידי של הפוליטיקה הישראלית. מחשבה נוגה כזאת היא חלום בלהות להרבה ישראלים, אם כי תומכיו של נתניהו בליכוד- כחול על שפת הים. אבל שיישאר בינינו.

יצחק רבין-איתן הבר

ביום ראשון ה-17 בנובמבר תיערך עצרת זיכרון ליצחק רבין, האיש שיכול היה, לו המשיך, להביא להסדר עם הפלשתינאים. פרט זה ידוע היה היטב לרוצחו אמיר, שידע שרק מותו של רבין יפסיק את התהליך. בשנים הראשונות שאחרי הרצח אמרו כולם בלהט שאת תהליך אוסלו אי אפשר יהיה להפסיק. היום ברור שהבטחות אלה היו יותר הבעת משאלה מאשר מציאות. תהליך אוסלו מת, והתאוצה שיצרו רבין, חוסיין, קלינטון ופרסי הנובל נעצרה כליל. אורח עצרת הזיכרון הוא איתן הֶבֶר, יד ימינו של רבין לאורך שנים רבות, והאיש שהודיע בְּאומה על מותו והראה את הפתק עם מילות "שיר לשלום" מגואל בדם ליבו של רבין.

שמעתי את הבר מדבר על רבין. אלה הם דברים מרגשים עד דמעות, ואסור לאף ישראלי להחמיצם.

האירוע יתקיים בבית הכנסת "בית דויד בני ישראל" (מערבית לבֶּטֶרְסָט ודרומית לשֶׁפֶרד) בחסות הקונסול ותנועות הנוער.

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מה שחשוב בחיים

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ציין את ששת הזוכים האחרונים באוסקר לשחקן ושחקנית המצטיינים.

איך הלך לכם?

הנקודה היא שאף אחד מאיתנו אינו זוכר את הכותרות של אתמול. ומדובר פה בחישגים רציניים ביותר. אך מחיאות הכפיים גוועות. ההישגים נשכחים. גביעים ותעודות נקברים עם מקבליהם.

הינה עוד חידון קצר:

ציין שלושה מורים שעזרו לך לעבור את בית הספר.
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חשוב על שלושה אנשים שגרמו לך להרגיש חשוב ומוערך.
ציין חמישה אנשים שאתה נהנה לבלות איתם.
ציין עשרה גיבורים שסיפוריהם גרמו לך להתגבש למה שאתה.

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המסקנה: האנשים שמשפיעים על חייך אינם אלה עם הכי הרבה תארים, כבוד, כסף. האנשים שמשפיעים על חייך הם פשוט אלה שאיכפת להם ממך.
אז תקחו רגע או שניים ותשלחו את מה שכתבתי פה לאנשים שבאמת חשפיעו על חייכם.
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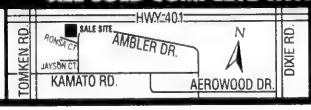

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Jewish Toronto

Responding to the needs of Ethiopian olim

The 70,000-strong Ethiopian Israeli community consists in large part of immigrants who came from an agricultural society which did not prepare them for life in the hi-tech nation of Israel. A recent Israeli report found that 75% of 15,000 Ethiopian olim who were airlifted to Israel 18 years ago in Operation Moses remain unable to write Hebrew.

UJA Federation, along with other North American communities, recognizes the tough challenges facing Ethiopian Israelis and is providing direct assistance above and beyond that provided through the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Joint Distribution Committee, UJA Federation's overseas partners.

In the community of Kiryat Moshe, a neighbourhood of Rehovot, near Tel Aviv, UJA Federation funds The *B'Ma'ale* progam which provides students and youth in distress with Ethiopian counselors who help them integrate better into the Israeli school system. The counselors work with the schools, children, and families to improve student participation, motivation and achievement, and to prevent them from dropping out.

Kiryat Moshe community members

An improved learning centre, projected to serve 400 students, is well underway to significantly raise student standards in Hebrew and English. For youth in distress, there is a unique intervention program to address the needs of 30 young people. A new *Teenage Girls Club* will offer a warm atmosphere, enrichment workshops and social skills development. At the same time, the mobilization and organization of the larger Kiryat Moshe community has also been initiated.

UJA Federation supports the Ethiopian community in Kiryat Moshe

Canadian Jewish Congress fighting antisemitism in Ontario schools

Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region, (CJCONT) the advocacy arm of UJA Federation, is working hard these days to combat antisemitic incidences in the public school system.

Here are some of the cases with which CJC is dealing:

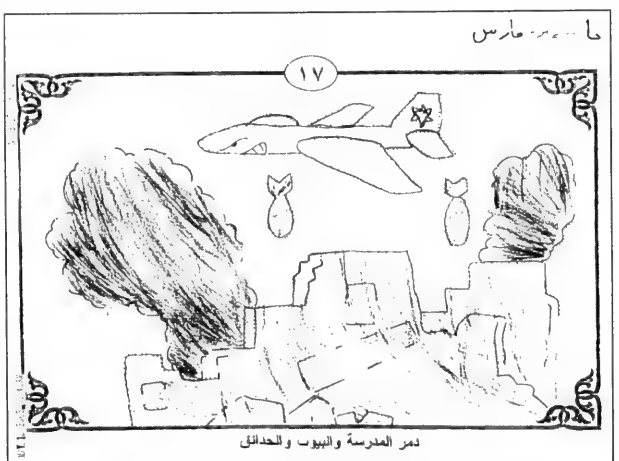
- A grade 10 teacher turns to a student in the midst of a classroom discussion on the high cost of university education and says, "Joseph doesn't have to worry about this. His parents will pay for his education. Everything is handed to him on a silver platter. He's Jewish."
- A grade eight geography teacher makes use of a school board-approved resource citing Jewish persecution of Christians as an example of a "push factor," leading to emigration.
- A high school teacher facilitates the arrangement of an in-school symposium on the Middle East. Three speakers present their perspectives. The Israeli position is ignored because, in the opinion of the presenters, they do not agree with that position and do not care to express it.

CJC has resolved some of these problems to the satisfaction of all parties while others are in the process of resolution. According to Len Rudner, Director of Community Relations for CJC Ontario Region, the role of CJC in these situations is two-fold.

"We advocate on behalf of our community members, while at the same time, we educate the educators and encourage them to take concrete steps to improve the quality of the school environment," says Rudner.

Congress works closely with UJA Federation and its Board of Jewish Education on cultural and diversity training for students.

"Working in unison with UJA Federation has proven to be an effective way to put the community's position forward on a range of issues on the province's political and social agenda, in particular, in the field of education policy," says Ed Morgan, Chair of CJCONT.



(above) A connect the dots drawing completed by a 6-year-old student at a Muslim Sunday School in Toronto depicts an Israeli plane bombing schools in the West Bank.

Seniors go high tech at Bernard Betel

As technological advances continue, it's easy for senior citizens to feel more alienated and out of touch.

However, following up on seniors' wishes, the Betel Centre for Creative Living is doing something to keep them connected.

Brian Prosserman, instructor of Bernard Betel's "Access to the Internet" program, surfs the net with Bella Tatoff.

Construction recently began on a new on-site, senior-friendly, state-of-the-art Computer Learning and Resource Centre, scheduled to open early in the new year.

The centre, funded in part by UJA Federation, which will include 12 workstations, will be open six days a week with comprehensive training and access to the Internet and e-mail. Instruction will be geared specifically to seniors at the introductory and intermediate levels.

"Computer technology has eliminated distances and is a useful tool for seniors to enhance their independence and their lives," says Esta Wall, Executive Director of the Bernard Betel Centre. "Our computer learning and resource centre will be unlike any other of its kind. Seniors told us this is the program they most desire in terms of recreation and education, and we are excited about our ability to meet this need."

For seniors Marion Greenberg and Sadie Rose, the new centre is a welcome change.

"I'm really excited by the ability I'll have to contact my friends the easiest way possible, by e-mail," says Rose, 89.

Adds Greenberg, 78, "I welcome the opportunity to better myself on the use of the computer, especially the Internet."

JEWISH TORONTO IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Dershowitz dialogues with Toronto students

Internationally renowned law professor Alan Dershowitz left a strong impression on students during his visit to Toronto last week.

In town for UJA Federation's Campaign 2003 celebration, Dershowitz addressed close to 1200 students at both Upper Canada College and Hart House at the University of Toronto.

"Terrorism is the defining act of our age in many parts of the world; it's all around us," said Dershowitz. "Many people think that terrorism is a function of poverty, or being oppressed. None of these factors are why terrorism is prevalent. The people of Tibet, for instance, are occupied by China, but they don't use terrorism."

Students at both venues were enthusiastic about Dershowitz's appearance, especially in the wake of comments made by Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham, who distinguished between the social service work of the terrorist organization Hezbollah, and its acts of terror. Hezbollah was reportedly behind the 1994 bombing of the Jewish community services building in Buenos Aires, which killed 86 people and injured at least 300.

"It does not show respect for the victims of terrorism for the spokesman of this great country to praise Hezbollah in any respect," said Dershowitz of Graham's remarks.

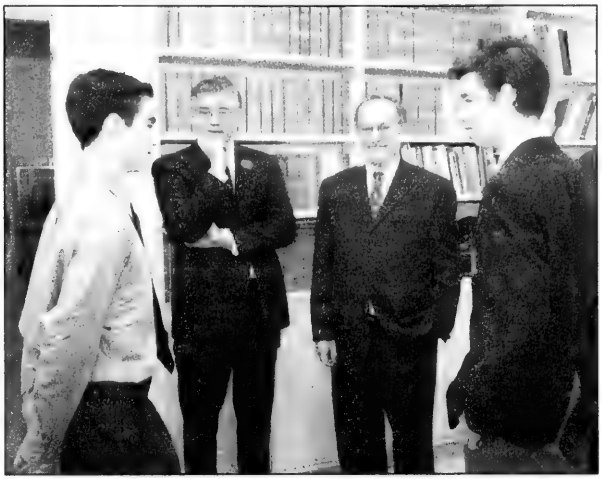
The students at U of T and UCC came well prepared with questions for the man described by *Time* Magazine as one of the most distinguished defenders of individual rights. Dershowitz not only answered their questions, but sometimes turned the tables on them with questions of his own.

At U of T, Dershowitz expressed his strong opposition to divestiture campaigns on North American campuses - attempts by universities to break all ties with Israel.

"Nobody expects these campaigns to succeed," he said. "The goal is to create the impression that of all the grievous human rights violators in the world, Israel is the worst country of all."

Following his address at U of T's Hart House, he held a private briefing for student leaders involved in on-campus advocacy.

The U of T event was sponsored by Jewish Campus Services and UJA Federation.



Professor Alan Dershowitz (second from right) chats with students Michael Korzinstone (left), Benjamin Tessier-Stall (right), and UCC principal, J. Douglas Blakey following his address.

Miles Nadal JCC lays out welcome "Mats" for Maple Leafs

Two of Toronto's longest-standing and most popular institutions are pooling their efforts this Sunday for a common goal – the youth of Toronto.

The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, formerly the Bloor JCC, located on the southwest corner of Bloor and Spadina, has been a cornerstone of Toronto's downtown Jewish core for almost 50 years, while the Toronto Maple Leafs recently celebrated their 75th anniversary.

On Sunday, November 17 at 2:00 p.m., led by Leaf captain Mats Sundin, these two venerable pieces of Toronto's mosaic will meet.

On that day, Sundin will bring the *Esso NHL Street Buds* program to the new centre. *Street Buds* is an initiative enabling more than 3,500 boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 16 to play organized hockey at various Toronto parks and recreation centres.

"I think that this program is a spectacular opportunity to expand the reach of the JCC to a broader target audience," says Miles Nadal, benefactor of the 65,000-square-foot building which – upon completion – will replace the aging Bloor JCC. "Obviously athletics is an important part of the JCC's programming, and this unique relationship between us and the Toronto Maple Leafs is a win-win situation. It's great for us, great for the Leafs, but most importantly, it's great for the young children of Toronto, both Jews and non-Jews alike, who will benefit strongly from this."

The Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre – a project of UJA Federation's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow initiative – will also house a myriad of daily activities: athletics, health and wellness, culture and art, religion and education.

"We believe it's important to get involved in programs that recognize the value of positive reinforcement in youth skill development," says Sundin. "This program gives boys and girls a chance to participate in an outstanding initiative that encourages them to enjoy the game and have fun, while promoting the importance of teamwork and exercise."

Mats Sundin, Maple Leafs' Captain, will be on hand at the new Miles Nadal JCC on Sunday, November 17 for the Street Buds program.

visit www.jewishtoronto.net

Fact finding in Los Angeles

Members of a Jewish Toronto Tomorrow committee looking at the Central Campus in the Bathurst-Sheppard area, recently held a fact-finding trip to Los Angeles where they met with famed architect Frank Gehry.

Pictured from left: Frank Gehry, Murray Koffler, and Leslie Gales, Vice Chair of the UJA Federation Board of Directors.

JEWISH TORONTO IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Negev honorees are children of the Holocaust

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The Jewish National Fund of Toronto's 2002 Negev Dinner will honour Saul and Toby Feldberg, children of the Holocaust who became role models in business and communal leaders in Canada and Israel.

The dinner will take place Sunday, Dec. 1, at the Sheraton Centre Hotel.

Sitting in the boardroom of Global Upholstery, surrounded by numerous framed awards and photos of the Feldbergs with world leaders – including the Pope, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, former Israeli prime minister Yitzchak Shamir and former prime minister Pierre Trudeau – the quiet-spoken and modest couple speak with humility about their childhoods during the war, their rise in business, their community commitments and, above all, their gratitude for their four children, David, Bernie, Janice, and Joel, and their five grandchildren.

When asked why they accepted the JNF honour when they believe in contributing quietly, Saul replied: "We felt that it was time to step forward and do something greater for Israel, for a worthy cause of JNF and to establish Halochem Park for disabled war veterans and victims of terror in the Haruvit Forest.

"In this way, we can show our solidarity with our brethren in Israel."

Saul, 67, was born in the town of Skarzysko, Poland, where he says the mortality rate during the war was higher than in Birkenau.

"I remember the Germans putting a yellow star on my arm and the fear in the eyes of my parents and grandparents," he says. "As a child, I cried myself to sleep."

He tells of a night when his father brought him a crust of bread. "When I finished it, I pleaded with him for more. He moved away from me and I could distinctly hear him crying."

These haunting memories, he says, remind him of his Jewishness and reinforce his determination to strengthen the State of Israel and the Jewish people.

Toby's family lived in Lodz, Poland. Her mother was four months pregnant with Toby when the war broke out. Her father was in the Polish army when Poland surrendered.

"We became fugitives," she says. "We lived by our wits alone. Our family survived by miracles running from place to place until the war ended."

Their stories of survival – through chaos, pain, death and injustice – have been converted to dedication, respect, self-worth and love.

Looking back, Saul whispers, "I was an old man before I became old."

While Saul was in a displaced persons camp in Berlin for three years, he attended a modern Hebrew school set up by the Zionist Organization. "I realized that the only way the Jewish people could survive as a people was to have an independent state."

Saul's family spent four years in Israel and arrived in Toronto in 1953.

Toby's family, the Elsners, returned to Lodz after the war, but Toby says when her parents found only ruins and lists of the dead, they left. They spent a few months in Israel and joined the rest of the family in Toronto.

Saul and Toby met in Toronto in 1955 at the Israeli Palmah Club, which, Toby says happily, "I crashed." Two years later, they were married.

She says that to this day, she and Saul still share their day-to-day lives.

In 1966, they established Global Upholstery, which manufactures office furniture such as chairs, desks, filing and wall systems. Over the years, the company expanded to become a worldwide organization with more than 2,000 employees.

The Feldbergs speak of the great satisfaction they had in establishing factories in Israel in 1995. Teknion is a plant in Haifa and Global Tzora is located in a kibbutz near Jerusalem. Global has more than 400 employees in Israel, mostly from the former Soviet Union. Half of the company's products are exported to Europe.

Continued on page 23

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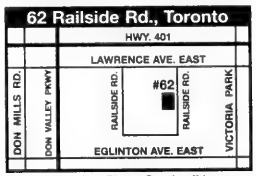

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Greater Toronto Area

JNF Negev Dinner honorees

Continued from page 22

"I always had a dream," says Saul, "to contribute in an active way to the State of Israel – active in helping to employ new immigrants who are struggling to make a living. It gives us great satisfaction to be participating in the building of a stronger economy and a stronger Israel."

The Feldbergs work for many charitable organizations, including hospitals, and schools, as well as groups that serve the underprivileged and Holocaust survivors.

Toby is active with the Reena Foundation, is president of the Haifa Foundation and is president of Beit Halochem Canada: Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel.

She says it was Bernie Weinstein, a former Negev Dinner honoree, who first introduced her to some visiting Israeli veterans from Beit Halochem.

"I realized that these people were willing to give their lives for all of us. That is one of the reasons we agreed to accept this honour – to bring awareness of Beit Halochem. Halochem Park in the Haruvit Forest will bring great joy to the physically challenged veterans and their families for generations to come – JNF and Beit Halochem go hand-in-hand."

Saul and Toby Feldberg, JNF Negev dinner honorees.

Toby adds that "it is very important to let them know that we are fully involved in helping them survive. And it is important that everyone of us visits Israel to show our solidarity."

He speaks with passion about visiting Israel. "When you are in Israel, you don't watch CNN and you don't feel you are in Israel – you feel safer there than in New York, Miami, Los Angeles or the Washington area."

This year's JNF campaign co-chairs are Brent Belzberg, Jeff Blidner, David Koschitzky, and Edward Sonshine.

For details about the Negev dinner or to make reservations, call JNF at 416-638-7200.

HOTELS INCLUDED IN THIS PROMOTION:

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Baha'i Gardens, Haifa – Waterfalls, marble staircases and 19 dazzling garden terraces highlight this world-renowned attraction atop Mount Carmel. It took 10 years and over $250 million U.S. to construct the terraces which account for this site's unofficial designation as the eighth wonder of the world. Although the Baha'i Gardens are open to the public year-round, reservations are recommended through the Haifa Tourist Board, at 011.972.4.831.3131.

The Tayelet, Tel Aviv – *Tayelet* is the Hebrew word for promenade, but Tel Aviv's *tayelet* is much more than that. It's an 11-kilometre ocean walkway, starting in the city's downtown core and ending in the neighbouring port of Jaffa. Whether walking or jogging, the view is inspirational and you're sure to find fellow *tayelet* travellers any time of the day or night.

Ramat Hanadiv Memorial Gardens – Just outside the historic, quaint community of Zichron Ya'akov, south of Haifa, are 1100 acres hosting the dazzling Ramat Hanadiv Gardens, dedicated to the memory of Baron de Rothschild. Many exciting archaeological discoveries add a deeper dimension to the reserve route.

Whether touring for free or spending money, the value of visiting Israel has never been greater. It's a wonderful time to see our magnificent country, knowing how much the people of Israel appreciate your presence and the positive impact of your trip on Israel's struggling economy.

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Nov. 18, is deadline for Nov. 28 issue and Monday, Nov. 25 is deadline for Dec. 5. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, Nov. 14

MONTESSORI OPEN HOUSE

Montessori Jewish Day School open house at 7 p.m., 585 Cranbrooke Ave. for primary (aged 2½ to 5) and lower elementary (age 6 to 8). Information/registration 416-784-5071.

Saturday, Nov. 16

JEWISH MEDITATION

Shaarei Tefillah Congregation's Saturday Night Live Learning Program with **Chashi Skobac** speaking on Jewish Meditation: History and Practical Ideas. Movie for children ages 3-12. Singles welcome.

Sunday, Nov. 17

RABIN MEMORIAL

Rabin Memorial Evening, keynote speaker **Eitan Haber**, former head of the Prime Minister's Office in the government of the late **Yitzhak Rabin**, 7 p.m., Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, 416-636-5425.

IN PRAISE OF PEACE

Men and women of diverse faith backgrounds are invited to attend an afternoon of interfaith readings, music, meditation and prayers In Praise of Peace, 2-3 p.m., Toronto Metro Hall, 55 John St. Rooms 308-9. For information, 905-881-8543.

BREAKFAST MEETING

LZA Jerusalem branch, formerly Branch 513.26.255, final breakfast meeting for the season at 9:30 a.m. in the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave.

RABBI IN THE FAR EAST

Temple Kol Ami in Thornhill features **Rabbi Jordan Cohen**, of Kolel: The Centre for Jewish Liberal Education, speaking on The Lion Meets the Dragon: A Western Rabbi's Experience in the Far East, 8 p.m., at Indigo Book Store, Yonge and Hwy. 7.

HBT BROTHERHOOD

Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood breakfast program, a poetry reading by **Shula Robin**, reading from her 5 published books. Accompanied by **Gladys Aaron** and **Senya Trubashnik**, oboist.

FAMILY COMMUNICATION

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation and Congregation B'nai Torah present **Dr. David Pelcovitz** of NYU School of Medicine, speaking on Effective Family Communication in Trying Times: A Jewish and Psychological Perspective, 8 p.m. at B'nai Torah, 465 Patricia Ave.

CHILDREN INTERMARRIED

My Children Have Intermarried, What is My Role?, facilitated by **Jack Kugelmass,** Canadian Council of Reform Judaism outreach co-ordinator, 2 p.m. at Solel Congregation, 2399 Folkway Dr., Mississauga. RSVP 905-820-5915.

THE ABARBANEL

Kehillat Shaarei Torah series concludes with **Prof. Eric Lawee** speaking on The Abarbanel, 8 p.m., 2640 Bayview Ave., 416-229-2600.

MEN'S HEALTH SEMINAR

Dr. David Saul speaks on Men's Health, with an emphasis on prostate cancer prevention, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Beit Rayim Synagogue.

GIANT RUMMAGE SALE

Clothing, housewares, books, collectibles offered at the giant rummage sale at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, 9 a.m. to noon. 416-633-5500.

Monday, Nov. 18

BOOK DISCUSSION

Holy Blossom Temple Book

Continued on page 25

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Continued from page 24

Club, facilitated by **Prof. Andrea Most**, discusses *Maus I* and *Maus II* by **Art Spiegelman**. Information, **Anne** 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

MAYNE YIDDISHE LIDER

Cranbrooke Friendship Club of UJPO and the Winchevsky Centre present national UJPO president **David Abramowitz** performing Yiddish songs and poems. 12:30 p.m. at the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Light lunch.

ISRAEL'S OPTIONS

At Adath Israel Synagogue, **Prof. David Dewitt** speaks on Israel's Options: Who Gets What, When and How? 8 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 19

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood presents Peter Russell, constitutional expert and professor emeritus, U of T, speaking on The Struggle of Indigenous Peoples in Canada for Recognition of Their Right to Self-determination, 7:30 p.m. 416-789-3291.

A CANCELLATION

Beth Tzedec Congregation regrets to announce the cancellation of the lecture, Israel: The State of the Nation with Ambassador Haim Divon. 416-781-3511.

Wednesday, Nov. 20

HOW TO TALK TO KIDS

The Jewish Family Institute highlights How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk, with author **Elaine Mazlish**, 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. RSVP 416-785-1107, ext. 204.

Thursday, Nov. 21

TROLLOPE AND THE JEWS

Prof. Harvey Kerpneck's third lecture in the series Anthony Trollope and the Jews, 7:30 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple. **Anne** 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

IMPROVED AGING

Tune into Nutrition and Holistic Wellness. Lecture on Improved Aging and Nutrition and demonstration of Jewish cuisine made lighter with **Dr. Irving Pisarek**, chiropractor, and **Hilda Pisarek,** diet councillor, 7:30 p.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. Reserve. **Molly** 416-633-1560, **Gail** 416-635-1956 or **Mildred** 416-633-2436.

JEWISH FAMILY INSTITUTE

Ways to Engage Co-operation from Your Children with author **Elaine Mazlish**, 9 a.m. to noon, at The Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. RSVP 416-785-1107, ext. 204.

And What Else Is New

ISRAEL MISSION

Join **Rabbi Avrohom** and **Goldie Plotkin** on the Chabad Lubavitch of Markham Solidarity Israel Mission Dec. 29-Jan. 6. For information and reservations, call Rabbi Plotkin at 905-886-0420.

MEMORIAL LECTURE

The First Narayever Congregation presents the third Dr. Arnold Clairman Memorial Lecture, Their Father's House, Their Mother's Table: Israeli Women Writers Find Some Rooms of Their Own, delivered by **Prof. Sara Horowitz**, York University, on Sunday, Nov. 24, 2:15 p.m. at Barbara Frum Library, 20 Covington Rd.

JOURNEY OF THE MIND

At Beth Tzedec Congregation, **Prof. Shalom Paul** of Hebrew University Jerusalem focuses on The Journey of the Mind, Nov. 22, 23.

Friday, Nov. 22: The Genesis of Genesis, kabbalat Shabbat service, 4:30 p.m. Dinner.

Saturday, Nov. 23: Service 8:45 a.m. Pulpit lecture, Jerusalem: The City of Gold. Luncheon following, A Stroll in the Garden of Eden. Minchah service 4 p.m., The Ever-Alive Dead Sea Scrolls.

Reserve for dinner and luncheon by Tuesday, Nov. 19. 416-781-3511.

HEBREW READING CLASS

Beginning Sunday, Nov. 17, 11 a.m., Pride of Israel Synagogue hosts a series of 5 intermediate level Hebrew reading classes for adults. The National Jewish Outreach Program provides study guides. Call **Izabella**, 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

TRIUMPH OF LIGHT

A Chassidic Farbrengen with **Rabbi Akiva Wagner**, dean of Yeshivas Lubavitch Rabbinical Seminary at JRCC, 18 Rockford Rd., Sunday, Nov. 24, 8-10 p.m. **Chana Weisberg**. 416-222-7105 ext. 30.

THE JEWS OF FRANCE

Prof. Arnold Ages of the University of Waterloo, continues his series, The Jews of France, Mondays, Nov. 18 and 25, 8 p.m. at Temple Har Zion. 905-889-2252.

YIDDISH PROGRAM

The Lodzer Centre Holocaust Congregation, 12 Heaton St., opening Yiddish program features **Rabbi Edward Goldfarb**, reading selections from the writings of **Chaim Grade**. 2 p.m., Monday, Nov. 25.

CHANUKAH PARTY

Adath Sholom Sisterhood annual Chanukah party, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 7:30 p.m., featuring **Mitchell Smolkin** and ensemble. 864 Sheppard Ave. W. 416-635-0131.

JF&CS WORKSHOPS

Jewish Family & Child Service workshops. **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

When You're About to Separate: What to Tell the Kids, Tuesday, Dec. 3, 6:60-8:30 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

Grandparents Are Forever, for grandparents whose children and grandchildren are experiencing divorce.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors pre-Chanukah dinner, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 5:30-8 p.m. at Adath Israel Synagogue, featuring musical entertainment by **Adam Timoon**. Reserve. **Tammy Parker**, 416-635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama, Nov. 20; Saturday dances, Nov. 23; Sunday dances Nov. 17; Pre-New Year's party, Dec. 29, 7 p.m. 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building) Get ready for Chanukah dance party on Nov. 30, 7 p.m. Nov. 14, supper out; Nov. 21, video movie; Nov. 28, free evening for stories and discussion Menachem **Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Sonnee Cohen Memorial Lecture, Are You at Risk for Diabetes?, Thursday, Nov. 14, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

The Quest for the Lost Tribes with **Joe Black**, facilitator, Monday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m.

Brain Aerobics, to stimulate your mind, enhance memory, improve concentration and problem solving skills. Thursday, Nov. 21, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Wellness Education program Tuesday, Nov. 19, 10-11:30 a.m. **Anne Goodwin**, Ontario Provincial Police, discusses prevention of fraud and scams against seniors.

Sleepwake Disorders Interest Group Tuesday, Nov. 19, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Sleep Country Canada presents How to Maximize Your Sleeping Comfort.

The Morris "Nafty" Naftolin Komedy Kabaret Thursday, Nov. 21, 2:30 p.m. Amateur comedians come and get your 5 minutes of fame.

Fun With Yiddish, 1 p.m., volunteer facilitator **Evelyn Rabkin-Yuditsky**. Contact person **Barbara Zigler** ext. 134.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons, meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Nov. 19, lecture with **Eitan Glazer** of JNF; Nov. 26, concert with Toronto Taffanel Winds Assembly; Dec. 3, Chanukah party, with entertainment by **Essi Zohar** and **Rita**. Call **Anna** ext.110

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500, ext. 2267.

The movie *Sunshine* with an introduction by **Paula David**, co-ordinator of the Holocaust Project, Thursday, Nov. 14, 3 p.m.

Wellness lecture, Influenza and Hand Washing, Wednesday, Nov. 20, 1:30-2:30 p.m., **Lillian Kariko**, infection control co-ordinator.

Lunch and Learn Tuesday, Nov. 26, at the Gathering Place. Stimulating lecture. Reserve in person at the service desk. For information, **Mara Swartz**, ext. 2275.

Chanukah events are being planned for both Wagman members and Terrace residents. Information flyer available at the Wagman Service Desk. **Mara**.

Bereavement Group for spouses ages 55 and older living in the community. For information, **Shawn Fremeth**, ext. 2986.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

The Delicate Balance: Love and Authority in Parenting, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 7:30 p.m. at The Family Resource Centre, Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

Luncheon Chanukah celebration featuring **Marvin Rosenshein** accompanied by **Mikhael Khinkis**. Tuesday, Dec. 3, 12:30 p.m., Room 211.

In the Koffler Gallery: **Ruth Liberman**: Blind Image runs to Dec. 15.

The Nutcracker, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m., and Dec. 21, at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, ext. 258.

Monday, Dec. 23, 8 p.m., Koffler School of Music presents **David Broza** in concert at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Tickets, information, **Adrienne Cohen**, ext. 228.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 26

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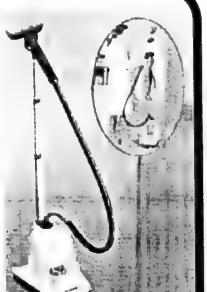
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Ringelblum Archives recalls life in Warsaw Ghetto

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Ration cards. Work permits. Candy wrappers. Tram tickets. The ephemera of daily life.

This is what was left of the life of those interned in the Warsaw Ghetto. The items were collected between November 1940 and early spring of 1943, and, in an attempt to save them from certain destruction, hidden in caches in the ghetto.

Holocaust Education Week

The remarkable collection is called the Ringelblum Archives, after Emanuel Ringelblum, a teacher in a girls' school, who spearheaded the project. Ringelblum himself was shot in the ruins of the Warsaw Ghetto in May 1944.

The archives are stored at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. Eleonora Bergman, the institute's deputy director and curator, told their fascinating story at the Lipa Green building, as part of this year's Holocaust Education Week.

Ringelblum and a number of writers, teachers, social workers and a rabbi, formed themselves into an organization called Oneg Shabbos, since they met on Friday nights.

They decided to make a record of life in the ghetto, of what was happening to the Jews of Poland, and to somehow show the richness of Jewish life, even in the horrendous conditions they had to endure.

It must be said, Bergman stressed, that the group was not only working for posterity, although "they felt a free society would appreciate their efforts." Rather, "they planned to use the material for their own research and writings after the war." Most, however, died, either in the ghetto or in Treblinka.

Among other things, they collected statistics: what parts of Poland the Jews in the ghetto were brought from, how many died of hunger, lists of deportees to Treblinka.

Research was carried out especially for the project, Bergman said, using questionnaires, interviews with intellectuals and school curricula. It showed ghetto life existing on two levels, she said. People went to schools, social and cultural organizations and concerts, while stepping over the dying.

People were asked about their plans for the future and the possibility of a Jewish state. Some were even asked to consider what positive aspects there might be about their incarceration.

"There wasn't much positive," Bergman said wryly, although some spoke about strong friendships and the help people gave each other.

Ringelblum himself, Bergman said, made copious notes, commenting on events in the ghetto, jokes and gossip, and drafts of books he wanted to write after the war.

By 1942, she said, Oneg Shabbos began to recognize the truth about the destruction of the Jews, and members wrote about the massacres in Chelmna, Lublin and Poniar. They realized that the Germans had changed tactics from murdering groups of Jews to a policy of total extermination. With the help of the Polish underground, in March 1942, they sent reports of what was happening to the Polish government in exile and then to the Allies.

In August, the underground told the ghetto inhabitants of the Germans' lethal intentions. Members of Oneg Shabbos decided that the material must be hidden for safekeeping. In January and February 1943, and on April 18, the night before the Warsaw Ghetto uprising began, everything that had been packed into milk cartons and boxes was hidden under a school building and under a house.

At the same time, the organization was preparing for the armed resistance. What was probably the last material added to the second cache was a flyer exhorting Jews not to go quietly to their deaths, but to fight against their oppressors.

On Sept. 18, 1946, Bergman said, 10 metal boxes were retrieved from the rubble of a tenement house. Most of the contents were mildewed and had to be dried and repaired. More boxes were found on Dec. 1, 1950, but this material had sustained almost no damage.

Everything has been cared for and preserved according to proper archival techniques, Bergman said, adding that much of the paper conservation was carried out with the help of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Cataloguing has been a real problem, she said, since the material was found in the order in which it was packed, rather than by any recognizable structure. However, she said, they have been able to piece together much of the order, and a preliminary catalogue came out in the early 1950s. A new one is expected to come out next year, with the help of computer technology. Eventually, she said, the Jewish Historical Institute hopes to publish the whole Ringelblum Archives.

The collection now comprises 1,700 archival files.

In 1999, she said, UNESCO put the Ringelblum Archives on its Memory of the World List, considering it a significant item for the history of the world.

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On Campus

12 Concordia students charged for roles in protest

MONTREAL – Twelve Concordia University students will be charged under the university's Code of Rights and Responsibilities for their roles in the violent protest that led to the cancellation of a speech by former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sept. 9.

The students, who include the two arrested on the day of the demonstration, will be disciplined under the code as it existed on Sept. 9, the university said. The code, which is currently being reviewed, provides for a range of sanctions, from written reprimand to suspension or expulsion.

Most of those to be charged under the code broke through the security perimeter in the Hall Building and occupied the mezzanine and escalators near its entrance.

"It was these actions that directly led to the cancellation of Mr. Netanyahu's speech. As outlined in Article 16 of the code, they created an 'intimidating and hostile atmosphere.' Every individual present on the mezzanine and escalator who has been identified at the time has been charged," the university said in a press release.

Concordia said it is not releasing the names of those charged because of confidentiality regulations.

As for "several" complaints of assault, intimidation and spitting that allegedly occurred outside the Hall Building on Sept. 9, the university said it "vigorously deplores" such behaviour, but said none of these incidents was captured on videotape. "As a result, with one exception, the individuals involved could not be identified," it said.

The university said it has identified a total of 19 individuals involved in the violence and related incidents.

Of the non-students, four will be barred from the Concordia campus and will not be permitted to register at the university for a period of five years, the university said. One of these four individuals has been identified as being among those who broke the large front window of the Hall Building, a scene that was featured in much of the media coverage of the Sept. 9 event.

"A careful, exhaustive and time-consuming study of available videotape footage and other evidence has led to the current set of charges. The investigation is continuing and further charges will be laid as individuals are identified," the university said.

The five who were arrested, who include three non-students, have been charged under the Criminal Code or municipal bylaws, for such offences as obstruction of a police officer and illegal assembly.

The university said additional complaints have been filed with police against seven other individuals and the investigations continue.

"Concordia University will continue to enforce its policy of zero tolerance for violent and intimidating behaviour. Whatever the supposed justification, the disgraceful actions taken to prevent the speech of former prime minister Netanyahu must not be repeated. Violence and intimidation have no place on campus," the university stated.

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Tuesday, Dec. 3 7:00 *p.m.* "Coping with Memory Loss" Presented by: Dr. Guy Proulx, Director of the Department of Psychology, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care

Thursday, Dec. 12 2:00 *p.m.* "Super Nutrition for the Millennium" Presented by: Rosalie Moscoe, Wellness and Nutrition Consultant

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Mazel Tov MOMENTS

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Happy special birthday to Helen Sussman, who was recently honoured by Beth Sholom Synagogue in Edmonton. Son Joel of Boston and grandson Ari of San Francisco joined her in celebration.

Allan & Pat Friedland, Abram & Tonia Saksznajder, grandmother Rajzla Himelfarb, announce with delight the engagement of their children Marla & Ilan.

Eva & David Hoffman and Bev & Lee Spagat wish each other mazel tov on the engagement of their children Lisa & Elliott.

Happy ninth birthday Joshua Foreman. Love from sister Hailey; mom & dad, Mitchell & Melanie; grandparents Marilyn & Stan Beder and Marilyn & Albert Foreman.

Shirley & David Sklar are thrilled to announce the engagement of their son Richard to Corinne, daughter of the late Marty & Cheryl Bruner.

Len & Myrna Berger, Heather & Jerry Saltsman, Gail & Gary Goodman are pleased to announce the engagement of their children Ilana Saltsman to Sam Goodman.

Mazel tov to Harry Haber on his 70th birthday. Best wishes and love from your entire family.

Mazel tov to Sylvia & Marvin Morris of St. Catharines on your recent 60th anniversary. With love from your children and grandchildren.

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New Tagar shaliach will focus on Israel advocacy

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Betar-Tagar, the youth wing of Herut Likud, has a shaliach from Israel for the first time in three years.

Itay Gadot, 32, said in a recent interview that his main goal is to establish young leadership trained in Israel advocacy, on university campuses in and around Toronto, beginning with York University and the University of Toronto.

BETAR

Itay Gadot

He said he's not here to compete with Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto, which has increased its focus on the same issue in the past two years of increasing terrorism in Israel and increasing anti-Israel sentiment on campus. Gadot sees himself as a resource for the campus umbrella organization, he said.

"I don't see Tagar [the campus wing] as one player," said Gadot, who arrived here last month. "It's a mosaic. It's beautiful only when all the parts are combined together. We consider ourselves as a few stones in the mosaic."

If students don't stand up for Israel on campus, he said, "only one voice will be heard and that will be the Palestinian side."

Although Betar (for high school students) and Tagar – which in Israel are affiliated with the ruling political party, Likud – are "skewed to the right wing," Israel's survival and security is not a matter of right or left, Gadot said. On campus, he said, the Palestinians are regarded as "the good guys." Sometimes, he added, Jewish students are "swept" to the other side which is "more persuasive," because they are not well-informed.

With a background in advertising and communications – he worked on an award-winning campaign for Proctor & Gamble in Israel – Gadot says, "We have so many messages. As an advertiser I know I should focus each time on only one message and be coherent about it. Once you establish a message and deliver it, then you can move on to the next one."

When Gadot was three months old, his father Gideon, who later became a Member of Knesset, began his own Betar shlichut in Johannesburg. "I was born into shlichut," said Gadot, who was named in part for his great-uncle Aryeh Ben-Eliezer, his father's mentor and an early Betar member as well as a member of Israel's first Knesset.

Despite his political roots, Gadot laments the decline of the left in Israel. "Don't think I'm happy about it," he said. "Of course I would like the right to be in government, but I think it's a healthier thing for democracy if there are two strong parties around the centre."

Gadot is one of a handful of Betar-Tagar shlichim in North America. He has one counterpart in Canada, based in Winnipeg.

In addition to working with Jewish university students directly on pro-active Israel advocacy, Gadot would like to bring Israeli movies here. A longtime film buff who attributes his English vocabulary to the fact that he decided at a young age not to read subtitles, Gadot said that Israeli films show an aspect of Israel that does not appear in the news. "It's very important for me to share this with other people."

Ever since Gadot's predecessor, Baruch Liverant, finished his Toronto shlichut three years ago, Tagar has not been active here. "It's like a car that's stuck in the snow, and now we have to warm it up," said Gadot. "I believe that in a few weeks we'll be back on the highway."

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Coast to Coast

Ottawa cantor honoured

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

Cantor Daniel Benlolo

OTTAWA — Cantor and choir director Daniel Benlolo of Congregation Beth Shalom West is the recipient of this year's Elaine Rabin Social Service Award in recognition of his service to the community.

The award, which was presented at the recent 22nd annual general meeting of Jewish Family Services of Ottawa-Carleton (JFS), is named in honour of Elaine Rabin, who was executive director of JFS from its inception in 1980 until 1996.

In addition to his duties as cantor, Benlolo is known around the city for his solo performances at community events and for his work with the Shira Ottawa Choir, of which he is founder and director.

The youngest in a Moroccan family of 12 children who settled in Quebec, Benlolo became cantor of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in Montreal at the age of 20. He studied Ashkenazi, Yemenite, Syrian and other Sephardi cantorial styles at the Belz School of Jewish Music, an affiliate of Yeshiva University in New York.

Benlolo started his own bar/bat mitzvah preparation school at the Hillel Lodge seniors' residence, using its chapel in return for teaching seniors at the lodge for their own bar and bat mitzvahs. Soon after, he added a bat mitzvah class at the Tamir Foundation's group home for the developmentally disabled adults across the street.

"I believe strongly that working with children, the disabled, the elderly and the disadvantaged has made me grow stronger," Benlolo said. "What my late mother instilled in me was the love of people, to make sure that you don't see a difference in people, regardless of where they come from."

In his speech, he thanked his wife, Muriel, and jokingly thanked HaShem.

On a more serious note, he said, "I accept the award in the name of all the children, the disadvantaged, the disabled and the elderly, and hope that we all learn that because of them we learn what chesed is, what kindness is. Because of them, we are better people.

"I strongly believe that one who believes in something or does something with unconditional love should not expect to be rewarded for it," he said, "but it does feel great!"

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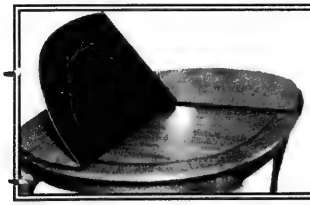

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Coast to Coast

Christian minister leads Inuit tours to Israel

Continued from page 1

The Inuit are particularly interested though in connecting with ordinary Israelis and sharing their culture, Rev. Armbruster says.

"At least once a day," he says, "we stop at a kibbutz or a school or a hospital and the Inuit perform traditional songs and dances. We also bring gifts such as traditional carvings and T-shirts we have had made that have printed on the front 'From the Land of the North Star to the Land of the Star of David.'

"We printed over 500 of the T-shirts. Inuit are proudly wearing them all over the north. We just have a few left."

Rev. Armbruster says the Inuit feel a close affinity with the Jewish people and their exile, abandonment and successful quest for self-determination and a Jewish homeland. (There are only 27,500 Inuit, he notes, a people small in number like the Jews.)

In turn, Israelis are fascinated to meet people whose ancestors have survived for thousands of years in a harsh, cold climate, he said.

On the January tour, one of the participants will be Tagak Curley, whom Rev. Armbruster describes as "the founding father" of the Inuit Brotherhood – also known as the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada, the Inuit's first collective voice when it began in 1971 – and the founding father of Nunavut itself.

Rev. Armbruster says 32 people went on the first tour, and both the second and third had about 20 participants each. He expects about 30 on the upcoming trip.

Participants pay $2,800 and, Rev. Armbruster says, they are enthusiastic shoppers in Israel.

"They spent hundreds of dollars on necklaces, rings with Stars of David and other mementoes," he says. "They patronize the souvenir shops at every hotel we stay at and spend close to the maximum amount they are allowed."

Larry Audlaluk, centre, from Canada's northernmost community, Grise Fiord, presents an Inuit carving of a polar bear to Israeli President Moshe Katsav. Rev. Roger Armbruster is pictured at left.

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Coast to Coast

Hamilton CMDA chapter buys ambulance for Israel

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — The local chapter of Canadian Magen David Adom (CMDA) raised more than enough funds to purchase an ambulance for Israel, says Hilda Rosen, who led the campaign.

With the acceleration of suicide bombings, the need for ambulances has been strikingly apparent, Rosen said in an interview. As people witness the aftermath of the bombings on television, they want to help in a concrete way.

"People were excited to contribute. During the entire campaign, very few people said no."

More than $85,000 was raised in the 2002 campaign, Rosen said. An ambulance was purchased for $81,500, and the balance will go towards emergency medical equipment.

"I want people to know how much we appreciate the outpouring of support during the ambulance campaign," Rosen said.

Edna Miller of Hamilton donated funds to purchase a second ambulance on her own, in memory of her parents and her brother.

Rosen praised those who participated in the UJA Federation's walkathon, which raised more than $17,800, all of which was passed on to the CMDA ambulance campaign. She pointed out that funds donated directly to UJA during the regular and emergency campaigns were not diverted to CMDA.

She also praised former Hamilton resident, Jane Willinger, who single-handedly campaigned in St. Catharines, raising $8,759.

Among those who donated to the ambulance campaign were teenage brothers, Sam and Jason Charvet of Burlington, who donated $500 out of their tzedakah gelt, Rosen said.

In addition, she said, "non-Jews were very generous. One person gave $5,000."

This is the third ambulance Rosen has worked to help purchase. Her commitment to raising funds for this purpose began in the early 1980s when she was a volunteer for Hamilton Supporters of Israel. In consecutive years, the organization purchased an ambulance and then a blood mobile.

Two years ago, she received a call from Israel pleading for her assistance in raising funds for another ambulance. She canvassed entirely on her own, and in three weeks, raised sufficient funds.

"My phone was ringing morning, noon and night during that time," Rosen said.

Then in January, she received a call from Toronto asking her to begin another ambulance campaign. "They begged me for help."

As chair of the Hamilton branch of CMDA, she and about eight volunteers worked tirelessly canvassing people in the community.

"I made a rule for myself that not one night would go by, other than Friday and Saturday, without raising money."

The ambulance was purchased in the United States and shipped to Montreal. From there, it will be shipped to Israel. On the doors of the ambulance are the words: "Presented by the people of Hamilton and area with much love to the people of Israel."

Rosen said the ambulance donated by Hamilton in the 1980s was seen on television news in Canada.

"When this one gets to Israel, they will let us know where it is stationed, its licence number and the ambulance number. Hopefully if we see it, it will be in service for peace, not war."

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An honest assessment of terrorism

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

"The people who carry out suicide bombings are not martyrs, they're war criminals, and so are the people who help to plan such attacks. The scale and systematic nature of these attacks set them apart from other abuses committed in times of conflict. They clearly fall under the category of crimes against humanity."

Kenneth Roth, the executive director of Human Rights Watch, made this pronouncement as part of a 170-page Human Rights Watch report called, "Erased in a Moment: Suicide Bombing Attacks against Israeli Civilians," (Nov. 1). The report attracted substantial Canadian media attention. Michael Colton (CBC Radio), Paul Workman (CBC "The National"), Mitch Potter (*Toronto Star*), and Peter Goodspeed (*National Post*) all commented.

Mitch Potter (Nov. 1) called the report "scathing" in its indictment of those who plan and direct the massacres of Israel civilians, citing Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Khalid Mish'al, the leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad respectively, as well as the leaders of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP).

However, while noting that Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat and senior PA leaders bear political and moral responsibility for not preventing terrorist attacks against Israelis, Human Rights Watch stopped short of acknowledging mounting evidence of their direct involvement in planning, funding and ordering such attacks. For example, the story of Arafat's responsibility for the attempted smuggling of thousands of tons of heavy weapons aboard the ship Karine-A remains to be told.

Some Israelis complained about this, yet many Israelis were relieved that a respected human rights organization finally spoke at length about the heinous criminality of suicide bombings.

Other Israeli analysts asked whether the Human Rights Watch report might affect how the media deal with the phenomenon of suicide bombings. The practice of having Hamas officials justify terrorist attacks as "resistance to occupation" each time terrorists strike should be laid to rest, they said. These assertions are lies on two levels. First, when Israel's opponents use the term "occupation," they are not referring to the West Bank and Gaza Strip (as audiences might assume) but to all of Israel, which they want to see destroyed. Second, slaughtering innocent men, women and children as a matter of predetermined policy can never be described as resistance.

While the *Globe and Mail* did not deal with the Human Rights Watch study, its Mideast correspondent Paul Adams reported on Nov. 5 about a 76-page Amnesty International study, "Shielded from Scrutiny: IDF violations in Jenin and Nablus." Amnesty charges that the Israeli army committed war crimes during its Operation Defensive Shield last spring. Israeli officials angrily denied the allegation, charging in turn that Amnesty ignored the reasons for the military response – a horrific wave of terrorist attacks – and also ignored how much the army put its own soldiers at risk (with 23 fatalities in Jenin) so as to minimize the loss of innocent Palestinian civilians.

In contrast to Amnesty's one-sidedness, the Human Rights Watch report, whatever its shortcomings, is forthright in at long last coming to terms with the unrelenting terrorism Israelis face.

Paul Michaels is director of communications of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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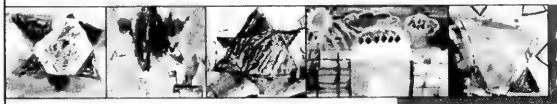

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Dr. Perlmutter puts down drill after more than 50 years

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

After more than 50 years in dentistry, Dr. Gordon Perlmutter is putting away his drill, scaler and syringes.

"But not quite," says his daughter Dr. Sharon Perlmutter, who is also a dentist and a community volunteer.

"My father still comes into the office every day when he is in town. He checks the mail and does some administrative tasks."

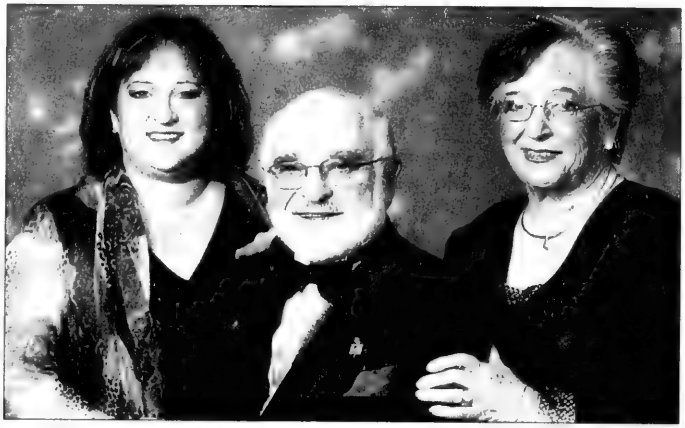
Born in Sarny, Poland, Gordon came with his family to Canada when he was three month old. As a student at Harbord Collegiate Institute, he worked in his parents' bakery, Home Bread Bakery at 630 College St., decorating cakes and delivering the baked goods on his bicycle.

In 1948, Gordon's parents sold Home Bread and bought the Flip Glen Bakery at Dufferin Street and Glencairn Avenue. Gordon continued to work part time in the bakery while attending University of Toronto's dental school.

After graduation in 1950, he established a practice above his father's bakery and continued his studies at U of T, University of Michigan and Tufts University in Boston. He received fellowships and awards in both Canada and the United States.

He worked in the area for more than 40 years. When Sharon graduated dentistry 13 years ago, father and daughter moved to larger facilities at Glencairn and Bathurst.

Throughout his career, Gordon has served as a volunteer dental practitioner. After graduation, he treated children at the residence of the Loyal True Blue and Orange Home for Orphans. He has also volunteered at Mount Sinai Hospital for two years, the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care for 30 years and treated public school children at North York's Public Health Dental Department for eight years.



From left: Dr. Sharon Perlmutter, Dr. Gordon Perlmutter and Estelle Perlmutter.

Along with his practice, Gordon has served in the community for many years. To name but a few positions he has held, he served as president of the North Toronto District Dental Society, president of the Toronto Academy of Dentistry, president of the Toronto alumni chapter of Alpha Omega Dental Fraternity and president of Alpha Omega International Dental Fraternity, a position only four other Canadians have held.

Gordon has also volunteered for United Jewish Appeal, going on missions to Washington, D.C., and Israel, and raised funds for dental schools in the Jewish state.

Today, he and his wife Estelle spend four months in Florida each winter. When in Toronto, he attends services at Beth Tzedec Synagogue, where he has been a member for more than 40 years.

In an interview, Gordon said, "I am grateful for the many friends who shared my activities over the years. I've had 19 associates, and they have all remained friends. Sharon is my 20th."

> *'Everything he did for community was like doing it for his extended family'*

In a separate interview, Sharon said her father was very committed to his profession. He was so committed, in fact, that "as kids, we often complained that our father was too busy."

But she said she is realizing more and more how loved and admired her father is by his patients and members of the community.

"Now, when we see his accomplishments, we realize that everything he did for the community was like doing it for his extended family.

"The greatest compliment to me is when former patients of my father tell me that I must be good because my father, who has high standards, allowed me to take care of his patients.

"And wherever I travel throughout the world, when they hear the name Dr. Gordon Perlmutter of Toronto, they welcome me with open arms and tell me how my father touched them.

"[Their] only complaint is that I don't tell jokes the way my father does – particularly in Yiddish," Sharon said with a chuckle.

Today, the Perlmutters have three children – Phillip, Sharon and Nanci (Soicher), and four grandchildren.

Of all his lifetime achievements, Gordon says his family is most important.

"Above all, my joy in watching the growth and success of my family – this is my greatest source of satisfaction."

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JNF mission to Israel

Twenty-nine participants from across Canada recently returned from a Jewish National Fund of Canada President's Solidarity Mission to Israel. As well as visiting locations around the country that have been the object of recent terrorist activities, visits took place with victims of terror and their families. The lonely task of individuals in Israel's armed forces was highlighted by the border patrol officer who requested photos to post in their barracks. He expressed gratitude to the Canadian group for taking the time to come to visit with them. Seen here are mission participants with Natan Sharansky (front right of centre).

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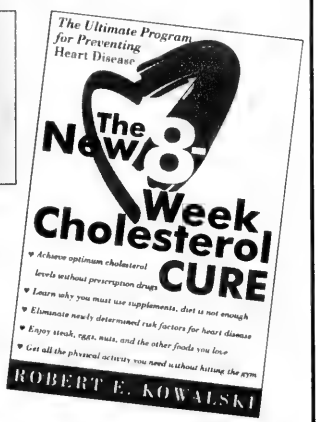
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Coast to Coast

Rabbi's new book shows Midrash still relevant today

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Wilfred Shuchat, who has taught Midrash to hundreds of people at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim over a career that has spanned more than 56 years, has just published what may rightfully be called his magnum opus.

The Creation According to the Midrash Rabbah (Devorah Publishing) is a volume that makes the Midrash accessible to both laypeople and clergy. It combines the original Hebrew text, a comprehensive translation in contemporary English, a summary of traditional commentaries from divergent texts and Rabbi Shuchat's own "seed thoughts," or reinterpretations.

The 82-year-old rabbi, who is now rabbi emeritus of his synagogue, can count among his former students *Washington Post* columnist Charles Krauthammer and real estate and publishing magnate Mortimer Zuckerman.

Former student Zuckerman, editor-in-chief of *U.S. News & World Report* and chair of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, has provided this endorsement of the book: "This is a brilliant and humane book that speaks to new generations that seek Judaism to add meaning and significance to their lives. If, as the author, Rabbi Shuchat says, 'The spiritual appetite grows with spiritual eating' then this book is a feast that will add spiritual weight to its readers."

Rabbi Shuchat says he became interested in Midrash very early in his rabbinic career, which began after his ordination from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 1945.

About 20 years ago, he began to look at the Midrash in a systematic way, studying the Midrash Rabbah on a daily basis.

"The experience with Midrash has been for me the greatest form of spiritual enjoyment," he says.

But he realized that, to be broadly accessible, Midrash requires much more than translation.

As he says in the introduction, it "requires rendering so that the arguments flow gently and meaningfully from one sage to another," as well as interpretation.

Midrash is as relevant to Jews today as it was at the time it was written, he says. "The rabbis tried to show that Judaism spoke to their generation. That is how I understand Midrash. We should try to do the same thing for ourselves."

He says his "seed thoughts," after every section of Midrash, are an attempt to do this.

Most midrashic passages are somewhat of a riddle, Rabbi Shuchat says. They usually contain an implied question, to which the interpretation responds. A verse is then cited that contains the answer, but normally, the Midrash does not proceed immediately there.

"Having brought forward the verse, it will then, en passant, draw certain conclusions from it, or certain teaching values, that may or may not be related to the immediate question," the rabbi says. "Only after this is done does the midrash then conclude with the answer to its question."

Rabbi Schuchat says Midrash is an important element of Jewish teaching because it is less interested in solving the "problem" of the biblical text and more interested in solving the problem of life. Even the sometimes "fanciful flights" the Midrash takes in interpreting the Bible are a legitimate part of study and, more importantly, a valid approach in the search for meaning in life, Rabbi Shuchat says.

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Israel said readying retaliation for attack on Kibbutz Metzer

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Israel Defence Forces will soon respond to Sunday night's terror attack at Kibbutz Metzer in which five people were killed, Israel Radio quoted a senior security official as saying Monday.

The radio report said Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz met early Monday with the heads of all security arms, formulating initial plans for a military response to the attack. Mofaz will bring the plans to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for review.

Meanwhile, security forces were on high alert Monday afternoon in the Sharon region after receiving a warning that terrorists were planning to penetrate the area and carry out an attack there. Police and Border Police forces were increased on the 1967 Green Line border and roadblocks were set up around the Sharon area and in some towns.

Revital Ohayoun

At Kibbutz Metzer, the five were killed and three people injured late Sunday, when a terrorist infiltrated the kibbutz, just on the Israeli side of the pre-1967 border with the West Bank. The gunman killed two small children in their beds, as well as their mother and two other adults.

The Al Aqsa Brigades of Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement claimed responsibility for the attack in which the terrorist cut through the security fence, gunned down a woman strolling nearby and traded fire with and killed the secretary of the kibbutz, the communal village's most senior official.

The attacker then slipped into a house, killing the children and their mother.

The victims were identified Monday as Revital Ohayoun, 34, her sons Matan, 5, and Noam, 4, Yitzhak Dori, 44, who served as the secretary of the kibbutz, and Tirza Damari, 42, of Eliachin, who had come to the kibbutz for a visit.

The kibbutz, founded by the leftist Hashomer Hatzair movement, was known for its vigorous advocacy of reconciliation with its Arab neighbours and its support for a future peace including an Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

The killings came amid reports that the Fatah movement, officials of which had foresworn attacks within Israel proper, was holding meetings with militant Hamas figures for a wider ceasefire within the pre-1967 war borders, known as the Green Line.

Security forces ordered kibbutz residents to remain in their homes all night, with a total blackout imposed as police searched for the attacker. Only after 7 a.m. were residents allowed to leave their homes, after police announced that the gunman had apparently fled the area of the kibbutz, located on the Israeli side of the Green Line, north of the Palestinian city of Tul Karm.

First-aid teams who rushed to the scene of the attack were barred from entering Metzer for more than an hour, by security forces who feared that the terrorists might still be inside the kibbutz.

During the attack, which lasted some 20 minutes, the security co-ordinator at the kibbutz spotted the terrorist and opened fire, but failed to hit him.

Israel police chief Shlomo Aharonisky said Monday that there had been countless warnings of the possibility of such an attack in the area, which is close to a favoured entry point for terrorists en route to attacks in Israel.

Noam (left) and Matan Ohayoun [Israel photos]

Large numbers of police and Border Police, who used flares to light up the area, searched the kibbutz through the night with the help of a helicopter, but by first light, it had been determined that the terrorist or terrorists had escaped.

Defence officials suspect that the shooting may have been carried out by members of the same cell that tried to penetrate Israel near Kibbutz Metzer earlier in the day, in order to carry out a suicide attack.

In that incident, two Palestinians were killed when their car exploded after they were stopped by a Border Police patrol.

"The Palestinian terror machine doesn't miss a beat," said David Baker, an official in Sharon's office, after troops had foiled the attack.

Also Sunday, the army said it arrested a 15-year-old youth from the West Bank city of Nablus on his way to carry out a suicide attack and a senior Hamas member from the West Bank town of Hebron.

The same day, Border Police sappers defused two 160-kilogram explosive devices found in hothouses in the Gaza Strip settlement of Morag.

Early Monday, IDF helicopters fired rockets into a large metal workshop in downtown Gaza City. Israel Radio reported that the workshop was used to manufacture mortar shells. The helicopters shot at least eight rockets into the workshop, which was believed to be empty when the attack took place shortly before 2 a.m.

The IDF has frequently targeted such workshops in the past, which have been used by Palestinian militants to manufacture weapons.

During the initial phase of the two-year-old Palestinian uprising, Israel responded to Palestinian attacks with air strikes. However, under Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Israel has largely halted the practice and has relied on troops who have reoccupied Palestinian cities and towns in the West Bank for the past several months, carrying out daily arrests of militants.

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Zimbabwe Jews consider aliyah

By MOIRA SCHNEIDER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

CAPE TOWN — Zimbabwe's shrinking and mostly elderly Jewish community has been heartened by an offer from the mayor of Ashkelon to assist those who settle in the Israeli coastal city.

Michael Mensky, who heads South Africa's Israel Center, which is associated with the Jewish Agency for Israel and the World Zionist Organization, conveyed the offer and other aliyah options at community gatherings last week in the Zimbabwean cities of Harare and Bulawayo.

Ashkelon Mayor Benny Vaknin learned of the plight of the Zimbabwe community while attending an aliyah fair in South Africa last Passover.

"He said he would take their plight as his own and work as a mayor to enhance their coming to Ashkelon," Mensky said.

Mensky told community leaders that Israel historically has demonstrated its concern for threatened Jewish communities, such as those in Syria, Iraq, Iran, Yemen and Ethiopia, and that Zimbabwe's 600 Jews would be similarly helped.

Over the past several years, black "war veterans" have invaded white-owned farms in Zimbabwe and turned out their owners. Hundreds of thousands of black farm workers and their families also have been thrown out of their homes.

The country's economy has deteriorated into massive unemployment and runaway inflation, and more than 80 per cent of the black population now lives below the poverty line. A long-standing drought has increased the risk of hunger.

Zimbabwean Jews who move to Israel will receive an "absorption basket" of financial benefits, Mensky said. He is lobbying for special recognition for them so that housing allowances, particularly for retirees, may be granted.

"The situation in Zimbabwe seems to be deteriorating, and we suggested to the community that if and when it's time, Israel will be there for them," Mensky said.

It's not clear how many will take Vaknin up on his offer. Some Zimbabwe Jews do not see Israel as a viable option, while others are looking at other destinations and some believe the situation at home will improve, Mensky said.

While most are taking a wait-and-see approach, "in light of what's happening in [Zimbabwe], I think many are taking this offer very seriously,"

Mensky said. "They feel comforted to know that there is some sort of a back-up plan lined up."

An elderly member of the Zimbabwean community, who did not wish to be identified, said Jews in Zimbabwe indeed were considering their options.

"We don't know what's happening. We're in an awkward position – after all, we've been here all our lives and it's not something that we enjoy," he said.

Community members "certainly showed more interest than usual" in the Israeli offer, the man noted. "And although the elderly are the last to want to move, it will be taken up if necessary."

Ivor Davis, past president of the Harare Hebrew Congregation, said Vaknin's offer "went down extremely well.

"For many of us this country has been" a great place "with its splendid climate, friendly people and its opportunities," he said. "For those of us who will leave the country, we shall miss it desperately."

But, he noted, "what has happened to the white farmers and, indeed, to the million of their black farm workers, is perhaps the proverbial writing on the wall."

Mervyn Smith, chairman of the African Jewish Congress, said the Israeli offer was "very generous and very helpful. There's no doubt that the economy and infrastructure has collapsed in Zimbabwe and if we can help Jews settle in Israel, where they will live in safety and comfort, certainly it's to be encouraged in all respects."

Mensky said he had been shocked to see long lines for bread and gasoline in Zimbabwe.

"Jewish homes I went to had no milk or bread," he said. "Basic ingredients" are "very hard to come by."

The many elderly members of the community seem particularly likely candidates for aliyah, Mensky said.

"Those who are of pension age and know that their prospects of growing old in Zimbabwe are very dim would look very seriously at relocating to Israel," he said. "A lot of those I met have children in Israel, and for them to go and spend time near their families is very appealing."

But he acknowledged the difficulties.

"These people come from very large homes, and it basically means giving up everything," he said.

Technology in Israel tries to rebound

By BUZZY GORDON
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

TEL AVIV — In the "good old days" – just two years ago – venture capital conferences were commonplace.

Such conferences were held nearly every month in Silicon Valley in California or Silicon Alley in New York City, and four to six times a year in Israel.

Then came the Nasdaq stock market crash in the fall of 2000, and the outbreak of the Palestinian intifadah in September of the same year.

In Israel, these prolonged parallel crises became known as the "Nasdaq-Nablus effect," and not even the best technology companies in Silicon Wadi, as Israel's technology belt is called, were spared the devastating effects.

Thus, last month's Capital Summit: The Forum on Technology Fundraising at the Tel Aviv Fairgrounds, was, in the vernacular of many of the speakers, an attempt at B2N – back to normal.

But the conference, which was organized by Garage Technology Ventures (GTV) in Silicon Valley, emphasized that even in the current depressed climate, venture capital investment continues – albeit within more rational parameters.

Four hundred people registered for the event, most of whom were entrepreneurs, in a multi-ethnic audience with large numbers of Asians, particularly Indians and Israelis, who have left indelible impressions on the Silicon Valley landscape.

GTV itself is a true reflection of its larger environment: the top executives of the company formerly called Garage.com are of Japanese-American, Israeli and Sikh origin.

One of GTV's Israeli imports is general manager Gideon Marks, who organized a conference panel on international capital.

One surprising conclusion that emerged from that panel is that Israel remains popular among U.S. and global venture capital funds, in spite of the violence that plagues the region.

"I am bullish on Israel," declared Lip-Bu Tan, chair of Walden International, a leading venture capital firm, which maintains a permanent office in Herzliya.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Tim Wilson of Partech International, and Bruce Crocker, who is the Silicon Valley representative of Israel's largest venture capital fund, Pitango (formerly Polaris), which has invested in local companies that have expanded to the North American market.

"Israel, with its tight network formed in the military, is still quite entrepreneurial, and we continue to invest – although now we are seeing more repeat entrepreneurs than before," Crocker said.

Crocker is one of a number of California representatives of leading Israeli venture capital funds.

The latest figures from Israel bear out the experts' assessments. An Israel Venture Capital survey shows that 92 private Israeli companies raised a total of $266 million (US) in the third quarter of this year from local and foreign investors. Moreover, more than half of this sum, $148 million (US), was raised from entities that were not Israeli venture capital funds.

Most importantly, the $1.2 billion (US) invested in Israeli high-tech companies to date in 2002 is higher than the amount invested in 1999. Software and the life sciences have become the most attractive sectors for investment, displacing the Internet.

And while it is no secret that Israel has suffered from the reluctance of foreign business representatives to visit – especially in view of the U.S. State Department's travel advisory – there are signs of a thaw on that front.

For example, Israeli media reported, a delegation from Korea's largest cellular provider, SK Teletech, recently came to identify joint venture and investment opportunities.

Israel & the Jewish World

Egypt airs TV series based on *Protocols*

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

CAIRO — Ignoring a U.S. request to block its broadcast, Egypt aired on state television last Thursday the first episode of a TV series based on an anti-Semitic tract, the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

The *Protocols*, from the early 20th century, purport to be the plot of a secret group of Jewish leaders to take over the world. But historians have long dismissed the writings as a forgery concocted by Czar Nicholas II's secret police to blame Russia's problems on the Jews.

In the Egyptian TV series, *Horseman Without a Horse*, the serial's hero, a journalist played by Mohammed Sobhi, tries to find out if the *Protocols* are true.

The U.S. State Department asked Egypt not to telecast the series. "At a time when the Egyptian government is working to promote peace in the region, a program that promotes hatred would be extremely unfortunate and counterproductive," said Anne Marks, a State Department spokesperson.

But Egypt's Information Minister Safwat el-Sherif denied that the series contained anti-Semitic material, and government spokesman Nabil Osman said in a statement that the program should not be judged before it's aired.

"Prejudging a work of art, a dramatic series, before seeing the actual production is simply an immature, unintelligent attitude," Osman said. Any criticism before that, he added, "amounts to a kind of intellectual and emotional terrorism."

The first episode of the 40-part series began with a narration by Sobhi as he and scores of others, looking dishevelled and exhausted, walked through a desert in the aftermath of Israel's 1948 creation on what was once Palestine.

"The armies of the free have been defeated by treachery," he said in a deep and sombre voice. "Beloved Palestine is lost, grabbed by Zion's sons through organized plundering."

Diaspora Jewish groups have also condemned *Horseman Without a Horse*, calling it anti-Semitic. Forty-six members of the U.S. Congress sent a letter last Monday to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak expressing their concern about the program.

Sobhi, the show's star and producer, said last Monday he agreed that the protocols were a forgery and argued that only a small portion of the series is based on the work. The series is based on the diaries of real-life Egyptian journalist Hafez Neguib, played by Sobhi – though biographers of Naguib say the diaries never deal with the *Protocols*.

The series is running on Dream TV, which is owned by a private Egyptian television company, and on government-owned Egypt-TV during the holy month of Ramadan.

After expressing its concern about the airing of the show, the U.S. State Department said it will monitor it to determine whether it contains anti-Semitic material.

U.S. officials will be "conveying our disappointment to the Egyptian government" if content deemed anti-Semitic is found, State Department Gregg Sullivan spokesperson said.

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Eliot Arnovitz and Shelley Cooper
GHA Search Committee Co-chairs
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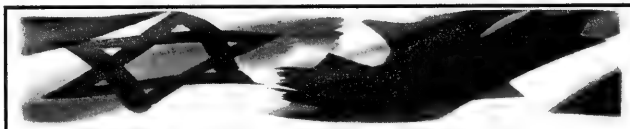
Applications consist of a resume and a letter of interest explaining how the individual's experience, skills and interests correspond to the leadership statement (available in response to e-mail request). Applications received after December 18, 2002, when the search committee begins its candidate review, cannot be guaranteed full attention. The search is confidential.

Nominations may be sent by e-mail to eliot@arnovitz.com or rscooper@attbi.com



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UJA FEDERATION

Israel must exploit positive military trends

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Commentary

In his first year in office, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon did not present the annual National Security Council assessment to his cabinet ministers or hold a discussion on it because he found its recommendations unacceptable.

But this year, Sharon found the time to present the intelligence assessment. The custom is for the prime minister to go through the document with the army's chief of staff and discuss it with the defence minister before the head of the research division in military intelligence presents it to the cabinet. Afterward, the director of military intelligence sums up. In the second stage, the representatives of the Mossad espionage agency and of the Shin Bet security service present the position of their organizations, and a discussion is held.

On the eve of the current political crisis, the ministers heard the surveys of the research division and of the director of military intelligence. But there was no discussion and it is doubtful that one will occur in the wake of the decision to call early elections.

Usually, the assessment focuses mainly on the list of threats and dangers facing Israel. This year's appraisal is balanced between the negative elements and positive trends. The research division spoke of five factors that could shape the future of the region. The main threats are: a network of rockets in the north that Hezbollah established with the aid of Syria and Iran, the nuclearization of the region combined with a growing number of missiles, and projected severe demographic and economic trends.

> ***'Israel is not alone in the struggle against terrorism and weapons of mass destruction'***

The attempt to establish a Palestinian state as part of the Oslo process, called the "old order," failed. The way to a Palestinian state is through outside assistance, mainly from the United States, within the framework of the "new order." Although this is not stated explicitly, it is clear the military believes bringing about the collapse of the Palestinian Authority will generate heightened terrorism.

What was different about this year's assessment was the approach of the director of military intelligence, Maj.- Gen. Aharon Farkash-Ze'evi, who chose to concentrate on the positive aspects as though to tell the ministers that despite the current difficulties, we should not ignore developments that are in Israel's favour. Ten positive aspects at the strategic level were noted:

• Egypt and Jordan continue to view the peace agreements with Israel as a strategic asset.

• There is no military coalition threatening Israel and the Arab states are aware of Israel's military superiority.

• The United States' friendship with Israel is unshaken and Americans are unequivocally committed to Israel's security.

• Israel is not alone in the struggle against terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, and if the United States succeeds in its war against Iraq, these positive trends will be intensified.

• Pragmatic states in the region understand that terrorism is a threat to their regimes and to the stability of the entire region.

• There is a thrust toward change in the Arab world – as reflected in the Saudi peace initiative – which is inclined to recognize the State of Israel.

• There is a growing trend in Europe to impose restrictions on organizations that support terrorism.

• There is growing opposition in the Arab world, including among clerics, to suicide bombers.

• The pragmatists in Iran, while not opposed to their country's development of nuclear weapons, are demanding an end to the export of the "Iranian revolution."

• There is growing recognition among the Palestinians that the current confrontation is not a popular uprising but an armed struggle that they have lost and that they must assume responsibility for a change of direction.

Maj.-Gen. Farkash provides a comprehensive look at the landscape that is visible from the Israeli window. But rather than lull Israel into complacency, this assessment must be seen as an opportunity to exploit these positive trends.

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The Week in Israel

Nov. 4

• Two people were killed and scores injured by a Palestinian suicide bomber at a shopping centre in Kfar Saba.

• Amnesty International released a report accusing Israel of committing war crimes in Jenin and Nablus during its anti-terrorist campaign last spring. Israel rejected the accusations, saying its actions there were in self-defence against a terrorist infrastructure that had deliberately embedded itself in the heart of a civilian population.

Nov. 5

• Police nabbed a suspected Palestinian suicide bomber near Ben-Gurion Airport. Several Palestinians suspected of aiding him were also arrested.

Nov. 6

• Former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu was sworn in as foreign minister in the Sharon-led minority government.

• A Palestinian worker shot and killed Amos Sa'adah, 52, and Asaf Tsafira, 18, of Rafah Yam in southern Gaza.

Nov. 7

• The Israeli army conducted a successful test of a Patriot anti-missile system in the southern Negev.

• Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert said he would be seeking a place on the Likud list of candidates for the 16th Knesset and that he would soon announce which of the two candidates for party leader he intends to support.

Nov. 8

• For the first time in months, Palestinian worshippers were given free access to the Temple Mount, with no limitations placed on the age of those allowed to enter the mosque compound. Some 135,000 worshippers were at prayers as Jerusalem police deployed throughout the capital. After the prayers ended, the crowd dispersed without incident.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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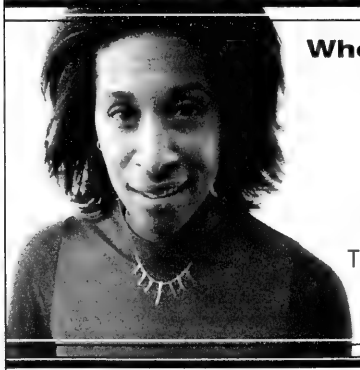

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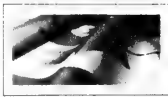

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Arts & Travel

Bea Arthur onstage: a shock of entertainment

By CARRIE BRODI
Special to The CJN

By the time Jewish sitcom legend Bea Arthur left the hit show *Golden Girls* in 1992, she'd had enough.

"I started *Maude* in 1972; I finished *Golden Girls* in 1992. I really felt as though I had spent the majority of my adult life in that little box," she says.

Before tackling television, Arthur had worked on the New York stage in such major productions as *Three Penny Opera*, *Fiddler on the Roof* and *Mame*. Now in her late-70s, the Tony and Emmy-award winning actress has returned to her roots in a one-woman show that opens in Toronto later this month called *Bea Arthur On Broadway: Just Between Friends*.

Bea Arthur

Part-career retrospective, part-autobiography, her show, a collaboration with pianist Billy Goldenberg, is a mixture of Broadway songs, personal anecdotes, recipes and comedic bits.

In Toronto to promote the show before a three-week run in Australia, Arthur looks exactly as one might expect: pristine black pantsuit, full makeup and a shock of perfectly teased white hair. Though gently getting older, she hasn't lost her baritone pipes or lofty stance. Nor her candour.

"Tell me about this publication," she asks. Then she adds, "I have absolutely no background [in Judaism]. I don't observe anything at all."

Growing up in a small town outside of New York City during the Depression, Arthur attended a Moravian church school.

"I didn't know anything about anything except that occasionally they'd call me 'Jew baby' or something," she says.

Though she admits she has a respect for Jewish liberalism, study, ethics and morality, her lifelong faith is a dedication to animal rights. As an activist with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), Arthur and other PETA members recently led a demonstration outside of Harrod's in London for the removal of foie gras from their shelves because it is made from the livers of cruelly force-fed ducks and geese. She also wrote a letter to Spanish actor Antonio Banderas asking that he "do something about that terrible bull-fighting."

"Finally I can use my celebrity to do something," she says, "as opposed to Maude who was this political activist that I never was."

Known in the industry as the Joan of Arc of prime-time, Arthur fell into her sitcom role as the sharp-tongued Maude Findlay in 1971, when friend Norman Lear convinced her to do a guest spot on *All in the Family*, opposite the bigoted Archie Bunker, as Edith's liberal cousin from back east.

Maude was an instant hit and Lear immediately created a show for her that dealt with taboo issues of the day, such as abortion, women's liberation, pornography, political campaigning, race relations and marijuana laws. But at the time, Arthur had no idea of Maude's impact.

"I was thrown into it not realizing the fact that we were breaking ground," she says. "We just took it for granted that everything Norman had us do had to do with social issues."

But her trial-blazing work came at the cost of two failed marriages (one to Jewish director Gene Saks), and less time spent with her two sons, both of whom are adopted.

"I didn't just get the script and go home and learn my lines. I was really trying to turn the sitcom into some kind of an artform," she says. "My God, it was so rewarding, creatively as well as financially. I just wish I'd spent more time with my family, with my husband."

Today's television shows hold little interest for Arthur, though she thinks comedian John Stewart has gotten it right.

"*The Daily Show* is extraordinary," she says. "It tackles politics and current events in such a brilliant way."

Issues such as censorship – reportedly the reason for the recent firing of talk-show host Bill Maher of *Politically Incorrect*, who spoke out against U.S. President George W. Bush after Sept. 11 – outrage Arthur.

"You can take what he [Maher] was saying anyway you want," she says. "I mean what Bush says sometimes – I think, wait a minute, this man is in the White House?"

Expect a free-firing, very funny Arthur onstage at the Winter Garden Theatre.

"The show is 90 minutes of something I'm very proud of. It's very entertaining. That's all I ask – that it entertains."

Bea Arthur On Broadway: Just Between Friends runs from Wednesday, Nov. 20 until Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Winter Garden Theatre. For tickets, call TicketMaster at 416-872-5555, or buy them in person at the Elgin-Winter Garden Theatre Box Office at 189 Yonge St.

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(Hint: the answer is printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by end of day on Wednesday, November 20, 2002 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Thursday, November 21, at 10 a.m. The winner will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received.

The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.

Send your response to: "La Bohème" Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax 416-391-0949.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

UJPO'S DAVID ABRAMOWITZ PRESENTS YIDDISH SONGS

David Abramowitz, national president of the United Jewish People's Order, has amassed a wealth of knowledge about Yiddish music. In *Mayne Yiddishe Lider (My Yiddish Songs)* he performs some of the most popular and beloved Yiddish melodies and poems, and encourages the audience to "sing along with David."

The program is presented by the Cranbrooke Friendship Club and the Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. $7 per person, includes lunch. Monday, Nov. 19, 12:30 p.m.

* * *

Klezmer Concert: One of Toronto's foremost klezmer bands, **Hu Tsa Tsa**, performs authentic and intimate klezmer music with a modern sensibility. Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Ave. Adults $15. Saturday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m. 416-461-6681.

* * *

Literary Notes

• *A Draught For A Dead Man*, a historical fiction set in medieval Spain, is being launched at Israel's Judaica. The book was written by **Caroline Rose**, a pseudonym of acclaimed mystery author **Medora Sale**, a graduate of the prestigious Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. Israel's Judaica, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. No admission charge; refreshments. Sunday, Nov. 17, 8 p.m.

• This month, the Dundurn Group publishes *Not Bad For A Sergeant: The Memoirs of Barney Danson*. Book launch receptions are scheduled for both Toronto and Ottawa.

• **Joseph Abraham Gottlieb**, who was born to Jewish immigrants in Philadelphia in 1918, achieved legendary success as a big-time comedian named **Joey Bishop**. *Mouse in the Rat Pack*, by **Michael Seth Starr**, tells Bishop's story from his days on the eastern burlesque circuit to national prominence as MC of JFK's gala 1961 inaugural and more. (Taylor Trade Publishing)

• *The Ivory Pomegranate*, a contemporary Jewish love story by California author **Leora Freedman**, focuses on Arizona archeologist **Audrey Lindenthal** and her friend **Yitz**, an anthropologist. The novel earned Freedman three awards in Israel, including a president's award. (Gefen Publishing)

* * *

Drama & Music Notes

• Solar Stage Children's Theatre presents *Just Want to Be Me!* in which Sally, sent to her room for lying, learns from her toys in a dream the importance of telling the truth. Nov. 16, 17, 24 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. $10. Madison Centre, Concourse level, 4950 Yonge St. 416-368-8031.

• Markham Little Theatre presents *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, by **Tennessee Williams**. Markham Theatre for Performing Arts, 171 Town Centre Blvd. Adults $19.50. Nov. 13 to 16, 8 p.m. Box office 905-305-7469.

• The National Arts Centre Orchestra, conducted by **Pinchas Zukerman**, performs **Beethoven** and **Schubert**, with **Zukerman** doing double duty on violin. $90 to $26. Roy Thomson Hall. Wednesday, Nov. 20, 8 p.m. 416-593-4828.

* * *

Luboml Remembered: A trove of photos and artifacts that document the former Jewish community of Luboml, Poland, has been donated to the Library of Congress, where it will be housed permanently as an exhibit in the library's American Folklife Centre.

Aaron Ziegelman, a 74-year-old New York real estate magnate and Luboml native, spent years gathering the photographs, letters, Judaica, maps and other materials. The Library's **James Billington** praised him for having "kept alive a memory that others sought to destroy."

Michael Grunberger, who heads the Library's Hebraic section, said the Library is working on developing collections about life in eastern Europe. "This is a window into how Jews lived – not how they died, but how they lived," he said.

The materials were also used for a travelling exhibit and a documentary film, *Luboml: My Heart Remembers*.

* * *

At the Galleries

• **Harmony in Colour**, a showing of recent paintings by renowned Israeli artist **Yehudith Aisenstat**, opens at a reception on Thursday, Nov. 14, 6 to 9 p.m. with the artist and Israeli consul general **Meir Romem** in attendance. The exhibition continues until Nov. 29. Gallery 133, 1260 Castlefield Ave. 416-504-6099.

• New Paintings – Watercolours, Prints by **Ron Bolt** are on view at Loch Gallery, 16 Hazelton Ave. until Nov. 21. 416-964-9050.

• Works by **John Gardiner Crawford** are on view at the Beckett Fine Art Gallery, 120 Scollard St., until Nov. 30.

• **Matthew Teitelbaum**, director and CEO of the Art Gallery of Ontario, received an honorary law degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., on Oct. 31.

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3 tickets to concert, and the ***Rock'n Roll Matzah Ball*** CD.

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In which hit TV kids' show are Judy & David the stars?

(Hint: the answer can be found in their advertisement printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by 3 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 15, 2002 are eligible. The winning entries will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Monday, Nov. 18, at 10 a.m. The winner will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: **Judy & David Contest**, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 416-391-0949.

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Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

A GOAT FARM NEAR JERUSALEM

Shai Zeltzer, wearing a long, white beard and white apron, brings a sampling of goat cheese to our table at his goat farm in Sataf in the Judean hills, a few kilometres south of Jerusalem.

Many Israelis regularly make the drive through the region's winding hills to buy Zeltzer's cheeses, which have won acclaim in Israel and Europe.

As some members of our party begin tasting his wares, Zeltzer tells us about the special breed of goats he uses on his farm and the various bacterial cultures that give the cheese its epicurean taste. Having received a graduate degree in wild-plant ecology from Hebrew University, the 57-year-old Israeli native collects bacterial strains the way other people collect stamps, coins and baseball cards.

He moved here after the 1973 war, with a herd of goats he had imported from America. "Slowly, we started to make cheese. Nobody knew about making cheese from goats' milk then. Only Arabs used to raise goats, but they didn't really care about them. Goats for them were only a symbol of wealth. It wasn't the production, it was only the prestige."

Zeltzer, who has gone on long treks in search of suitable mating partners for his flock, recounts the history of his distinctive "Anglo-Nubian" goats that are daily taken to graze on the nearby hills. The breed started 4,000 years ago in central Africa, he says, and was exported to Bengal Bay, India, from which it spread throughout Asia.

"In Syria, they called it the Damascus goat. The mark of the goat is the long ears. And it spread through North Africa, where it was called the Nubian goat."

Two hundred years ago, the British zoo acquired some of the goats, and some were taken from England to British Columbia by settlers who began describing them as "Anglo-Nubian." Zeltzer has gone to North America numerous times in search of kids by which to "renew the blood" of his flock, which includes about 150 mothers who are milked twice a day.

"To milk about 150 goats takes about 1½ to two hours," he says. "It's very hard work."

Connoisseurs from around the world visit Zeltzer's farm to procure his cheeses, which are mostly unavailable in local shops and which he does not ship. He purposely keeps production low to maintain a high standard of quality. His farm is part of a growing cottage industry of local fine food production in Israel.

Children especially enjoy visiting the goats in their outdoor pens. The goats, too, seem to display a friendly curiosity towards humans. There is also a nature reserve in the area.

The ancient agricultural village of Sataf is several kilometres south of the Hadassah Medical Centre. Visitors to Zeltzer's farm may notice the large hatbox-shaped Yad Kennedy, the memorial to John F. Kennedy, visible on the crest of a nearby hill, a testament to the enduring friendship between the United States and Israel.

* * *

Domaine du Castel Winery: Seventeen kilometres west of Jerusalem is Ramat Raziel, home of the Domaine du Castel Winery, which produces about 100,000 bottles of fine wine each year from grapes grown on 13 hectares of mountainous land. At an average of 700 metres high, the terrain and climate are ideal for grapes, as is the limestone and terra rosa ground.

Since producing its first 50 cases of wine only 10 years ago, this boutique winery has received rave reviews in international wine journals for making a bordeaux wine whose quality is considered very good – surprisingly so for the Middle East.

The wine sells for about $45 a bottle in the United States but is not yet available in Canada. "We're working on it," says a company spokesperson.

On the day I visited, a special crew was dumping crates of grapes into a portable crushing machine to make a kosher wine to be sold in France in three years. As one might expect, the procedure requires specially cleaned machinery and vats, and every step is conducted under close religious supervision.

Winemaking is an ancient pastime in Israel. Its modern revival began at the end of the 19th century, when Baron Edmund de Rothschild established wineries in Zichron Yaakov and Rishon Lezion. Many Israeli wineries welcome visitors in season; for details, visit the Web site www.goisrael.com or contact the Israel Government Tourist Office, 416-964-3784.

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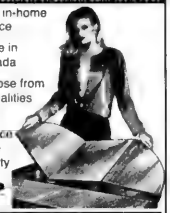

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Arts & Travel

90 years of Kash music

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

For Eugene Kash, performing and teaching music are synonymous.

Recognized by many as one of Canada's finest violinists, Kash, 90, says he has learned as much from the great performers as from his teachers.

As a student, he realized the importance of trying "to emulate... the tone and interpretations of the great artists he grew up with, such as Fritz Kreisler and Tascha Heifetz.

"What we learned from observing great artists was that you must always have the technique thoroughly well-established so that you can give free expression to your musical intentions," Kash said in an interview.

Now the Toronto-born violinist, conductor, teacher and broadcaster is being honoured with a concert and reception called Eugene Kash: 90 Years of Music at The Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM) on Nov. 20.

As a child, he said, he first attempted to play the mandolin with a ruler because he had seen klezmer musicians at Toronto weddings performing on violins.

At five-years-old, when he began studying with klezmerist Moshe Spielman, Toronto was another world filled with talented artists and many venues for performers, Kash said.

Six months later, Luigi von Kunits became Kash's mentor for 10 years until he moved to the Curtis Insititute in Philadelphia.

By 1933, Kash was in Europe studying with Otakr Sevcik in Czechoslovakia and Bronislaw Hubermann at the Vienna State Academy of Music.

Kash had no idea Hubermann, who later helped found the Israel Philharmonic, was secretly smuggling musicians out of Europe into Israel.

While abroad, Kash travelled to Pinczow, Poland, to meet his father's parents, brothers and sister. They all died in the Holocaust soon after Kash returned to Canada.

Kash continued his solo career, playing with CBC Orchestras and the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, where several other Jewish violinists were already performing.

In 1942, Kash moved to Ottawa where he produced a series of children's concerts, titled the Magic of Music, which later won the Ohio State Music Award.

In Ottawa, he met Maureen Forrester, considered to be Canada's grande dame of music. They soon married and had five children. Even though the couple later divorced, Kash said that "one of my greatest achievements is my family."

His five children, Paula, Gina, Linda, Suzie and Daniel, are actors and teachers. They all had their bar and bat mitzvahs at Holy Blossom Temple where Kash played his violin on Yom Kippur for many years. The family still gets together often to celebrate holidays and festivities, Kash said.

Throughout the years, the bow-tied musical maestro has never stopped teaching or studying.

The life of a serious musician is always one of sharing what he knows and continuous learning, Kash said.

The organizers of Eugene Kash: 90 Years of Music are asking all former students of the violinist to attend the event, which will feature Kash along with violinist Angelo Calcafuoco, violist Jonathan Craig (a former Kash student) oboist Senya Trubashnik and pianists James Anagnoson and Leslie Kinton. The concert will also feature the chamber group Classical Steel, a trio comprising Denise Williams, soprano; Andre Rouse, steel pan and Nina Shapilsky, piano.

The concert is sponsored by The International Resource Centre for Performing Artists, in collaboration with RCM. For information and tickets, call 416-362-1422.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 55.

N	E	G	E	V	■	D	R	I	P	■	A	M	S	O
A	T	A	R	I	■	I	O	L	A	■	T	E	M	P
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(Hint: the answer can be found in their advertisement printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by Fri., Nov. 29/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Mon., Dec. 2/02 at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: 'The Danish Play' Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: 416-391-0949.

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Selma Hayek plays Frida *in one of the finest biopics in years*

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Frida Kahlo, the Mexican painter whose talents were belatedly recognized only after her death in 1954, is the subject of Julie Taymor's vibrant, engaging and visually stunning feature film, *Frida*, now playing at Cineplex Odeon theatres.

Kahlo was a ball of fire, an eccentric, flighty, outspoken and sexually liberated woman whose libertarian views and unconventional behaviour shocked and confounded the deeply conservative Catholic society in which she lived.

The movie, one of the finest biopics in years, traces the trajectory of Kahlo's life from adolescence to womanhood, and from her marriage to left-wing muralist Diego Rivera to her brief affair with Russian revolutionary Leon Trotsky (played by Geoffrey Rush).

In the role of her career, Salma Hayek, the Mexican actress, portrays Kahlo with intelligence, wit and empathy.

As Kahlo aficionados know, a bus accident left her in a body cast and in pain for the rest of her days. Confined to a bed, she found an outlet for self-expression in art, an avocation that drew her into the vortex of Mexico City's bohemian circles.

Kahlo, who inherited an artistic temperament from her father, a German Jewish photographer who settled in Mexico at the turn of the last century, first encountered Rivera when she was a budding artist and brashly asked him for a professional appraisal of her work.

Kahlo being Kahlo, Rivera was immediately struck by her painterly style and enchanted by her natural vivacity.

Taymor portrays Rivera (played brilliantly by the underrated Alfred Molina) as a man with a voracious appetite for life's passions, a person who was the best of friends but the worst of husbands, a hopeless womanizer whose infidelities drove Kahlo to distraction.

Wounded by his philandering, Kahlo sought the company of other men. Yet Kahlo never really left, or stopped loving, Rivera, an altogether charming rascal who aptly described her weird, tortured paintings as "agonized poetry on canvas."

Frida, which evokes the bright colours, lively music and bold architecture of Mexico with effortless ease, is essentially a film about a courageous woman's struggle to overcome a mountain of adversity.

Surmounting physical infirmities, repeated betrayals and a devastating miscarriage, she evolved into a person of significance, a woman in her own right.

Some of the best scenes of this wonderful film take place in New York City, where Rivera works on a Rockefeller Centre commission until it is pulled from under his feet by no less a personage than Nelson Rockefeller (played by Edward Norton).

In Manhattan, Kahlo meekly defers to Rivera, but not without a Kahloesque flourish. When an inquiring reporter asks whether she is a painter, she answers insouciantly, "No, just killing time."

Hayek's effervescent performance, truly a sight to behold, never flags. She is the heart and soul of *Frida*.

Taymor's direction is faultless, and her stylized use of Kahlo's paintings and of sensual dance routines, puppets and *King Kong* footage adds much to *Frida*'s mood and texture.

Frida, in short, is the kind of film you revel in and identify with as it magnificently unfolds.

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Anti-Semitism greater fear than sexism among women

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Jewish women fear anti-Semitism more than sexism, says a new study by a visiting scholar at the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto.

Nora Gold, a women's studies professor, writer and former social work professor at McMaster University, undertook the three-year study of Canadian women's experiences with anti-Semitism and sexism with funding from a grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

She interviewed a random sample of Canadian Jewish women, she said, who were "clearly frightened by anti-Semitism, and told painful, terrible stories. I was not prepared for how deeply disturbed they would be."

The women found their experiences with sexism and anti-Semitism "alike in the sense that both were insulting, degrading, and painful, and that anyone who challenged sexist or anti-Semitic remarks was made to feel oversensitive," Gold said.

"The difference, however, is that the women felt that sexism, unlike anti-Semitism, is recognized, and to some degree acknowledged within the society at large."

One woman, said Gold, "put sexism and anti-Semitism quite a way apart. She said she could deal with sexism. 'We have a handle on it, a little bit of a handle. It's being discussed in the media, it's out in the open. But anti-Semitism, we're still cowering, we're still afraid.'"

Another woman said she felt different emotions when faced with anti-Semitism and sexism. "With anti-Semitism, you feel hurt; it's painful. With a sexist remark, you feel angry.

"There are intellectual arguments you can bring to the table about being a woman. For example, [when competing] for a promotion you can say 'I put in just as many hours. I am just as smart, if not smarter than the man.' You can bring the facts. With anti-Semites, you can't bring the facts," the woman said.

Gold said the women found anti-Semitism to be associated with feelings of helplessness and hopelessness.

"It has been around for thousands of years, and some people think that no matter what, it will continue to be around. It is persistent. They did not feel the same way about sexism."

Sexism is damaging, Gold said. "It is about being exploited and denigrated, but it is not about killing you. The feeling about anti-Semitism is that they want you dead. There has never been a culture that wanted the world free of women. Anti-Semitism can be deeply terrifying."

The implication of the study, she said, is that "we have to fight anti-Semitism with every tool at our disposal, especially if we work with other diverse groups in mainstream culture.

"We have to work together to fight the hate. Social education is important. Anti-Semitism must be put on the anti-racist, anti-oppression agenda."

We are living in bad times, she said, "and certainly what is happening in Israel tends to be an excuse. It fuels anti-Semitism around the world."

In Canada, said Gold, anti-Semitism is subtle, "but it is real and just as pernicious. There are no barriers, but the feelings are still there."

Gold, one of the founders of the New Israel Fund of Canada and the Canadian Friends of Givat Haviva, was brought up on what she calls the "Zionist left" and lived in Israel for six years. She still maintains an apartment there.

"Israel bashing has become a pastime. It is fashionable to be anti-Israel. It's a hard time to be a Jewish student on campus, and it's a frightening time for many Jews around the world," she said.

Gold said she found the study very depressing, adding that one day "I was so furious I came home and smashed my hand into the wall... but I am an optimist and I believe anti-Semitism will be a thing of the past. However, we are nowhere near that. We still have to fight and struggle."

Her way to fight is to get the word out, she said. "We have to develop arguments for when we are encountered [by anti-Semitism]."

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Immaculate 2 bedroom, 2 baths. 2 parking spaces. Available January 1. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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2811 BATHURST STREET! $199,000!
Opportunity knocks! Impeccable storefront! 2 entries! Private parking! Immediate! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

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CLARK/NEW WESTMINSTER
4 bdrm. family home, main flr. laundry & family room, parquet floors in L.R. & D.R., close to synagogue and schools. $359,900. For more info. call
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Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd.

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8 days prior to issue date.*

*Please note! On a week before a statuatory or Jewish holiday, the deadline will be earlier.. Please call for exact times.

All Classified ads require prepayment *before* deadline.
The CJN accepts Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Cheque or cash.

The CJN cannot be responsible for more than one incorrect insertion. Please bring any problems to the attention of your sales representative before your ad is repeated.

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

DAVID EICHORN
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Renovated & decorated 2 storey home, 3 + 1 bedrooms, fin. basement, modern kitchen, breakfast area / walk-out to garden. **EXCELLENT VALUE — ONLY $399,000. ACT FAST — WON'T LAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING!

LOWEST PRICE IN AREA! 2 + 1 bdrm. detached bungalow on 50 ft. lot, basement in-law suite, renovated kitchen & bath, prime central location. Only $319,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

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3 bdrm. bungalow, separate entry to in-law suite, needs TLC. Ideal for renovation. **LOWEST PRICE IN AREA — ONLY $259,000. ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

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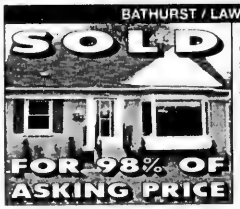
Store with 3 bdrm. apartment above, fabulous exposure on high-traffic Wilson Ave., **REDUCED TO $309,900.** Call Richard Cash or Esther Rubenstein, Sales Representatives (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE



Renovated & decorated! Charming 3 bedroom, 1 1/2 storey with finished basement, gleaming hardwood floors, new kitchen & baths, faces Prince Charles Park. Asking $399,000. **ACT FAST — WON'T LAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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Prestigious Otter Crescent, building lot for sale. Build your dream home on this magnificent 3/4 acre property. Country-like setting surrounded by multi-million dollar homes. $1,999,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

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3 + 1 bedroom bungalow on 40 x 134 ft. lot, main floor totally renovated, gleaming hardwood floors, new kitchen, new baths, separate entry to in-law suite. Close to TTC, shops ++. Only $369,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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Eldorado, 2500 Bathurst, lux. apts., large suites, reno'd., immed. 416-787-9451.

2 bdrm. bsmt apt., newly built, sep. entr., full kit. & bth., all new appls., a/c, wshr. & dryer, centr. vac, steps to TTC, $1200 + util. immed. 416-209-0605.

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631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

78 SHORT TERM RENTAL AVAILABLE

Clark/Hilda, furnished, 2 bdrm., 2 bath, prkng., rec. ctre. Dec. 1-March 31. 905-889-4382.

Bath./Egl. area, stunning 1 bdrm. + den, fully furn. apt., Jan. 1/03-Apr. 1/03 (flexible). $1400 inclusive. 1-905-628-8861.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Miami Beach/Bal Harbour, beautiful oceanfront, 1 bedroom, furnished, kosher kitchen, 516-295-9357.

North Miami Beach, Coastal Towers, 1 br. PH. Seasonal possibly short-ter. $1300/mo US. Call after Nov. 17 at 416-493-7782.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

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143 FLORIDA SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

North Miami Beach, single female to share 2 bdrm. condo. Jan.-March. 416-250-6901.

160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT

2 bdrm. furn. apt. in the heart of Netanya. Wkly or Mnthly. 416-787-2818 for more info.

Ra'anana, 4 bed. house, furn. kosher, newly reno'd. 10 mins. from beach. Weekly/monthly. For info call 416-783-3861.

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198 SPACE FOR LEASE/RENT

Rooms for rent in the Beth Torah Synagogue, Duff./Lawr. area, immed. 416-782-4495.

232 BUSINESS FOR SALE

Kosher dairy restaurant for sale. North York. Call 416-497-6748.

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Chef for strictly kosher meat & deli store, $19/hour. Mail your resume to: President, Toronto Kosher, 3459 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON. M6A 2C5.

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Avenue/Lawrence - 1st ad!
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905-731-2000

10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Thornhill, beautiful 4+1 bed., appr. 2800 sq. ft., fin. bsmnt., many upgrades, fab. loc, walk to schools/shuls. MUST SEE! Closing Apr. 2/03. No agents! $489,900. 905-764-1648.

10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Upper Forest Hill
Magnif. Georgian House, Main Flr Den, Lrge Principal room, 3+1 bd., 4 bths, updated, immac. cond. 2 f/p. $799K, **416-787-0575.**

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4,500 sq. ft. + prof. fin. basement, 5 bedrooms, 5 baths, 10 ft. ceilings, 4 car garage, den + office, custom built in 1995, lots of extras, $789,000. No agents. Please! Call...
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15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bath./Wilson, 3 bdrm. bung., compl. renov., new kit. & bath., cac & vac, deck, all appls., steps to TTC. $24000 + util., immed. Call 416-209-0605.

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30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

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35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Skymark I, corner unit, 2 br. + den + Florida rm., 6 appl. 1 pkrg. from Dec. 1. 416-481-6543.

Bayview/Sheppard, perfect for empty nesters, low rise 1500 sq. ft. 2 br. sep. dining rm/den, 2 bths. indoor prkg, balc., pool. $1995/mo. 416-445-1318.

80 Antibes, 2 bdrm. + sun-room, east exposure, avail. immediately. 416-638-0647.

Bath./Steeles, lux. new 1 bdrm., 5 appls., lrge. balc., prkg., rec. facil. $1250. 905-709-9797.

3000 Bathurst, Main Floor, large 1 bdrm, in suite laundry, balcony, gym, 24 hr. sec., $1350. Cable and utilities incl. (parking avail.). Avail. Jan. 1st. 416-782-9989. Leave a message and your call will be returned.

AVENUE / BLOOR
THE NEW HAZELTON LANES
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* * *

YONGE / FINCH 1 br, $179 K

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416-975-3811

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Young woman seeks a young female roommate Jan. 1st for 2 bdrm. a/c apt. 905-669-6191.

78 SHORT TERM RENTAL AVAILABLE

Bathurst/Sheppard, 5 bdrm, 4 baths, furnish., garage. January-June. 416-636-8788.

Fully furnished, 2 bdrm, parking, December 2-April. 2. Call 416-226-1480.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

MIAMI BEACH OCEANFRONT, beautiful brand new, furnished studios, fully equipped, luxury bldg., pool, spa, tennis, kosher restaurant, Shabbos elevator. $500/wk US. 305-895-3000.

SUNRISE, lux. 3 bd. townhme. furn, tennis/htd pool/kosher shopping, n/smking or pets. Shoshana 416-964-1228.

Hallandale, on the ocean, fully furn. 2 bdrms., 2 full bths., liv. rm., din. rm., kit. Min. 4 mos. $2500/mo US. Day: 514-934-5030, evngs. 514-486-6988.

West Palm Beach, Lands of the Pres. 1½ bed., 2 bth., 3 mos. min. 905-475-3667, ext. 234.

Delray Beach, beautiful villa, 2 bed., 2 bth., screened porch, 3 pools, million $ club, furn. $1400/mo US. 905-886-6558.

West Palm, Lands of Pres., lux. fully furnished 2 br/2 baths, on golf course, 3 mo. min. Call days, 905-470-6226, ext. 205, or evenings, 905-886-4103.

Hollywood Bch, Florida 2 bdrm., 2 baths, fully equipped timeshare, Feb. 1 to Feb. 15. 416-739-6401.

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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We appreciate all applications, however, only those chosen for an interview will be contacted.

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Bathurst betw. Wilson/Lawrence (east side). Beautiful, spacious bsmnt. apt. avail., furn'd., priv. entr. **in exchange for chores** & driving me in my car. Possible financial consideration. Refs. requ'd. 416-789-6902 or 416-785-0405.

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Female, late 50s, fun loving, enjoys travel, music, dancing & outdoors, very romantic & has a positive outlook on life. Seeks complimentary man for long lasting romantic relationship. Lives in New England. Mail to: P.O. Box 719, Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, USA 03844-0719, photo appreciated.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?
Address your mail to:
The Canadian Jewish News
1500 Don Mills Rd.
Suite 205
North York, Ont.
M3B 3K4
Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.
CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

Widow in Oak Park, Michigan looking for a man between the ages of 43-52. I am slightly physically challenged & would accept somebody who is also slightly physically challenged. I would consider someone with children for a possible steady relationship. Would relocate. Respond to CJN Box #4545.

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Congratulations Lottery Winners **Hebrew Culture Organization/Canadian Scientist Federation,** *Draw Oct. 31, 2002. 1st prize:* **Barry Edelstein,** *2nd prize:* **Hilton Kagan,** *3rd prize:* **Kurt Rothschild.** Thank you to all those who participated.

Pan Players wanted, up to 60 years young, non-smokers, willing to teach. 416-222-1551.

300 ARTICLES FOR SALE

Used treadmill, in working order. $575 or best offer! 416-418-3686.

330 OBITUARIES

SPEKTORSKI, Malka – on Oct. 26, 2002.
ZELIGER, Jack – on Oct. 25, 2002, late of 3705 Bathurst St.
BABBIN, Sidney – on Oct. 25, 2002, late of 12 Brickstone Circle.
DOLMAN, Allan – on Oct. 26, 2002, late of 525 Lawrence Ave. W.
OZIEL, Leon – on Oct. 25, 2002, late of 4415 Bathurst St.
BAUER, Efrhim – on Oct. 26, 2002, late of 16 Lowensmoor Ave.
ZBRIZHER, Maria – on Oct. 27, 2002, late of 775 Steeles Ave. W.
SCHERBER, Ida – on Oct. 23, 2002, late of 7420 Bathurst St.
RAYNOR, Monty – on Oct. 27, 2002, late of 668 Roselawn Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

330 OBITUARIES

GOLDBERG ABRAHAM "ABE"
Suddenly at Guelph General Hospital on Monday, November 4th, 2002. Abe Goldberg in his 90th year. Beloved husband of Eleanor (Kraus) Goldberg. Loved father of Louise Goldberg (Don Roebuck) of Toronto, Nancy Goldberg (Walter Gabrielson) of Santa Barbara, California and the late Elissa Goldberg. Dear brother of the late Rose, Saul and Ben Goldberg. Abe will be remembered as an athlete having participated in boxing, lacrosse, baseball, basketball, cross-country skiing, golf and curling, fine woodworker of furniture, a tremendous volunteer, a prolific gardener and a wonderful story teller. He served the duration of World War II with the Canadian Army, following which he assisted with federal trade missions in the textile industry. Abe was a charter member and Past-President of the Wellington Men's Club. He was a member of Waverley Lodge No. 361 A.F. & A.M. G.R.C., a 32 Degree member of the Scottish Rite and the Guelph & District Shrine Club.
Services were held at Beth Isaiah Synagogue (Dublin & Surrey Streets), Guelph on Wednesday November 6th at 1:30 p.m., with Cantor Haskell Bahar officiating. Interment Beth Isaiah Section of Woodlawn Cemetery. Memorial contributions to the Canadian Cancer Society, Heart & Stroke Foundation or the charity of your choice would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to the GILCHRIST CHAPEL-McIntyre & Wilkie Funeral Home, One Delhi St., Guelph (519-824-0031).

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PINSKY, Ralph – on Oct. 13, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
GREENBERG, Toba – on Oct. 14, 2002, late of 32 Ravengloss Dr.
BERK, Bernie – on Oct. 14, 2002, late of 213 Faywood Blvd.
GRYNSPAN, Alec – on Oct. 15, 2002, late of 240 Anzac Rd.
GREEN, Devvy – on Oct. 15, 2002, late of 2400 Bathurst St.
DODICK, Bella – on Oct. 16, 2002, late of 1 Clarke Ave. W.
SINGER, Sollie – on Oct. 17, 2002, late of 3555 Bathurst St., #8.

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Greater Toronto Area

Beth Torah celebrates 40th anniversary

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Beth Torah Congregation recently celebrated its 40th anniversary with a gala dinner at the synagogue, near Lawrence Avenue and Dufferin Street.

The celebration honoured its founding members and welcomed its new members.

Jack Hauer, founding president of the congregation, said that as he looks back to the humble beginnings of the congregation, he is "overwhelmed by our great accomplishments."

The first High Holy Day services were held in 1962 in a vacant factory on Lawrence Avenue, and an active brotherhood and sisterhood were formed.

The congregation set up a temporary sanctuary and meeting room in a portable, and the synagogue building was constructed in 1965.

"It is only with the enthusiasm, the understanding spirit, and the confidence that our founders entrusted in our neighbours, members and friends, that our congregation progressed in spite of great financial hardships. We are now able to enjoy the comfort and warmth of our beautiful synagogue."

Over the years, many of the original members moved away from the area "but very few have left our synagogue," he said.

Speaking of the influx of young families, Hauer said, "It is gratifying to me to see so many of our young members involved in the leadership of the congregation because without youth there can be no continuity, and all the efforts of our founders would be lost."

Synagogue president, Shawn Goldenberg, son of founding members, Esther and Mark Goldenberg who served as the second president, announced that the congregation has gained 113 new members in the past two years.

"Today, we welcome third and fourth generations of the founding members," he says.

MC for the evening, Gordon Fenwick, whose parents Reuben and Florence Fenwick were also founding members, had a little story about each of the founding members at the dinner.

Rabbi Yossi Sapirman told the founders, "We stand in awe of your vision, dedication and commitment."

He added that the enthusiasm and energy of youth is blended with the wisdom and accomplishments of the past."They will forge the Jewish personality of the future."

Donna Goldenberg, second vice- president of the congregation, chaired the dinner committee.

Other executive members include first vice president, Eva Zimmerman, secretary, Nathan Naymark, and treasurer, Isaac Lallouz.

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Arts & Travel

History, golf, trains or canoes – your choice in Virginia

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Historic northern Virginia's Prince William County – a 30-minute drive from Washington, D.C., off Interstate 95 – is a mecca for golfers.

The county, with its three major towns, Manassas, Occoquan and Woodbridge, has 10 public championship golf courses of 18 holes or more on beautiful landscapes, some overlooking the Potomac River or the Bull Run Mountains; one overlooks a former dairy farm.

At Broad Run Country Club, novices and golf enthusiasts alike can try their hand at the nine-hole course, practise at the driving range or play miniature golf.

If golf isn't for you, there is plenty of sightseeing to do in the unique county's towns.

Old Town Manassas, once known as Manassas Junction was a small hamlet where rail lines crossed, making it a strategic area during the Civil War. The Confederate Army of the South and the Union Army of the North met in Manassas for the first major Civil War battle on July 21, 1861. The Union's soldiers marched into battle, whereas the Confederates took advantage of the railway – which could be why they won!

A second battle took place in Manassas on Aug. 28, 1862, when 24,000 soldiers were wounded or killed.

Visitors can go to Manassas National Battlefield Park and have a historic guided tour. On view at the visitors' centre, is a gut-wrenching documentary, *Manassas – The End of Innocence*, narrated by actor Richard Dreyfuss.

There are a number of galleries and museums in Manassas including the Manassas Museum.

Next door is the Old Southern Railway Station Depot, which transports commuters aboard Amtrak and the Virginia Railway Express. Riding the rails is still important in Manassas. In fact, the town celebrates its railway heritage with an annual festival held in June that attracts 50,000 train buffs.

The downtown area has had a facelift in recent years, and many attractive storefronts house antique and gift shops.

Vietnam War photographer Chuck Colgan Jr. founded The Freedom Museum at Manassas Regional Airport, where the memorabilia and photo galleries tell the story of America's 20th-century wars and the country's current war on terror.

Occoquan is a former mill town. Its sad past includes a fire at the turn of the 20th

The first major battle of the Civil War took place in Manassas. [K. Kates photo]

century and an earthquake in the 1970s that destroyed many of the town's structures, tragedies that have led many to believe the buildings that are now mostly gift and antique shops are haunted. Capitalising on this, the Occoquan Merchants Association offers evening candlelight ghost tours.

Occoquan's history dating back to 1734 can be learned at tiny Mill House Museum.

The town also plays host to the historic Occoquan Arts and Crafts Show, held annually in June and September.

If are in Occoquan during morning rush hour, you'll come across "slug lines" – lines of people standing on street corners, waiting for a free ride from a stranger who wants to have an extra person in the car, in order to take advantage of the faster carpool lanes of the area's freeways.

Not far from Occoquan is Woodbridge, home to Virginia's biggest attraction – the Potomac Mills Value-Outlet Mall, with 220 boutiques and department stores, including Royal Doultoun, Disney and Off 5th – Saks, 5th Avenue, to name a few.

There are several moderately priced standard American hotel and motel chains in Woodbridge, in addition to Virginia's own small hotel chain, the Wytestone Suites – each with a spacious living room, bedroom and kitchenette.

Another attraction in the county is Leesylvania State Park across the Potomac River from Maryland. Henry Lee, father of Revolutionary War hero Light Horse Harry Lee and grandfather of Civil War Confederate general Robert E. Lee, built a plantation home there 240 years ago. Unfortunately, it has long since been destroyed, but it is great place to hike or walk on the beach. Guided group canoe trips can be booked at the park.

For more information, call the Prince William County/Manassas Convention & Visitors Bureau at 1-800-432-1792 or online at www.visitpwc.com.

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MY BABY JUST CARES FOR ME
Hi, I'm a separated 43 yrs old, mother of 2 teenagers very pretty, intelligent, loves to laugh I enjoy jazz, dancing, theatre outdoor walking, and I'm looking for an accomplished, intelligent, fun loving, warm, cuddly gentleman who can be a great partner to enjoy life with **AD#1155**

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I'm a stable, sensible & optimistic Jewish female in my early 30's searching for my match made in Eden I am a serene individual who enjoys movies, reading & spending time with friends and family If you are a Jewish male in mid-late 30's with the same traits & interests, please call **AD#1309**

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LOOKING FOR YOU
Hi I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs I'm a warm person, honest, very open and out going I'm a good listener and good to communicate with. I'm friendly, and I enjoy people I'm looking for a widow 54-62 yrs for friendship first **AD#1403**

GIVE ME A CALL
This 65 yr old female is a radiant shapely beauty She's independent, educated, articulate and with a zest for life She is seeking an easy going witty man to dance, hike and attend the theatre with **AD#1403**

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My name is Dan, I'm 51 yrs and work as a medical doctor I have 2 daughters that live with me and I'm a devoted father I'm slim, fit, energetic, intense, and I'm always looking to learn new things I take course most of the time Interests range from art, philosophy, foreign languages & ballroom dancing **AD#1293**

INCURABLE ROMANTIC
Jewish male, non smoker, in his 70's going on 50 A university graduate, 5' 5", 145 lbs, I have many varied interests including theatre, music, dancing, the arts, tennis, golf, dining, travelling, I'm also an incurable romantic & social drinker with a great zest for life **AD#1235**

ROMANTIC MAN
Hi, I'm a Jewish male, late 50's, who's looking for a sharing & caring woman, non smoking, 45-58yrs. I'm a romantic who likes long walks & enjoys nature, quiet evenings cuddling together at fireside **AD#1478**

PROFESSIONAL AND SINGLE
I'm a professional woman in my mid 50's I have been widow over a year and I like to meet someone who is single, who is also professional, with whom I can share my interests with I am looking for someone who lives in the Metro Toronto Area I am outgoing, fun to be with and easy to talk to **AD#1461**

ARE YOU MY MATCH?
Hi there, I am a feisty, fun, focused, funky, sometimes foolish, flirtatious and perhaps a little fussy female who has yet to find her match I am a successful & accomplished 35 yr old Jewish gal who is looking for an equally successful & accomplished 35-40 Jewish guy **AD#1056**

LET'S MEET
Hi I am a youthful, 58 yrs old, warm, kind compassionate female I don't smoke, I'm financially secure and would like to meet someone to share my interests I enjoy going to movies, theatre, and taking romantic walks. I'm looking for loving partner for enjoying life with **AD#1032**

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I'm a man in my 50's w/ blue eyes, dark brown hair, who would like to meet a woman, also in her 50's She should enjoy travel, museums, the arts & musical theatre Looking for someone who can share lots of laughs w/ a good sense of humour Home cooked meals would be a definite bonus **AD#1234**

HEALTHY WEALTHY
Hi my name is Arnon, I'm a white executive living in Thornhill. I look in the mirror & I see a healthy young 1939 model w/ no deficiencies. I'm told that I'm not bad to look at either I've got salt & pepper hair, beautiful blue eyes, slim,, 5' 10" and I have good teeth too My passions are the sun & sea. **AD#1005**

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LET'S GET TOGETHER
Hi, I'm a single female in late my 30's. I'm slim & attractive I have brown hair,light blue eyes Some of my interests include swing dancing, biking, hiking, tanning on the beach & nature walks. I'm interested in meeting a single man that is family oriented & attractive, 35-55 yrs **AD#1160**

DOWN TO EARTH
I'm a Jewish widow and I would like to meet a widower, 55-63 I like music and old movies I'm a caring, sharing, romantic and warm person. I'm down to earth and like to smile a lot. I have no baggage, and would like to meet someone with similar interests **AD#1191**

FRIENDSHIP & LOVE
Single Jewish male of Indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family **AD#1459**

UNEMPLOYED BUM
Are you looking for a ugly, short, fat, bald, unemployed bum? Well keep looking because I'm none of the above I'm honest, successful, good looking with no dependents I love gourmet foods, wine tasting, movies & I'm a very good cook Seeking a woman between 38-48 yrs **AD#1227**

PICTURE THIS
I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more **AD#1442**

ROMANCE & LOVE
I am a widow in my 50's, and I'm starting over I'm a non smoker, who's friendly, down to earth, loves cooking and baking, enjoys people, romantic quiet times listening to music and sitting in front of a fire I would to like to meet a widower, 55-60 yrs Please call **AD#1344**

A REAL FIND
I'm a smart, kind hearted, loyal, very very funny female who's cute, youthful, physically fit, & professionally successful with no strings, I'm looking to meet a wonderful Jewish man 50-60 yrs of age to share, enjoy & enrich our life experiences **AD#1156**

A MENSCH FOR ALL SEASONS
Michelle is an engaging, fun-loving, energetic, fanatically-fit widow with a zest for life & a passion for work & family Friends say she is attractive & fun to be with She is looking for a mensch (by definition a life loving man of integrity) **AD#1012**

NEW LIFE WITH YOU
I'm a widow who would like to rebuild a new life with a widower or a single male 54-60 yrs. I'm active, outgoing and down to earth I enjoy life, non smoker I like art, adventure & travel Seeking a mature relationship **AD#1383**

LET'S MEET
Hi my name is Marvin, I'm a warm & thoughtful person, single 60 yrs old and I live in GTA I'm a romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who loves to travel, watch movies, take long walks, rides in the country I also enjoy great conversation, nice quiet times at homes, and I love to read **AD#1074**

FUN GUY
Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading, Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands **AD#1368**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female **AD#1178**

♀ men seeking women

BALANCE YOUR LOVE
Hello my name is Michael, I'm a 41 yr accountant and I've been working for a number of years My spare time during the summer I play baseball, bike riding and hiking. I like to get together with friends and I'm looking to meet a young lady with similar goals, hopefully leading to a long term relationship **AD#1370**

PROFESSIONAL MALE
HI I'm a single 40 yr old male, professional, physically fit easy going, who enjoys meeting people and have a joy for life. I'm looking for a female 30-40 yrs, who meets my common interests. **AD#1286**

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Dingos' Jewish players disappointed by loss in final

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Here's a one-question quiz to test your knowledge of the land down under.

The favourite sport in Australia is: soccer, swimming, cricket, football, crocodile wrestling.

With apologies to Steve Irwin, the khaki-wearing, reptile-wrestling guy, the most popular sport in the land o' plenty is Australian rules football, by a country mile.

Melbourne alone supports eight professional teams, half the complement of the Pro League, and there are numerous minor leagues and amateur teams throughout the country, says Joshua Sharp, a 24-year-old Australian working in Canada.

When rivals from Melbourne meet in a big game, crowds of 80,000 are common. The Grand Final championship attracts as many as 100,000 spectators, says Sharp.

More than a mere football dilettante who talks a good game, Sharp is a player, a member of Ajax, a Jewish club in Melbourne that sports a Star of David on its "jumper" and has won the championship in D Division of Australian club football.

Sharp has been living in Toronto for a little over four months, holding a working visa and toiling for TD Securities in the area of finance. He's also been playing Australian rules football in the Ontario Australian Football League, an eight-team southern Ontario circuit that recently wrapped up its season. Sharp, a defensive player, helped propel the Toronto Downtown Dingos to a spot in the title game versus the perennial champions, the Toronto Eagles.

Unfortunately, the Dingos started slowly and watched as the unbeaten (in regular season play) Eagles humbled the downtown upstarts. The final score: Eagles 15.11.101; Dingos 5.9.39.

Translated into Canadian, that reads 15 six-point "goals" for the Eagles plus 11 one-point "behinds" for a total of 101, versus Dingos' five goals and nine singles for 39 points. Goals are scored by kicking the ball through the other team's uprights. Behinds are scored by kicking the ball over the behind posts in the corners of the field.

The loss was an emotional come-down for the second-place Dingos, which had beaten the Eagles in the first playoff round. But in the rematch, the Eagles clicked on all cylinders and were so far ahead of the Dingos by half-time that their 39-point second half offensive outburst could not narrow the gap.

Sharp could not explain why the Dingos were so flat in the final game, but he admits "it was very disappointing."

Teammate Jacob Steinberg, 38, thinks the Dingos might have caught the Eagles by surprise in the semi-final. "We just stunned them. The team was so motivated, so pumped."

Having beaten their season-long nemesis in the semi-final, the thinking goes, the Dingos were a little in awe in the title match.

Teammates who enjoyed the weekly practices and the post-practice shmoozefest at the Sport Cafe, Sharp and Steinberg come to the sport from very different backgrounds. Sharp, of course, grew up with the game. Steinberg, for his part, adopted it only recently. Steinberg, who describes himself as half Dutch and half Israeli, lived in Australia for a time and used to attend the home games of West Freemantle, a team near Perth. "It's *the* game in town. I used to like it," he said.

Soccer was his game while growing up in Israel, but in recent years he turned to Aussie football because "I wanted to play something I never played."

Teammates Joshua Sharp (left) and Jacob Steinberg were members of the Downtown Dingos, which advanced to the finals of the Aussie rules football league.

He called the Dingos and they invited him to a tryout. Steinberg began a running program to get himself back into shape and he practised with the team for a month and a half during pre-season at their field near St. Clair and Yonge. He fully expected that as a rookie, he'd ride the bench, but was pleasantly surprised to get the call to play in almost all games.

Steinberg loves the sport. Played on an oval field that's generally 150 metres long and 100 metres wide, "it's hard, hard, hard," he says. "I love the contact, the fitness, the camaraderie, the team effort. It's special."

What's more, the fitness level needed to compete goes far beyond that required of soccer players. Although there are 18 guys on the field for each team, "it's all sprints, up and down. There's no end to it" and there's plenty of physical tackling, he said.

Resembling something of a cross between rugby and North American football, the Aussie game allows teams to advance the ball by running (ball carriers must bounce it once every 10 metres), throwing the ball or kicking it to a teammate.

Sharp said he wasn't expecting much when he tried out with the Dingos. "But I've been quite impressed by the competition here. I was expecting something terrible, but it was decent."

Canadians, who've been brought up on hockey, take to Aussie football because "it's a good team sport. It's something new that's a contact sport, and I know Canadians like contact sport."

Sharp, who moved to Toronto in mid season, played in the last six regular season games and the two playoff matches. A third Jewish player, Richard Mintz, played for the Broadview Hawks.

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Fighting anti-Semitism: a personal agenda

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Peruse the following Web site: www.wcotc.com. It is "dedicated to the survival, expansion and advancement of the white race" and is sponsored by the "World Church of the Creator."

Included within the Web site's dollar-store content is a "humour section" with such jokes as: What's the best thing to do before a visit to a Jewish dentist? Count your money before he gives you the gas.

How wicked can people be? How did we learn to torture one another?

The reality that armies of Jew-haters have successfully drafted sufficient support to finance and operate a plethora of Web sites dedicated to verbal slush is not surprising. Those who spew hatred find a multitude of comrades lurking in the smoky alleys of insecurity, waiting to be drafted into their pitiful ranks. How do people get so low?

What the Jewish community needs to consider is, if it is so simple to access such a vast body of anti-Semitism, why don't most Jews try to stem the proliferation of its destructiveness? Would it not be wiser and more responsible to set about collectively fighting this ill, especially in light of our acute awareness of the harm anti-Semitism can cause?

Indeed, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), B'nai Brith, the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Holocaust centres and some mighty Jewish warriors have fought arduously to battle anti-Semitism on the World Wide Web, in the media and in the political arena. Their task has become far too big, however, and they cannot and should not battle anti-Semitism on their own.

Instead, organizations such as these should also mull over innovative options in which every Jew can play a role, in sync with Maimonides' statement that "it is wrong to consider personal danger when the public welfare is at stake."

One approach might be to develop and facilitate hundreds of grassroots community teams run by small groups with different areas of expertise. The mandate of these teams would be to go into the broader community and fight anti-Semitism and racism through the establishment of grassroots relationships with other minority groups and the development of programs that would ensure a collective response when any minority is attacked.

Our community professionals could develop a blueprint for this operation, but ultimately, as in a franchise, the members would carry out the mission statement and incorporate their task into their personal Jewish agenda.

Teams could include an individual who is adept at inter-community relationships, communications and perhaps administration. Synagogue, day-school and organizational offices could facilitate the team's work, although this could be the shared task of Jewishly owned corporations and businesses.

Some teams may choose to work with local Muslims and Christians to create greater understanding. Others may want to be activists in their own neighbourhood, fighting inequities levelled at their neighbours through anti-Semitic or racist bullying.

Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "The mind of the bigot is like the pupil of the eye; the more light you pour upon it, the more it will contract."

Hatred seems to be indigenous to creation. Sadly, we have to dedicate much of our energy to fighting it.

Jewish soldiers and activists before us fought long and hard to ensure our freedoms. It is now important that all Jews who are not paralyzed by pain use their assets to change the perception of those on the periphery of hatred and tolerance. We need to do this for our children and for our own self-respect.

The alternative is to allow evil to be cultivated. The blossoms of that flora are ugly and droop agonizingly in our history. No good Jews can be afraid to fight.

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Heat oil in a large pot, sauté onions for 5 minutes; add the parsnips, carrots, liquid, parsley and basil. Cook on medium heat for 1 hour. Add salt and pepper to taste and puree in blender or food processor until smooth. Heat and serve. Serves 6-8. ***Excellent for Passover.***

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About Life

Dear Ella,

My dear friend Melissa is getting more and more crotchety as she gets older.

I first started to notice the negative vibes a few years ago, when she lost her job. At that time, I felt she had a reason to be down, and I was there for her, listening and offering a shoulder to lean on.

That was more than five years ago and she is still leaning! I find myself avoiding her calls. I feel very guilty when I see her number on my call display and don't answer. I'm really not that kind of person. Melissa hates where she lives. She hates where she works and the people she works with. She is sorry she didn't pursue a different career. She's sorry she didn't give her last boyfriend another chance. She hates the way she looks and so on. You get the idea. How can I handle this? I can't go on the way I have been.

Negative Friend

Dear Negative Friend

Letting a close friend lean on you is part of what friendship is all about. However, if there is no good along with the bad, then you've lost the healthy balance that is the key to a successful relationship.

Sometimes people get into a slump, but they are usually able to pull themselves out. However, a five-year slump is a bit excessive. Listening and being there for her week after week and year after year is more than anyone could ask, and you have nothing to feel guilty about.

Melissa may not even realize the burden she has placed on you. Make her aware of how negative your conversations are. Tell her your friendship cannot continue in this fashion and that she has to try to do something to help herself. Be gentle and caring, as she may already be quite fragile. Offer to accompany her to her doctor for an evaluation; she may be depressed, but this is not a diagnosis you or I can make.

In the meantime, you don't have to go on this way. You can feel comfortable knowing that you have taken her as far as you can.

Melissa has to want to feel better and it's up to her to take the steps to get there.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN *or e-mail at eb@cjnews.com But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Crossword Puzzle

The Canadian Jewish news

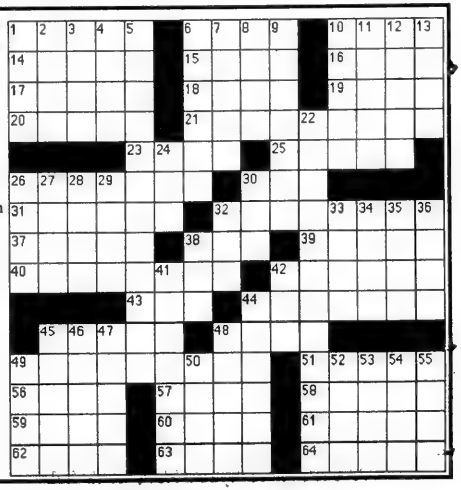
(Answers to the crossword are on page 46.)

Back at the Ranch and Other Jewish Agriculture

© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Where Israel's desert crops are
6. Irrigation system pioneered in Israel
10. "_____ depressed", admission to confidante
14. Computer game giant
15. City of Kansas
16. Fahrenh. or centigr.
17. Typewriter plate
18. Always
19. Outrigger
20. Paris pupil
21. Merchandise returns
23. Ogle
25. Weird
26. Organic farmer Ableman
30. Brevity is its soul, says the Bard
31. Eleven
32. Final station
37. Boston seafood specialty
38. Contraction of synonym for level
39. Inspire with love (abbrev.)
40. Film idol James' family
42. High school gala groupie?
43. Matrix, abbrev.
44. Israel farming settlement
45. Fraternal order facility
48. In ____
49. Pilgrimages' destination
51. FDR's Brain _____
56. Rowers' tools
57. Myth, in Madrid
58. Lone Ranger's faithful companion
59. Cocktail cheese
60. Awful Idi
61. Ethyl acetate
62. Four curves
63. Italian dwarf
64. Choose again

Down
1. Back of neck
2. And others
3. Entry
4. Evening
5. NJ city's poultry produce
6. Engine type
7. Wanderer
8. Irish river
9. _____ Chana, first aliyah farming settlement
10. Where average golfers are
11. Thanks, in Rheims
12. Found at barbecues
13. WWII price regulator, and others
22. Brandeis U's 'smart balance' spread
24. Shoe size
26. Late Johnny, Celtics broadcaster
27. Move very slowly
28. Cover with wax
29. Mobster
30. Pale
32. _____ femmes
33. Arrogant sort
34. College Station university
35. Leave out
36. Clinton or Bush, slangily
38. Terminus
41. District representative
42. Proximate to the pendulum
44. Japanese robe
45. Private jets
46. Gold or silver lace pattern
47. Incubi of ancient Gaul
48. _____ stone (permanent)
49. Hoer, tractor driver positions
50. Bean
52. Grown in Israel, flown to Europe
53. Up until
54. Stair
55. Basis for lawsuit



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Making History at Mount Sinai Hospital

Mount Sinai Hospital has received one of the largest private donations in the Hospital's 79-year history from one of Toronto's largest builders and developers. An unrestricted $10 million donation has been made by Joseph and Wolf Lebovic.

"I support many hospitals throughout Toronto," said Joseph Lebovic. "This gift to Mount Sinai is in recognition of its role as a major academic leader providing healthcare to people not only in the GTA but also across southern Ontario and the country. Mount Sinai is both a symbol of excellence in healthcare in this province and also a symbol of the strength of the Jewish community." Mr. Lebovic, who resides in both Stouffville and Toronto, is a former president of the Urban Development Institute of Canada and its Ontario division.

"This is a significant gift toward our *Best Medicine* campaign," says Lawrence Bloomberg, Chair of Mount Sinai Hospital. "In honour of the Lebovics' support, we will be naming the recently acquired Murray/Orde Street building the **Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Building**."

The Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Building will house patient care centres that will integrate ambulatory clinics with research and translate the findings into enhanced prevention and treatment for patients.

"This $10 million gift is especially important to Mount Sinai because it is instrumental in furthering our vision for world-class excellence in our core program areas," says Hospital President and CEO Joseph Mapa. "This gift has catapulted the Hospital's *Best Medicine* campaign to $184 million, which is part of a $400 million investment program that will fund the modernization and enhancement of clinical programs and research capabilities at the Hospital."

"The Lebovics have been dedicated supporters of Mount Sinai for more than 18 years," says Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation's President Nicholas Offord. "In 1997, the Hospital opened The Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Centre for Molecular Medicine at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute. Capital campaigns with support from donors like the Lebovics, complement government funding and is essential in our quest for delivering the best medicine."

Mr. Lebovic with his father, Harry, and brother, Wolf, established Lebovic Enterprises, which now comprises subsidiary companies involved in residential, commercial, and industrial and housing land development and construction, primarily in the Greater Toronto Area. The Joseph and Wolf Lebovic Foundation has made significant financial contributions to numerous charities including the United Jewish Appeal and University of Waterloo.

Holiday Season Ideas

The Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary once again has come up with some great gift giving ideas!

Holiday Greeting Card Program These cards are great for corporations and individuals to send out as Christmas Card greetings, Chanukah greetings, and Holiday good wishes. There are several verses you can select from or you can create your own message. You may imprint your company name and logo or personalize the cards for your private use.

Sharing Secrets Cookbook is the compilation of more than 200 recipes from members of Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary and their mothers, daughters, family, and friends. These "secrets" are sure to make any holiday meal a success and are a perfect gift!

The Galaxy of Hope Pins, designed in partnership with Birks Jewelers, is a collection of 18K gold and sterling silver pins in a star shape. These pins are ideal for recognition of achievement, birthdays, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, Chanukah, Christmas, a token of friendship, and more.

For more information on how to order any of these fantastic holiday ideas contact the Auxiliary at auxiliary@mtsinai.on.ca or 416-586-8290 or order online at www.mtsinai.on.ca/auxiliary

Events

MARKETPLACE

Get great holiday items and food products at this annual bargain day sale!

Friday, December 12
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Mount Sinai Hospital Main Lobby

HEALTHY LIVING LECTURE SERIES
SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS

Three health professionals will discuss managing diets, stress, and depression during the holiday season.

Wednesday, November 20
6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Ben Sadowski Auditorium, 18th Floor
Mount Sinai Hospital

To register, call 416-586-8338 or register online at www.mtsinia.on.ca/healthyliving

Keep up with our events on our website www.mtsinai.on.ca

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The Canadian Jewish news
Party
PLANNER

The CJN Party Planner Directory

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*Under the supervision of the Kashruth Council of Toronto

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Party gifts in all shapes and sizes

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

There's no danger of running out of gift ideas for all ages. Here are just a few.

* * *

Incredible Novelties Inc., says Dan Jankelow (905-881-9900; Web site www.incrediblenovelties.com), are North America's only novelty consultants.

Their mission is to find the most interesting novelties and prizes for you, at the best prices. Jankelow has 350 products online, and about 5,000 at his fingertips.

Incredible Novelties is not a store, with stock they have to sell. Selecting your prizes should be fun, but someone trying to push you to buy an item might make it less so. Moreover, not all store owners will tell you that a competitor might have just the thing you want, even if they know it's true.

Instead, says Jankelow, his company sells quality items directly to you, at competitive prices. They deal with designers and manufacturers, so that they're not beholden to any one supplier. Their business thus depends on offering you the maximum possible variety.

The owners started as DJs and still are, doing bar and bat mitzvahs and some corporate and promotional work. This keeps them in the party circuit, so that along with knowing the supply side of the business, they know what's in demand.

To make things easier, they will come to your home to consult with you. They also have a delivery service to bring your prizes to your party – which not only makes life easier for you, but also lightens the workload of your DJ or MC.

Continued on page B5

Authentic memorabilia like this autographed Sundin shirt is one of many items available from Be A Player Authentix.

Passion might just be our secret ingredient
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Party gifts in all shapes and sizes

Continued from page B4

Mirvish Productions (416-872-1212 or 1-800-461-3333), says Young Turner, sell tickets as gifts. They also sell theatre subscriptions, which are like a season ticket, but more expensive. A Mirvish Productions subscription is one way to give long-term support, not just to a particular theatre, but to the theatrical community.

Mirvish Productions owns and represents the Princess of Wales Theatre, where *The Lion King* is a long-running show, and the Royal Alexandra Theatre, where *Mamma Mia* is also enjoying a long run. However, the subscription is not for these theatres. The Elgin and Winter Garden Theatre Centre is one venue, the Cannon Theatre another, and there may be others as well.

A subscription covers six shows. Each year in February, there's a campaign to renew subscriptions or acquire new ones for all six, but you can subscribe at any time. The first show, quick-change artist Arturo Bracchetti, has recently finished, so you would now be purchasing tickets for five shows.

Too often these days, nothing gets done unless we specify a time and place. We say to a friend, "Let's get together sometime," then never follow up because we have no set date. Buying a subscription is a great way to set up such a date. And live theatre is always more fun with a friend.

* * *

Baron Bedesky describes the mission of Be A Player Authentix (416-961-0976; Web site www.bapauthentix.com) as making authentic hockey memorabilia available to sports fans.

Autograph collecting started among fans who knew and trusted each other. As more and more fans got involved, however, anonymity made trust harder to maintain, and as autographs grew more costly, money tempted people to fake them.

Collectors who make a study of memorabilia, ask the right questions and know whom to trust can often avoid being taken in. Not so the occasional or one-time buyer.

Here's where Be A Player Authentix enters the picture. It's a joint venture with the NHL Players' Association (www.nhlpa.com), which supplies the memorabilia and guarantees their authenticity. Such a guarantee is good for the buyer and the recipient of the gift, and for the good name of the players and the game.

Memorabilia include game-model jerseys not worn in a game, autographed replica jerseys, unsigned jerseys, and framed autographed photos, pucks and gloves. Participating players include Mario Lemieux, Joe Sakic and Mats Sundin, as well as former players like Mike Gartner.

Proceeds from sales go to a charitable organization, Goals and Dreams, which is providing $15 million over five years to grassroots hockey programs across the world – in Canada, Europe, Russia, and even Costa Rica. Funds may be used for anything from used equipment to a new arena.

Other gifts places advertising in this supplement are: Where Bears Are Born, 905-569-2327; George Klein Creations, 416-730-1755; Goodman's China & Gifts, 905-731-3564; Laurentian Jewellers T.O. Ltd., 416-782-3588; Mark Lash Fine Jewelry, 416-256-5229/905-881-5229; Odyssey Jewellery Design Inc., 905-737-5266; SignatureTowels. Com, 416-780-2004.

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PARTY PLANNER

Web site offers one-stop party planning

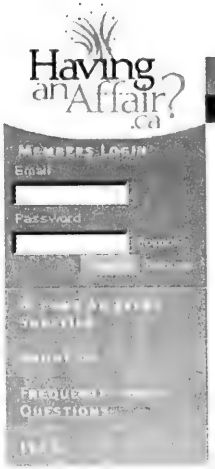
By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

With www.HavingAnAffair.ca, planning an entire party is just a simple click away.

Visitors to the Web site supply the details of their event, such as date, budget, and type of entertainment, facilities and services needed, and HavingAnAffair.ca takes the details to a network of suppliers who then contact them directly.

"It's a total role reversal," says Mark Silver, 28, who founded the site with Aviva Barth and Matthew Shuber.

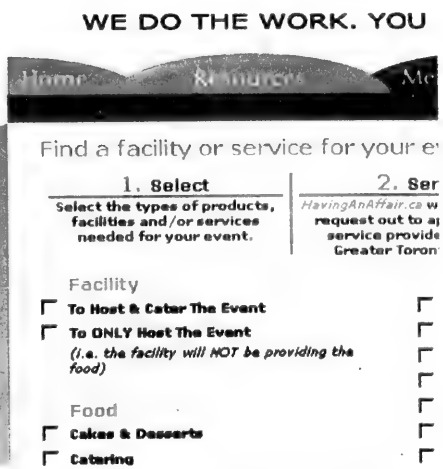
"Instead of spending hours and hours researching names, calling, and waiting for return calls, they come right to you," he says.



Having An Affair's homepage.

Silver, who has a master of business administration degree from the Schulich School of Business at York University, said he conceived the idea for the site last year while trying to find a restaurant online.

"There wasn't a site to contact where I could find a variety of restaurants. Having been a disc jockey with Universal Sound and Mandell Entertainment, I realized people would also appreciate one site that gave them access to a variety of party planning professionals."


WE DO THE WORK. YOU
Find a facility or service for your e
1. Select
Select the types of products, facilities and/or services needed for your event.
2. Ser
Facility
To Host & Cater The Event
To ONLY Host The Event
(i.e. the facility will NOT be providing the food)
Food
Cakes & Desserts
Catering

What evolved, he says, is a site that provides both a booking service and event planning advice. "It's truly a one-stop, comprehensive resource for event planning."

Continued on page B9

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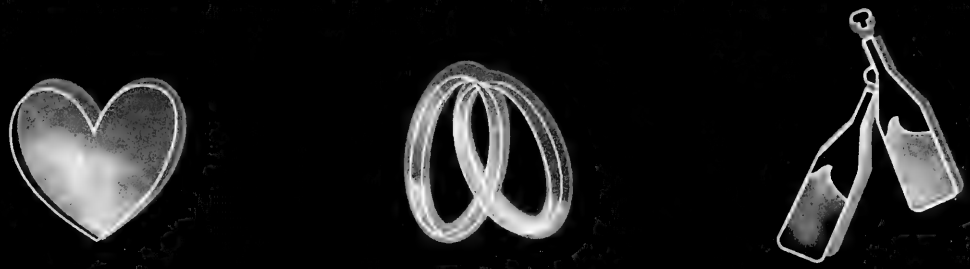

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Picking a DJ is a key decision

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

There are many talented, reliable and experienced DJs out there. Picking one for your party isn't a matter of just finding one – you need the one who's right for your special event.

Jordan Zwicker of Beyond Sound Entertainment (416-468-3681; www.beyondsound.ca), and Hershey Glass of Incredible Party Productions (905-770-8184), have some suggestions about how to find your DJ.

Their credentials lend weight to their advice.

Glass was hot on the scene from 1995 to 1998, then left it for a few years. He came back this past August because he missed it, and because his friends asked him to. Zwicker, after 10 years working in Toronto, is expanding Beyond Sound to tap the Vancouver market.

Jordan Zwicker of Beyond Sound Entertainment.

When you call a prospective DJ, Zwicker advises, look for a prompt reply, factual answers to questions, and a professional attitude. If this is the DJ for you, a good rapport should start with the first phone conversation.

Does he guarantee his work, and does he keep his promises? Ask for references and testimonials – Zwicker and Glass both recommend talking to former clients.

Glass suggests making a short list of DJs you think you might like. Then get some dates of events they're working, and go watch them for a half-hour or so each to see how they work.

Go to a function similar to yours, Glass continues. If you're having a bar mitzvah, for example, don't go to a corporate function. A bar mitzvah is more challenging – young people have fewer inhibitions about letting entertainers know they're not cool – and a bar mitzvah has a religious aspect that a DJ must respect.

And, Glass adds, pay close attention to the crowd. It's not mainly a matter of you liking the DJ, but of how well the guests like him.

It will save you time and work, Zwicker says, if your DJ offers a range of services – say, if he has good contacts among live entertainers, or can also work as an MC. However, Zwicker warns against anyone who promises a lot, then fails to deliver. They don't save you any trouble, and they disrupt your planning.

Honesty is crucial, insist both Zwicker and Glass. "It's better to hire a professional who says an honest 'No' to something you want, then delivers on what he says 'Yes' to," Zwicker says. Both DJs also place high value on being well organized.

Rapport is not simply a matter of pleasing your guests, they say. It also means the ability to work well with other professionals working at your party, such as the videographer and party planner.

And from your first phone conversation on, Zwicker says, look for someone who's passionate about what he does: playing music, working with other party professionals and showing your guests a good time.

Find out how many years a DJ has been in business, Zwicker suggests. This is not to put down the newcomer: after all, everyone has to start somewhere. But someone who has been around for a few years will have experience in his favour, and he'll have a reputation, both with clients and colleagues.

But a reputation, says Zwicker, can be lost quickly, as the old cliché holds true: "you're only as good as your last gig." This may be harsh, but it helps keep a professional on his toes.

Book eight to 12 months ahead, Glass urges, just to play it safe. Zwicker recommends eight to 14 months.

Meet face to face soon after you talk on the phone, Zwicker advises. Then have another face-to-face consultation about three months before your party, with interested parties present (say, the bar mitzvah boy), to go over details such as candlelighting.

Glass also recommends at least two face-to-face meetings. The first, soon after you talk on the phone, should lay the groundwork (e.g., about the type of event, time, place, number of guests, and age groups) and establish general expectations. And yes, bring the bar or bat mitzvah along. The second meeting, about two weeks to a month ahead, is to nail down details of speakers, dinner time, candlelighting, etc.

Web site offers one-stop party planning

Continued from page B6

Event organizers, who use the service free of charge, complete a booking request that is then sent to a network of suppliers. If a supplier is interested, they furnish the event organizer with an offer, and the organizer then chooses the offer that interests them.

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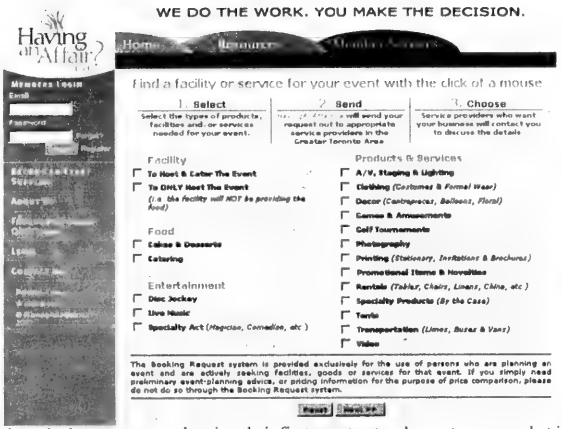

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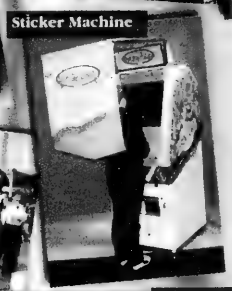

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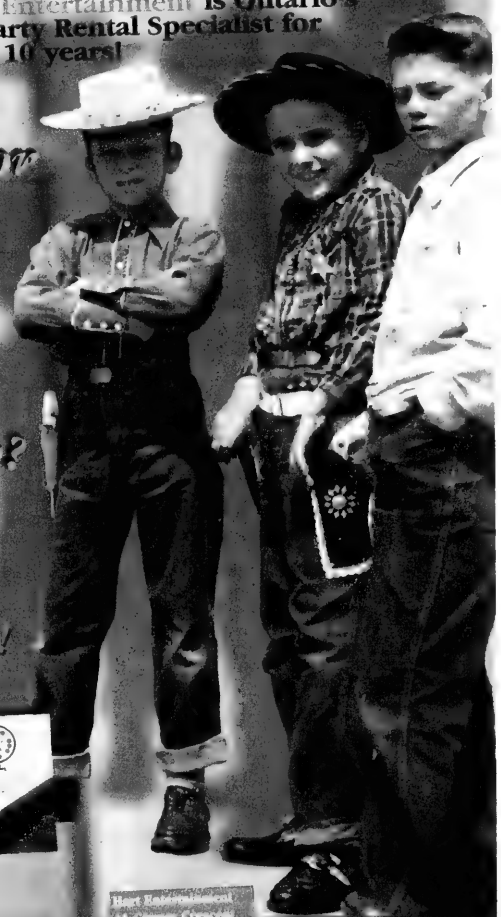

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Superfly DJs electric

By CARRIE BRODI
Special to The CJN

The key to a good party is the entertainment, say performers and party planners Noah Katz and Ira Pettle.

Both business partners and best friends, Katz and Pettle met at Camp Winnebago 15 years ago, and have been entertaining people ever since.

Now in their mid-twenties, and with six years' experience apprenticing with well-known DJ outfit Mandell Entertainment, they've launched their own company called Superfly Entertainment, which they describe as "dinner theatre meets Studio 54."

Although the company is only two months old, they already have bookings as far in advance as 2005.

What's different about Superfly Entertainment is that it departs from the cookie-cutter DJ fare, they say. Pettle and Katz offer a highly charged, interactive evening of customized entertainment that combines professional dancers, special effects and a female DJ. Her addition leaves Katz and Pettle free to do what they love best – work the room and get everyone onto the dance floor.

The concept is a break from the traditional one person spinning the tunes and interacting with the crowd from behind a set of turntables, or the tired-but-well-loved dances such as *Y-M-C-A* and the *Time Warp*. Though there's still some of the familiar in Superfly's repertoire, they work hard to offer people the unexpected and to provide a performance along with the music.

"We're premium entertainers," Pettle says. "We've studied theatre, we're actors in the business, working, rehearsing and putting together a true performance," Katz says.

Even though partygoers loved their work with Mandell Entertainment, Pettle and Katz say they were not creatively fulfilled working there.

"Just because people are happy doesn't mean that you should stop trying to take it to the next level," Pettle says.

Taking it to the next level has meant working with the client months in advance and getting to know the bar or bat mitzvah boy or girl or wedding couple in order to fashion a program specific to the individual/s.

Katz and Pettle have done theme parties about shopping, credit cards, *X-Files*, *Star Trek* and *Grease*. For a recent basketball-themed bar mitzvah, Superfly dancers dressed up as cheerleaders and the bar mitzvah boy and his friends had a dunk-off with a net Pettle and Katz provided. For another party, they concocted a mad scientist storyline to announce the bar mitzvah boy at the top of the night. The response has been electric.

"Everybody is clamouring for something new," Katz says. "The kids and the adults have been to 30 parties a year. They've seen it all before. When something new comes along, it's a breath of fresh air."

Not to say there isn't the expected in a Superfly show; Katz specializes in music popular with the kids, such as rap, hip hop, rhythm and blues and grunge, and Pettle specializes in a more old-school area, appealing to the adults in the room.

"Our goal at every party is to have everybody, from the little kids to the big little kids to the old women with their walkers, shakin' it up!"

If you're interested in booking Superfly, act quickly. Their schedule for 2003 is already 50 per cent full, with calls coming in all the time.

Noah Katz and Ira Pettle of Superfly.

"We're anticipating that in the next three months, our schedule will fill up," Katz says. "If you don't call and book, someone else will."

Both Katz and Pettle have aspirations of being on stage, television and film, so for them, their job is a serious opportunity to get noticed.

"Why not take that moment and make it a serious performance?" Pettle says. "Why not make it an Oscar moment? That's what we do."

You can reach Superfly Entertainment at 416-652-2232.

Other interactive entertainers advertising in this supplement are: Events Toronto, 416-698-5084; Freedom of Sound, 905-760-0040; Hart Entertainment, 416-762-2200; Magen Boys Entertainment Ltd., 416-569-TWIN; Mandell Entertainment Group, 416-923-7200; Mister Disc Jockey, 1-877-473-3800; Sing Your Heart Out! 416-322-7464; Times Square Entertainment, 905-881-6400; Starr Productions, 905-707-8211.

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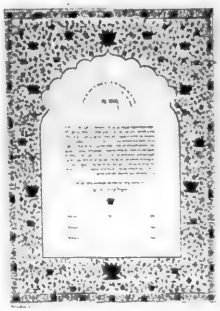
Ketubot express vibrancy & joy

By **MIRIAM CHINSKY**
Special to The CJN

Each ketubah (marriage certificate) created by calligraphy artist Karny Rivlin Vorona is infused with grace and strength.

Tel Aviv-born Vorona, who has studied architecture, says her initial experiences in presenting designs for architects sparked her interest in calligraphy. She also credits architecture with training her to pay attention to structure and detail. The beauty springs from within.



She offers clients an extensive selection of traditional and contemporary ketubot.

Working in such media as opaque watercolour, touches of gold leaf, dry pigment and egg yolk mixture, she fashions intricate patterns with which she can express vibrancy, dignity and joy.

She likes to modify white backgrounds, noting, "There is something I do myself to give the appearance of old parchment."

The ketubah is personalized with appropriate symbols such as a Magen David, a menorah, a lion, doves or the seven species with which the land of Israel is blessed — grapes, figs, dates, pomegranates, olives, wheat and barley. She generally inscribes the text in colour to give warmth.

The original ketubot are one-of-a-kind, but the artist is introducing limited edition ketubot that are more affordable yet allow for certain individual options — names of the bridal couple in Hebrew or English, additional gold leaf, text in colour of choice.

Vorona also produces bar and bat mitzvah haftorot. The first was conceived as a surprise for her son.

"The children have studied so long and so hard; they go in front of the congregation with fear and anticipation," she says. "I wanted to give special recognition. It's very meaningful to them. They keep the haftorah in their own room and take it with them when they build their own nest."

Continued on page B14

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Continued from page B13

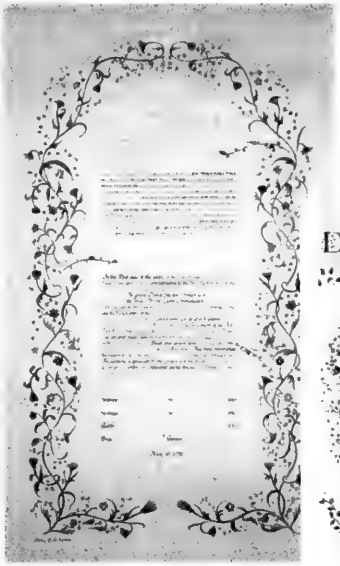
A naming certificate by Vorona can be used to welcome a newborn baby.

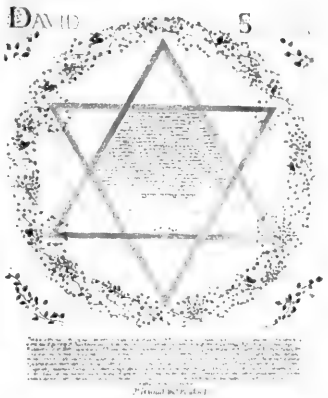
There are requests, too, for family trees, and here Vorona delves deep into the past. On her wall is an extraordinary example. A sheltering tree, its foliage formed by lettering in shades of green, depicts her lineage dating back to Spain in the year 1572.

Her works have been included in AlphaMark, the association for the Calligraphic Arts juried exhibition that is travelling around the world for two years; The Art of the Book, the Canadian Book Artists and Book Binders Guild juried exhibition, which travelled across Canada; Vision of The Spirit II at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington D.C. and in other solo and group shows.

For further information please phone 416-497-9555 or view on the Internet www.ketubahbykarny.com

Another Ketubot place advertising in this supplement is: Ketubah Ketubah, 416-963-9191.





Karny Vorona works in such media as opaque watercolour, touches of gold leaf, dry pigment and egg yolk mixture.

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Make-up and hair for that special occasion

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Many women apply make-up every day. But if you're hosting a simchah or you're the guest of honour at a party, you may want to consider working with a professional make-up artist to look extra special on that special day.

Sherry Michaels (416-449-2188) of Face It is a professional make-up artist who applies make-up for all kinds of occasions. She generally works on location, she says.

"I go to people's houses, synagogues, hair salons. I travel to wherever they have to be."

She begins the make-up process with a consultation several weeks or months before the event.

"People look through my portfolio to see what they like," Michaels says. "It's not about what I like, it's about the type of look they want."

When choosing colours, it's important to match the make-up with the skin tone, she says.

"Not everybody can get away with the colours that they see in a magazine or a picture."

Michaels generally does not try to match the make-up's colours with a specific outfit, except in the case of weddings.

"I'll match up the eye-shadow if the bride is looking for a certain look."

Brides often have to get ready early in the day for pictures, so Michaels will touch up the bride before the ceremony, she says.

Michaels explains that there are various "make-up looks," from sleek and subtle to dramatic. The time of day and type of the simchah generally determines the type of look. She recommends a subtle look for the day and more dramatic make-up for the evening.

For a bat mitzvah, she'll often put on one application for the synagogue celebration and a different look for the evening party. But she stresses that make-up for the bat-mitzvah girl is always subtle and very natural looking.

Face It's make-up stays on all day because of the special foundation they use. In addition to being hypoallergic, their eye make-up is waterproof and can easily withstand the shedding of a few tears, Michaels says.

The only item that must be reapplied is the lipstick. Generally, clients purchase their own. Sometimes Michaels will order the lipstick for them.

She says all her brushes and make-up are sanitized thoroughly between clients.

Aside from simchahs and photo shoots, Michaels also does make-up demonstrations for parties.

"I teach people make-up techniques. It's usually a lot of fun. It's a great thing to do for a shower."

She loves applying make-up for simchahs, she says. "It's always a happy occasion."

There's no question that the make-up for the stars of a simchah has to be fabulous, but so does the hair, one's crowning glory.

Dani Tayfour of Dani's Hair Studio (416-787-4322) will make sure you don't have a bad hair day on the big day – or any other day, for that matter.

"We do a trial hairstyle with brides," Tayfour says. "We get everyone ready for all special occasions. So far, we've scored 10 out of 10. Not one person has been unhappy."

Tayfour opened Dani's Hair Studio at 3381 Bathurst St. (between Lawrence and Wilson Avenues) last winter after working in the vicinity for a number of years.

"Here it's like a family. Everybody's happy, the employees and the customers. We work with all age groups, both men and women. We do everything from colour to perms to cuts and blow-dries."

Make-up by Face It.

Tayfour says bright hair colour is more popular in the summer while people prefer darker hair colour in the fall and winter.

"I do a lot more streaks in the summer. Streaks tend to be more seasonal."

Many people with curly hair prefer straight hair for a special event, Tayfour says.

"You can give people with very curly hair straight hair for that special occasion. We guarantee straight hair the night of the affair, but it has been known to stay straight for up to 10 days."

He stresses that curling irons, which are very safe, should not be confused with flat irons.

"We do it with a blow-drier. We don't use flat irons. A flat iron dries the hair and burns the cuticles."

Up-dos are extremely popular for weddings and bar mitzvahs, Tayfour says.

"For the bat mitzvah girl, we can add curls, beads and sparkles."

Hair by Dani's Hair Studio.

He notes that spiral curls are also very popular for younger girls.

"We curl the hair piece by piece. We use seven different types of curling irons."

He advises older women to consider fancy "up-dos," but he says up-dos are very becoming for both young and older women.

Though perms are not particularly popular these days, Tayfour recommends a body wave for people with fine straight hair to give it some texture and fullness. He also says that fine hair has more texture and volume when it's shorter.

He recommends that people with coarse hair keep it long and well-shaped to avoid a frizzy look.

"The right cut and product will enhance the curl by defining the curl better and giving it a better bounce."

But Tayfour says that these days, the rules for hairstyles, like fashion, are not that rigid.

"Whatever suits you best is fashionable. There are no fast and hard rules for haircuts or colour." Dani's Hair Studio offers one stop shopping for a variety of in-house beauty services, including make-up by make-up artist Marla Baker.

Other esthetics places advertising in this supplement are: Estee Levine Make-Up Artist, 905-417-8433; Germaine Arrobas Hair Styling, 905-889-4563.

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The contemporary bar mitzvah: Or, no you can't wear a red zoot suit

By JANE ULMAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

"No, Jeremy, you cannot wear liberty spikes to your bar mitzvah party," I say, referring to the hairstyle that transforms my son's head into the Statue of Liberty's crown.

"Mom, you don't understand," he says. "Even when I'm 50, I'll be spiking my hair."

Oh, to be adolescent and all-knowing (and optimistic about retaining a full head of hair). And to be burdened with such an antediluvian for a mother.

"OK," he counters, "what if instead of liberty spikes, I wear a red zoot suit?"

Most people think the bar mitzvah is a religious ceremony in which the 13-year-old assumes adult responsibilities according to Jewish law and tradition.

It is.

But it is also a negotiation over liberty spikes and red zoot suits, an opportunity to push the limits and push one's parents' buttons, a struggle from dependence to increasing independence.

In short, it is a rite of passage, a term coined by the Belgian anthropologist Arnold van Gennep in 1909 to mark the tumultuous and crucial transition from childhood to adulthood. A transition which, according to van Gennep, encompasses a separation from society, a transformation and a return to society in a new role.

Clearly, as most parents today would attest, any 13-year-old worth his extra-hold gel should be separated from society. At least until he turns 20.

But instead of banishing our 13-year-old to boot camp, or, even better, the Bermuda Triangle, we Jews induct him into the community with a ritual that is significant and transformative. We confer on him full adult responsibilities as a member of the tribe and shower him with love, acceptance and checks in multiples of $18.

Because, as Judah ben Tema, a second-century rabbi, tells us, "At 13, one is ready for mitzvot."

And because, since the 16th century, rabbis have been calling 13-year-old boys to the bimah to read the Torah.

Last spring, interestingly, all of my sons were engaged in some rite of passage, propelling them closer to manhood and sending the testosterone levels in our home soaring.

Danny, 11, is moving from elementary school to middle school, where he will have his own locker and schedule of classes. Gabe, 15, recently received his driving permit, the first step on the road to mobility. And Zack, 18, is graduating high school, leaving for college in Massachusetts in a few months.

But none of these events, including the high school graduation, is as meaningful and as substantial as the bar mitzvah. For Jeremy is not only moving into the future, he is also affirming his solid footing in the past, in a heritage thousands of years old that provides him with values, morals and a structure for dealing with life's questions and confusion.

Take his drashah, or commentary on the Torah, for instance, which he will present to the congregation.

In this portion, Pinchas, the grandson of Aaron, murders an Israelite man and a Midianite woman who have been behaving immorally. In return, God awards Pinchas and all his descendants with permanent priesthood in Israel.

"That's not right," Jeremy says. "In the Torah, God tells us not to commit murder."

Also in this portion, God tells Moses to climb the mountains of Avarim to see the land that has been given to the Israelites. As punishment, Moses is to prepare to die there and not enter the Promised Land.

"That's also not right," Jeremy says. "All Moses did was hit the rock instead of talking to it. He was getting water for the Israelites.

"How come God rewards a murder and punishes a misdemeanor?" Jeremy asks. "What kind of God is this?"

As a 13-year-old, Jeremy wrestles with right and wrong, with justice and injustice, with good and evil, on a daily basis. In the world, he sees terrorists murder innocent victims. At school, he feels unfairly blamed for the actions and outbursts of his classmates. And at home, he is not allowed to wear liberty spikes or a red zoot suit to his bar mitzvah party.

"Life's not fair," he complains, repeating the mantra of every teenager.

But he says this with the increasing awareness of an adult.

Because, as the cantor at the University Synagogue, Jay Frailich, says, "The most important part of the bar mitzvah is not the ceremony but the process."

For Jeremy, this process began at his brit milah, or circumcision, where he was initiated into the covenant of Judaism and where my husband Larry and I promised to bring him to a life of gemilut chasadim (acts of kindness), Torah and chupah (the wedding canopy).

And this has continued through 11 years of Jewish preschool and day school, through celebrations of Jewish holidays and life-cycle events, through attendance at Jewish day camp, dances and b'nai mitzvah.

Yes, Jeremy can chant his Torah portion and his Haftorah like a pro. He can recite prayers such as the Shema and the G'vurot. He can lead the entire morning service.

But even more important, Jeremy can face fundamental and difficult ethical issues that are not only embedded in the Torah but that also manifest themselves in "real life." He can determine what kind of human being he wants to be in this seemingly unfair world.

Ideally, Jeremy knows not to wear liberty spikes and red zoot suits, not to tattoo his body or join a cult.

Ideally, he has the courage and confidence and tools to act on his convictions.

But, of course, and not always ideally, Jeremy is still only 13.

"Mom," he says, "do you think I could spike just the front of my hair? And maybe wear a navy blue zoot suit?"

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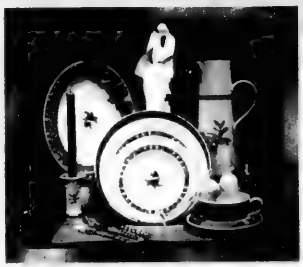

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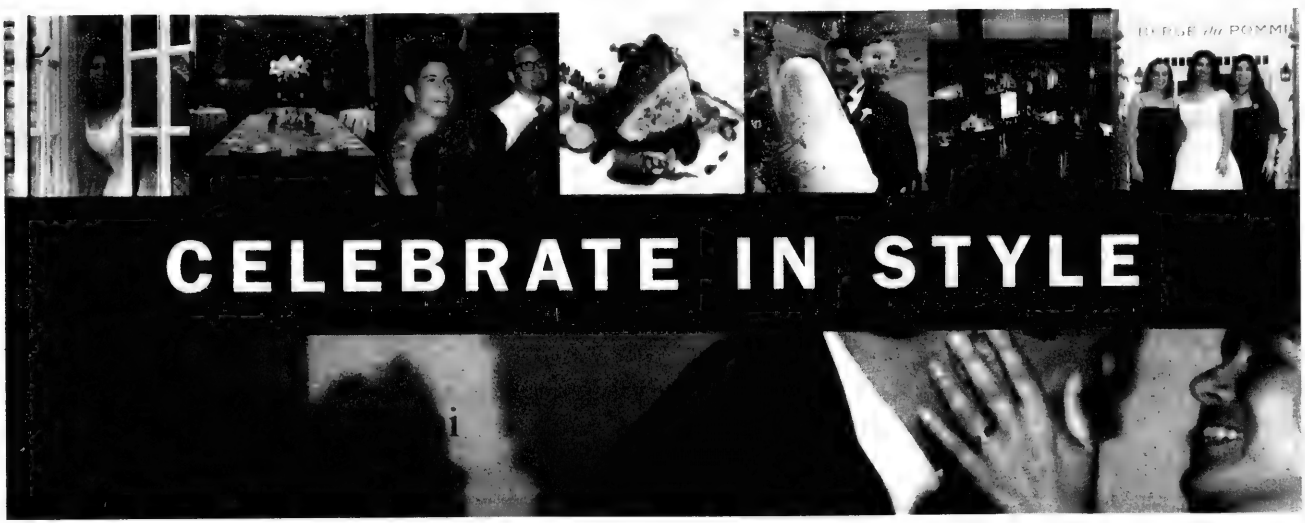

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GIFT REGISTRIES SERVE BOTH GUESTS AND HOSTS

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

When buying a gift for a wedding or other special occasion, you don't really have to use a registry. You may have a gift idea in mind that you don't need to consult anyone about, one you know the bridal couple will be thrilled to receive. And there are some people who still make gifts, rather than buy them.

For many people, however, a registry is the way to go.

Besides outlining the advantages a registry offers to both hosts and guests, Jackie Chiesa of William Ashley China (416-964-2900) explains her company's special gift notification service, in which a gift card is mailed to the recipient advising them of who the guest is and what they have selected.

A good registry is very particular. For a wedding, for example, it lets the bride and groom specify exactly the patterns and designs they want. This will minimize duplications: there will be no instances, say, of three guests each buying a toaster.

For this reason, a registry also gives guests the satisfaction of knowing their gift will be gladly received. They no longer have to guess, or make time-consuming inquiries with other guests.

Chiesa also advises the bridal couple to register with a company that offers discounts all year round. And she recommends registering six to eight months ahead – even a year, if you want to include the engagement party.

For many people, a registry is the way to go

A registry offers a large selection, all posted in one location. Even before the days of the Internet, this meant that the bridal couple could keep track of what had been bought by making a phone call.

The Internet has expanded the range of choices available to retailers. In effect, it offers a huge catalogue of gifts that is constantly updated. This gives the bridal couple a much larger range to choose from.

But this range is so large that without a registry, it could be overwhelming. Having dozens of patterns to choose from can be confusing and time-consuming – but tens of thousands of patterns can be downright bewildering.

Here is where expert consultants enter the picture.

A good bridal consultant knows what's available – for example, the difference between bone china and porcelain – and can sort through it to focus on what's appropriate for you. She can also help you put your look together, making sure that your silver, china, tableware, flatware and other accessories form a harmonious whole. And she can advise your guests.

Of course, the Internet will never replace the pleasure of seeing fine fabrics and housewares up close, not to mention being able to touch them, which is a pleasure both for the bridal couple when they choose what they want and for guests when they buy their gifts. A good registry goes with a well-stocked showroom.

Also, to carry the idea of convenience further, a good registry offers related services such as gift boxing and delivery (although you won't always need a delivery service: to a shower, a guest would bring the gift in person. Often, however, the bride and groom will not want the guests to bring gifts to the actual wedding).

At William Ashley China, guests are welcome to take gifts with them, or opt for gift notification. The latter allows the couple to accumulate gift cards and arrange for a single delivery at their convenience.

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PARTY PLANNER

Body Doodles bring a party to life with safe artwork

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

Marcos Benaim and the artistic staff of Body Doodles can add a new dimension to any simchah through the visual arts.

In addition to temporary tattoos, such as henna, Swarovski crystals and air brushing, Body Doodles also does face painting and caricature portraits.

"Body Doodles is an art-related company dedicated to bringing an event to life with safe and fun artwork," says Benaim, the company's founder.

An actor, musician and children's book author and illustrator, Benaim started Body Doodles (416-889-1208) a little over two years ago following a trip he made to Europe with his family.

"A lot of people were doing temporary tattoos in the streets of Europe," he says. "It's an enticing art fad. I'm one of the first people to do it in Toronto. I believe I introduced it to the Jewish community here."

He says he called the company Body Doodles to avoid using the word tattoo.

"Even though they're temporary, the word 'tattoo' has a stigma. The body paint dries instantaneously and the doodles come off with nail polish remover or alcohol."

Benaim, whose roots are Moroccan, says henna painting the night before the bride and groom get married is a popular Moroccan custom.

"The *noche de novia*, [which means] night of the wife, is a huge party. Everybody gets henna on the hand."

He says traditional henna takes longer to dry than the body paint he uses, which dries immediately and is "100 per cent safe." Both types of body art last couple of weeks, he adds.

Tiny Swarovski crystals – imported from Europe – can be added to the henna art to embellish the design, Benaim explains.

"The children come to the booth to get a henna tattoo," he says. "Later on in the night, they come back to get the crystals to accent the henna tattoo. Mini-crystals are glued with a safe skin glue. They stay on for a couple of days."

Benaim's artists do not use stencils as part of the design process, he says.

"Each design is completely individualized. It's a very versatile service."

Body Doodles also makes custom tattoos for themed events, says Benaim.

"I am not aware of anyone else who does this kind of customized work. For instance, for a hockey theme for one bar mitzvah, I drew a board full of hockey sports designs so that there were a variety of tattoos."

Body Doodles appeals to all age groups, he says.

"It's so popular with the kids and adults we already have bookings well into 2003."

Benaim says that Body Doodles gives partygoers "a memory that people can share.

"It gives children who don't dance or who are shy an activity that they can partake in. Children of all ages love it."

No matter what the venue, the Body Doodles booth is always busy, he says.

"I did the UJA Walk, the Baycrest Fun Run and some other community fund-raisers. The response was unbelievable. At the Walk for Israel, we did 1,500 tattoos. At one point, there were 100 children waiting in line to get painted."

He recalls working at a school spring fair where a six-year-old girl kept coming back for more tattoos.

"She had tattoos of the names of everyone in her family – her mother, father, brother, sister, even her dog."

Benaim says Body Doodles' entire staff all have backgrounds in art and are lots of fun.

"They're terrific and outgoing and they love what they do as well. I love training them and I'm always on the lookout for new talent."

Prices for Body Doodles vary according to the time and number of children at a function. Party packages start at $125. For 80 kids, Benaim recommends booking two artists for three hours. People wanting to find out more about Body Doodles can also visit the Web site at www.body-doodles.com.

Benaim says he feels fortunate to be in a business that's so gratifying. "My passion is art and I've been able to capitalize on this passion. I love what I do."

Another Henna artist advertising in this supplement is: Little Miss Henna, 905-731-0067.

Marcos Benaim does his magic on Natalie Soberano at a recent UJA Funwalk.

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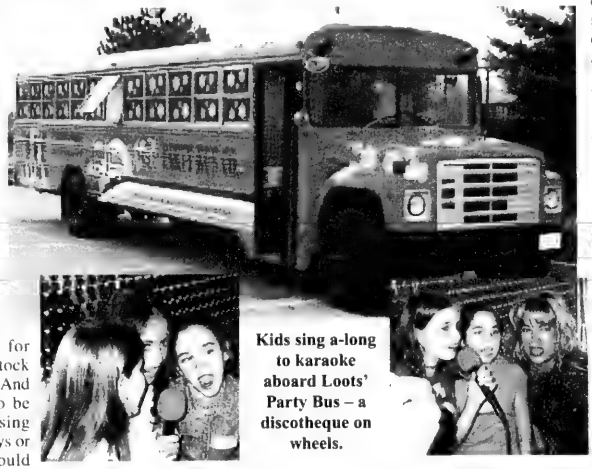
FOR FUN GIFT SHOPPING, TRY ONE-STOPPING

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Norene Norris of Tyme to Party (905-737-2789) and Teri Leese of Loots Party Bus (416-787-5668) both agree on the major advantage that a one-stop gift store offers to someone planning a party. It's as simple as the phrase "one stop": save time and effort by getting as many things as you can at one location.

A store that caters to kids should be appropriately stocked. Tyme to Party, for example, doesn't stock anything breakable. And since kids want to be involved in choosing things like giveaways or loot bags, they should be welcome, says Norris.

Look for comprehensiveness when you choose a gift store, Norris advises. A company that supplies what you need for an occasion like Purim should be able to supply you for another, like Chanukah or a birthday. Its stock should be large enough and diverse enough that it doesn't have to order what you want.



Kids sing a-long to karaoke aboard Loots' Party Bus – a discotheque on wheels.

Tyme to Party, for example, specializes in loot bags, and many parents look to it for bar and bat mitzvah giveaways. But it also carries costumes all year round and has a wide range of balloons and paper products. It can also supply bar and bat mitzvah invitations.

Loots' store is also built on being comprehensive in stock and welcoming both kids and their parents. Besides doing loot bags and bar/bat mitzvah giveaways, it also provides custom gifts and free gift wrapping.

Look for a store that covers the whole market, advises Norris, whether you want to exercise your own creativity or get everything in finished form. If consultants order from it, as they do from Tyme to Party, or if a store ships all over the world as Loots does, that tells you a store has a good name in its field.

Continued on page B22

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Loots Bus...Magic Bus

Continued from page B21

Lees and Norris agree that a good one-stop party store will be up to date on the latest novelties. Among the newer ideas Norris mentions are cups that kids can etch their name into with their fingernails, and confetti with a kid's name on the individual pieces for birthday parties.

Norris suggests that you come in to the store two or three weeks ahead, to give yourself time to choose.

Loots Party Bus offers the novel idea of a discotheque on wheels – Leese calls it the "no muss, no fuss, Loots disco party bus." You may have seen it on Citytv's *Breakfast Television*. Loots is also planning video game and fairy princess fantasy buses.

The bus comes to your location – for stationary use only – with its own generator, heating and air conditioning, as well as prismatic walls, furry ceiling, electronic disco ball, and lots of glitz and glitter.

There are two entertainers, and a sound system and two flatscreen TVs set up for karaoke. You can eat there – staff will feed your guests and clean up, making it great for breakfast and pyjama parties, or disco dancing at a birthday party. And staff will bring a cake and loot bags from the store.

Other one-stop-party places advertising in this supplement are: Dominion Smallwares, 416-665-9526, and The Candyman/Kosher 'N Natural Foods, 416-789-7173.

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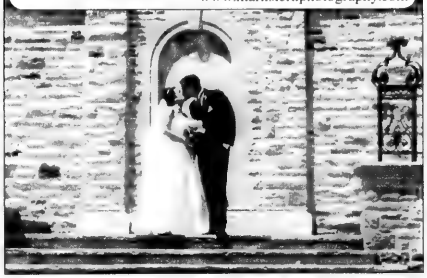

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Custom-made evening wear – and not just in black

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

When women envision themselves in evening wear, whether in a cocktail dress or a full-length gown, many see themselves in black, in spite of the trend-setters who have declared, several times over the past few years, that colours are in.

"Most ladies are very into black," says Manijeh Fanaian, who owns Stefania Gracile Couture Inc. (416-789-4111) with her partner Stefania Gracile.

"They think black makes them look slim. But it's not the colour that makes them look slim; it's the style," Fanaian says. "And some colours can make them look slim."

Stefania Gracile Couture carries many types of fabrics in a wide range of colours and Fanaian's black-obsessed customers are often pleasantly surprised at the way coloured fabric looks draped against them.

"I try to match colours with their eyes and their skin tones," Fanaian says. "That way we work out what colour is best for that individual."

The store specializes in custom-made evening wear and party wear, including full-length gowns, cocktail dresses and suits for evening events and less formal suits for bar and bat mitzvahs.

They also carry wedding gowns, dresses for bridesmaids and the mother of the bride.

But, Fanaian says, "The difference between a wedding gown and an evening gown is its colour. We don't do traditional wedding gowns."

They once made a classic fairy-tale-princess-style wedding dress for a customer, but "it wasn't really traditional looking," Fanaian says.

What distinguishes Stefania Gracile dresses and suits is their elegance.

"If someone is looking for something elegant, we do it for them," she says.

The fabrics Stefania Gracile uses, which include beaded material and lots of lace, don't change much with the seasons – Fanaian points out that most women wear jackets over their gowns in the evening anyway – but the colours do change.

Spring, she says, is their busiest time, with some brides and bridesmaids starting to look a year ahead of the wedding day to keep the stress level down just before the wedding.

Stefania Gracile makes a dress or a suit in one week, sometimes two, depending on the time of year. Two fittings are usually required. The owners also recommend other stores where their customers can purchase appropriate undergarments and shoes.

Fanaian and Gracile opened Stefania Gracile Couture Inc. on Avenue Road two years ago, but the Stefania Gracile label goes back almost 20 years. Gracile is a pianist who studied music at university and went on to do fashion studies after graduation. Nearly 20 ago, she began wholesaling ready-to-wear evening, party and bridal fashion.

Other women's fashion places advertising in this supplement are: k. Barketti, 416-225-6733; Ross Mayer Clothing, 416-703-4361.

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PARTY PLANNER

RENTALS ARE PART OF YOUR PARTY AMBIENCE

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

If chosen with care, linens, china and furniture can add a lot to the atmosphere of your party.

So, advise John Higgins of Higgins Party Rentals (416-252-4050, ext. 22), and Alan Cramer of Micki's (905-738-1161; www.mickis.ca), you should choose a rental company with care.

Before you choose, Higgins urges, research what's out there, since there's plenty of competition.

With styles changing faster than they used to, it's harder to keep up to date. Fashion affects things like linens and china, not just clothes.

This year, for example, square china is trendy, Higgins says. There are even odder shapes, like triangular plates, and one new line of crystal includes an oversized 18-inch wine goblet.

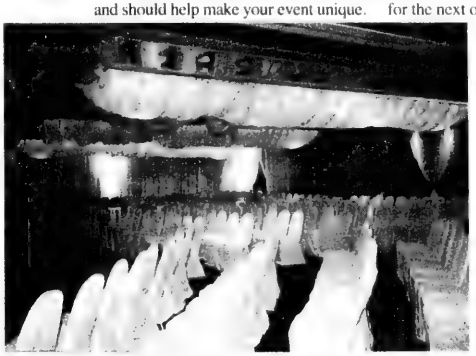
Some offerings are more elegant. There's a fine Italian line of ivory-handled cutlery, and white Chiavari chairs are very popular at weddings.

One major advantage of a good rental house, says Higgins, is that selection will be much bigger than in a hall or hotel. It will have a wide range of things for every event, be it chairs or linen, glasses or cutlery. And a rental house will offer better quality, Cramer adds.

For some parties, you might choose a house that carries specialized items like tents and staging. Higgins, for example, specializes in smaller-scale tents for house parties. Or you might want more common items in unusual designs, such as cocktail tables with frosted glass tops.

Cramer, whose company only rents fabrics, says that specializing in one kind of product lets a company serve you better, because it has the contacts to stay better informed about trends than a non-specialist and can get items faster. As well, by buying in larger quantities, it can pass savings on to you.

It's an accepted maxim that your caterer and event planner should like working with people, but the same, Higgins and Cramer assert, also applies to a rental house. It too offers a service, and should help make your event unique.



Its staff should be knowledgeable and enjoy working with you. Your rental supplier should contribute to the peace of mind that lets you relax and enjoy your party, Cramer maintains. It should be ready to accommodate a range of budgets and representatives should show up at your event in person to check that everything is all right.

Cramer makes a point of praising his competitors. "They give the industry a good name," he says. They have high standards of service; the items they rent are of good quality, and clean; and they deliver on time. Some linen rental houses, he says, have employees who do nothing but inspect and clean.

And they network among themselves, Cramer continues. If one supplier can't offer you what you want, they will refer you to someone who can.

Think ahead, Higgins advises: choose a house that can supply not only your current event, but ones down the road. You may be planning a birthday party now, but the rental company that serves you well for this event will likely do so for the next one.

Your lead time, Higgins estimates, ranges from a week to several months, depending on the event and how particular you are. Do you just want a comfortable chair, say, or a specific design? If you want a specific design, in case there's a large demand for it, allow more time to make sure you get it.

In any case, Higgins says, coming in as early as possible is a good way to avoid last-minute jitters. Cramer agrees that sooner is better, but in an emergency, you should be able to come in the week of your event.

Keep an open mind, Cramer advises. Have a general idea of what you want, but be ready to mix textures and colours and to think outside the box – say, by choosing brocade chair covers and organza tablecloths. A touch like this will help make your party an occasion to remember. **[Picture supplied by Micki's.]**

Other rental companies advertising in this supplement are: Chair Decor Etc., 905-731-9217; and Premier Linens, 905-737-3497.

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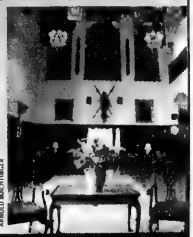

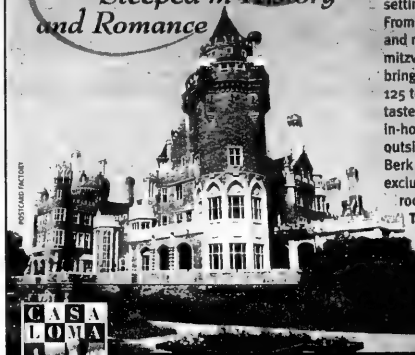

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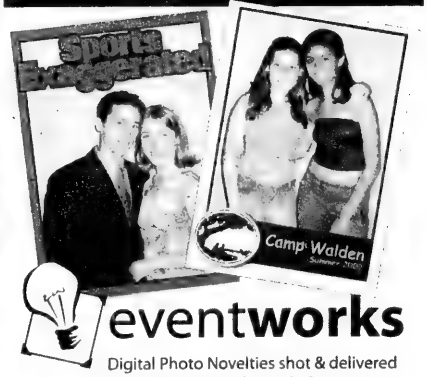

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PARTY PLANNER

Re-invent your Chanukah party

By LINDA MOREL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Entertaining is a lot like gardening, Linda Burghardt says. "You can't make mistakes." In other words, no matter what you do, it's OK.

Just as each combination of flowers produces a different garden, each approach to party planning results in a unique gathering. Through these suggestions, hosts can re-invent Chanukah parties or weave in new ideas with established traditions:

1. Make a guest list of family and friends who light up your life. Celebrating the holiday with friends is fun for people with small families.
2. Using construction paper, show children how to cut out dreidels or candles and create one-of-a-kind invitations by filling in the time and date.
3. If you want to do something fancier, buy plastic dreidels with removable tops and put a note inside each one, explaining the party details.
4. Make a centerpiece by turning a large cardboard box into a dreidel and letting children decorate it. Fill the dreidel with party favours wrapped in blue and white paper, taping mesh bags of Chanukah gelt or real money on top. Attach long ribbons, so it's easy for children to pull party favours from the centerpiece.
5. If you enjoy loot bags, purchase, make gifts yourself, or ask guests to bring something to exchange. Organize two loot bags – one for children and one for adults. Set a price range to ensure fairness.
6. Plan a manageable menu and prepare as many dishes ahead of time as possible.
7. Experiment by making latkes out of sweet potatoes or vegetables such as carrots, zucchini or turnips.
8. For extra crunchy results, drain latkes on brown paper bags from grocery stores rather than on paper towels.
9. Make Chanukah gelt by melting chocolate and spooning it into rounds on aluminum foil coated with a no-stick spray. When they've cooled, wrap individually in silver or gold foil.
10. Create a lovely ceremony by asking guests to bring menorahs from home. Provide candles in a variety of colours, sizes and shapes, including some from Israel.
11. Place menorahs around the dining room table at the appropriate guest's place. Say the blessing and light the *shammashes* – the central candles – together, followed by the other candles. Prepare to be dazzled.
12. Explain each step for guests who've grown fuzzy about Jewish customs or who are learning about Judaism for the first time.
13. After dinner, read Isaac Beshevis Singer's delightful *Zlatch the Goat* from his collection of stories by the same name. Young and old alike will be entertained by this charming tale.
14. Before the party, take a long bath. Allow 45 minutes to relax. Remember your role as host is to extend warmth and welcome people into your home. Forget perfectionism -- it has no place at Chanukah.

(From Jewish Holiday Traditions *by Linda Burghardt)*

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Proceeds from hospitality bags go to kosher shelter

By CARRIE BRODI
Special to The CJN

Out-of-town guests attending a wedding or bar/bat mitzvah are often overlooked in the flurry of last minute details, says Freda Gottesman-Brender, longtime member of Jewish Women International, Canada (JWI).

Along with the 35 members of the Golda Meir Chapter in Toronto, Gottesman-Brender helps make comfortable your travel-weary loved ones with healthy, delicious hospitality bags delivered right to their hotel room door. What's more, all of the proceeds go to support a one-of-a-kind kosher shelter in Toronto for abused Jewish women called Alternative Short-Term Emergency Housing (ASEH).

"It's a double mitzvah"

"It's a double mitzvah," Gottesman-Brender says. "Not only are you greeting your guests, you're also supporting the charities of JWI."

For between $18 and $25, guests receive a beautifully decorated gift bag that contains two bottles of water, fresh and dried fruits, hard candies, a chocolate bar, almonds, raisons and assorted health bars. Any other items requested can be added for an additional cost. All products are kosher, and everything comes wrapped, with fruits purchased no later than one day before delivery. A personalized note from celebrant to guest is encouraged, as are maps, directions and a pre-simchah itinerary.

Freda Gottesman-Brender and Lilli Gillman display the hospitality bags at a party planner's boutique show.

A small detail, maybe, but anyone who has travelled between cities for a celebration can appreciate how taxing and expensive it can be, says Gottesman-Brender, a retired math teacher who came up with the hospitality bag idea when planning her own children's weddings.

"At the end of my third daughter getting married, I was really so proficient at it," she says. "I thought, I could do this as a fund-raiser. It's a nice thing, it's really quite easy and it's a lot of fun."

What began out of necessity has magnified three-fold. Three years later, the women of Golda Meir Chapter are still enjoying the venture; celebrants and their guests are grateful for the service; and countless women and children in need benefit from the profits.

Along with the women's shelter, which JWI developed alongside Jewish Family and Child Services, the women of Golda Meir Chapter also developed and distributed (in four languages) 150,000 copies of the pamphlet, *Protect Yourself: Stop the Violence*, an educational resource for victims of domestic violence.

"Domestic violence in the Jewish community does exist," Gottesman-Brender says. "You like to think it doesn't happen, but it does."

Other charitable work done by JWI includes a warm clothing drive for underprivileged children called Mountains of Mittens and financial support for The Residential Treatment Centre in Jerusalem, a medication-free home for emotionally disturbed children.

Schlepping all over Toronto to deliver hospitality bags to various hotels could also be classified as charitable, yet Gottesman-Brender and her chapter are happy to do it (deliveries are free). Gottesman-Brender asks for at least two weeks' notice so that the bags can be shopped for and prepared. The earlier, the better, she says.

"We say, avoid last minute stress," she says. "Do a double mitzvah, show them that you care."

To find out more, call 416-221-7442.

Caricature a memorable keepsake from any party

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

Sometimes it can feel as though attending parties has become part of a routine. There are so many simchahs covering the calendar that after a while, they begin to seem monotonous. If you are looking to spice up your event, look no further than a caricaturist.

Caricaturists such as Chris Klein (416-391-3774) add an element of fun to even the most mature of events.

Klein has been in the business for 11 years. He studied illustration at the Ontario College of Art and Design (OCAD). When he started drawing caricatures on the side, he found that he liked it.

"Caricature drawing gives me a lot of freedom of expression and interpretation," Klein says.

Klein has done many kinds of events, from bar and bat mitzvahs to corporate events to fiscal parties.

Although he is always busy, Klein says Chanukah and summer are the busiest times of the year. He advises booking in advance to avoid disappointment.

So what is so special about caricaturists, you ask?

"Caricatures are unique because it's both entertainment and product," says Klein. "After the party, people have something to keep and even frame.

"People have a blast with my drawings. It really gets the party going and sometimes I even gather a crowd watching me draw."

It takes Klein between four to five minutes to create one drawing.

"People misunderstand at first because they think that you will make fun of them. But everything I do is complimentary."

Klein is a crowd-pleaser. He always makes sure to take requests. "At first, I ask people what they like to do and I try to incorporate it somehow."

Klein enjoys his job,which to him is of supreme importance.

"I love that caricatures are fun for people of all ages. My style progresses as time goes on, and I always have a blast."

So next time you're organizing a party, make sure to give Chris Klein a ring. Without question, he'll make your party something to remember.

Another caricaturist advertising in this supplement is: Mark Ciale, Caricature Artist, 416-203-2514.

Chris Klein

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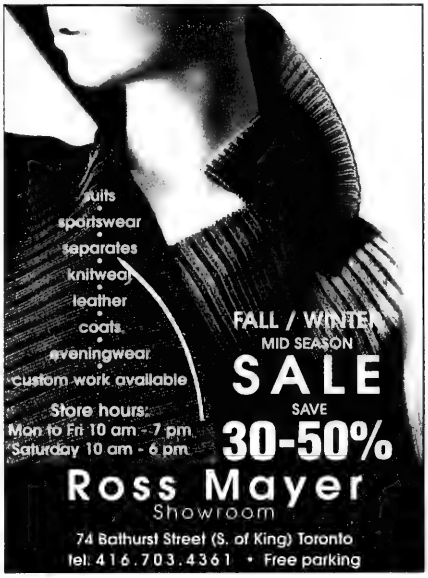

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PARTY PLANNER

How do today's photography trends affect your simchah?

By STACEY STEIN
Special to The CJN

More people are now choosing photographers based on their style and personality, according to Sam Sciarrino, owner of Horvath Photography.

Sciarrino says this is one of the trends he has observed during his nearly 20 years in the business. Another major trend, he says, is the industry's move towards digital photography.

"We're seeing a drastic change in the digital world," said Sciarrino. "We're 70 per cent digital right now, and we'll probably be filmless in about one year." He added that Horvath Photography is now shooting all of its party events in digital.

Florian Surghe, owner of Florian Photography, also noted the move towards digital: The technology has "changed dramatically," he said. While Florian Photography uses film, they digitize all of their work.

Both Horvath Photography (416-487-3443) and Florian Photography (905-832-9576) shoot events such as weddings and bar mitzvahs while also maintaining a presence in the child and family portrait market. Horvath has only two photographers on staff.

"We're a more personal operation," said Sciarrino. "That way, we can keep our quality up."

Located in an antique home in Maple, Florian Photography also emphasizes its high quality as well as its uniqueness. Surghe's wife, who is an artist, incorporates artistic touches into the finished product.

Clients planning events such as weddings or bar mitzvahs must ensure they book their photographer well in advance. Sciarrino recommends customers book their photographer about a year in advance, keeping in mind that certain months such as June tend to be particularly busy for photographers.

"It's not uncommon for some people to book two or three years in advance," said Sciarrino, adding that these are usually repeat customers. Meanwhile, Surghe of Florian Photography recommends booking a year-to-two years in advance of the event.

While many people are now using videographers at their affairs, both Sciarrino and Surghe maintain that this has not had an impact on the demand for photographers.

"The videographer and photographer cover different aspects of the affair," said Surghe.

Sciarrino said people tend to use both photographers and videographers at their events.

"I don't think video has affected the photography market at all. Videography will never take photography's place and photography can't replace videography," he said.

When choosing a photographer, both Surghe and Sciarrino said the photographer's personality is a key factor.

"It doesn't matter how good the photographer is. If there's no chemistry [between the photographer and his/her subjects], the photography will be without a soul," Surghe said, adding that "it is important to know exactly who the photographer is and to make sure you get a good feeling from them."

Sciarrino said clients should also look at the quality and style of the photography. While Horvath has its own distinct style, the photographers are also adaptable to their clients' requests.

Using weddings as an example, Sciarrino said Horvath's style tends to be "in-between."

"We do something that will satisfy the bride and groom and the parents at the same time. We do a little bit of everything to satisfy everybody," he said.

Surghe said he doesn't believe in adopting a specific style.

Pictures by Horvath Photography

"My style is the people's style," he said, adding his photos range from the "super-classic" to "craziness."

"People are different," he said. "How can you put everybody in the same box?"

Other photographers advertising in this supplement are: Ryan Eisen Photography, 905-886-7074; Mark Stern Photography, 416-789-6275; Platinum Studios, 905-709-7754; Signature Photography, 416-784-4488; Sylman Photography, 905-889-0760.

Timeless beauty of flowers

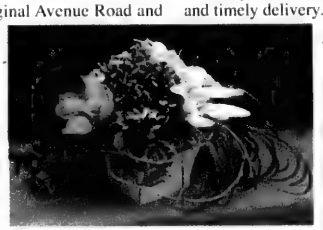
By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

Bob and Doug Hatcher are third-generation florists, still operating the business their grandfather opened in Toronto in 1909.

The Hatcher brothers' grandfather, George Henry Hatcher, included among his clientele prominent figure Lady Eaton and war hero Billy Bishop.

"We have a letter from the York Club dated Nov. 3, 1924, stating, 'Flowers admired by all at the Function for H.R.H. the Prince of Wales,'" Bob Hatcher says.

Nearly eight decades later, Hatcher Florist (416-221-5557), which moved from the original Avenue Road and Dupont location to 5455 Yonge Street in 1957, has kept up with the times. Customers can order floral arrangements, gift baskets and plants through their Web site, www.hatcherflorist.com.



They've also kept up with the latest floral colour trends. A recent wedding show Hatcher attended focused on warm colours, and to reflect that trend, the brothers have painted their shop a rich burgundy.

Warm shades such as reds, burgundys and hot pinks, Hatcher says, are coming back strong, with cool colours such as mauve, lavender and blue taking a back seat.

All-white flowers are still popular for bridal bouquets, he says, but "for the bride who wants something more trend-setting," he suggests hot-pink and light-pink gerbera in miniature.

Hatcher says he consults with a bride once, twice or three times before the wedding day, depending "on how definite the bride-to-be is about her vision," and he comes on the wedding day to set up and oversee the flowers.

His party centrepieces are innovative arrangements of quality flowers and foliage, with "no huge CD, chocolate bar or Pokémon add-ons," he says.

"We pride ourselves on fresh flowers, innovative design and timely delivery."

Sandra Raffa, a co-owner of The Toronto Florist Shop (905-764-6332; toll free 800-303-0092; www.torontofloristshop.com) says she creates colourful and funky raised centrepieces for bar and bat mitzvahs.

Preferred bar mitzvah flower colours are blue, yellow, orange and purple, while the most popular bat mitzvah colours are hot pink, purple, red and yellow, Raffa says.

Continued on page B33

Floral arrangements pictured at left are by Hatcher Florist, and, above, by The Toronto Florist Shop.

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KEEP THE MEMORY FRESH WITH A MOUNT 'N SEAL POSTER

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

It's often said that photographs preserve memories, and some photos make good posters. Think of the classic baseball shots of Babe Ruth blown up to poster size.

If it works for sports, why not make posters out of photos taken at family occasions? A poster of your son at his bar mitzvah, for example, could find a place in your home.

Like photos, though, posters are subject to wear over time, so how can you preserve them? Neil Flagg of Mount 'N Seal and Sports Poster Warehouse (416-423-9975; www.puresportsart.com) has a way to keep them looking new.

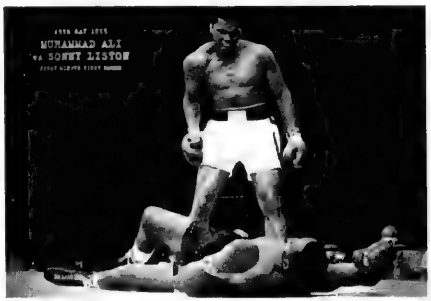
Flagg bought Mount 'N Seal 25 years ago from its founder, Louise Joseph, who brought this poster framing concept from New York. Museum mount framing, as it's often called, can be used on posters, signing boards, or the picture on an easel at the entrance to, say, a bar mitzvah celebration.

First, the picture or poster is mounted on a sturdy, half-inch thick corrugate board. It's then given a border, with 30 colours to choose from, then it's shrink wrapped, which gives it a light gloss. Finally, a hanger is fitted to the back.

Mounted this way, your picture or poster is lighter than it would be in a conventional frame and easier to move. It's durable and not easily damaged. All you have to do is dust it or, for a smudge or fingerprints, wipe it with a damp cloth. (Don't use a very hot or wet cloth or abrasive chemicals.)

It's also much less expensive than conventional framing. The average poster, 2 by 3 feet in size, costs $29.95. The price is proportionate to the size, making this a cost-effective preservation method, especially for large posters. Mount 'N Seal can mount anything, from a snapshot up to the size of poster you would see in a subway station.

Sports Poster Warehouse is Flagg's own business, which he started in 1997. An enthusiastic sports fan, Flagg originally intended to get the rights to publish posters of great moments in sports. But for the handful of titles he had rights to, printing a catalogue was a daunting expense. He had dozens of competitors with rights to publish posters, and unlike his competitors, he had no distribution network.



Instead, he made his competitors his suppliers, selling for them. Now, he no longer has to go door to door to all the little shops and galleries. And Sports Poster Warehouse sells thousands of posters a week, 95 per cent of them to customers in the United States.

You can visit the Mount 'N Seal showroom at Laird Drive and Eglinton Avenue. He has a full range of posters of all kinds, including some vintage shots of Babe Ruth.

With more than 2,000 appearances, harpist Joanna Jordan and CLAZZ have toured and performed for many people, including Her Majesty, The Queen Mother; Her Royal Highness, The Princess Margaret; Tina Turner; The Three Tenors; Pierre Elliot Trudeau; and recently debuted at CARNEGIE HALL

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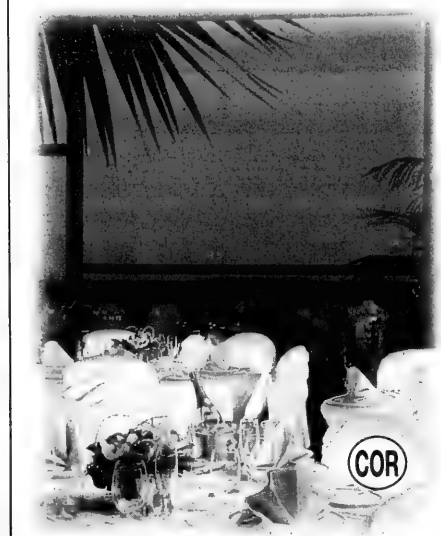

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PARTY PLANNER

Colourful floral trends

Continued from page B31

"[We make] both with lots of branches and cascading grasses to give them a young and fun feeling," she says.

Raffa agrees with Hatcher that floral colour trends are "more colourful" this year and expects that to continue into 2003.

Brides are being a little more adventurous with their colour choices, she says.

The most popular bridal bouquet is a simple hand-tied flower cluster usually made of roses, or a combination of roses and other delicate flowers, she says.

"The colours of a lot of bouquets I've done are still white or in pastel tones, but I've done many bold-colour bridal bouquets this year."

The bridesmaids' dress colour is usually the basis for choosing the wedding colour scheme, she says, "so the dress colour is always taken into account when deciding on the colours and types of flowers."

Also for weddings, The Toronto Florist Shop offers a choice of two chuppahs, one a standard size of 6'x6'x8' and the other an adjustable one that's a minimum of 10'x10'x8'. The chuppah's structure is usually decorated in white or ivory fabric, tulle, satin or organza, or a combination of fabrics.

"It's very common to use the flowers from the chuppah to decorate the reception room after the ceremony," she says.

Raffa meets with the bride as often as necessary, and sometimes visits the ceremony and reception venues with her to discuss decorating possibilities.

"I always go if I've never been to their venue before," she says.

On the wedding day, Raffa and her staff arrive for the picture-taking and stay until the ceremony is over to transfer the flowers to the reception venue. At the end of the evening, they return to dismantle the flowers.

Raffa joined The Toronto Florist Shop, which has been on Thornhill's Glen Cameron Road for over 15 years, six months after her own wedding. She learned the business hands-on and, four years later, bought the shop with a silent partner.

"The number of weddings have increased dramatically in these last years and it's been rewarding to be such a huge part of the one of the most special days in people's lives," she says.

Other florists advertising in this supplement are: An Affair to Remember, 905-881-6686; Designs by Karen Baker, 905-886-8100; Greenleaves & Petals Ltd., 905-709-4080.

Floral designs by The Toronto Florist Shop (Top) and by Hatcher Florist (Above).

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HAVE A HOTEL HOST YOUR PARTY

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Hotels offer many advantages as party venues. Anne Mortensen of Four Seasons Hotel Toronto (416-928-7310) and Leah Leslie, director of sales and marketing for Toronto Marriott Eaton Centre (416-204-9002) offer valuable insights into what these advantages are.

Hotels, as they point out, are equipped to host parties of varying sizes, from intimate gatherings to galas with hundreds of guests. And for any size of event, a large hotel will probably have more than one choice of room.

Book a year ahead, advises Leslie. Mortensen recommends six months to a year. When you call, she continues, know the date, the time of day, the number of guests, and type of event (wedding, bar or bat mitzvah, cocktails, etc.). And have some idea what food and beverages you want.

Leslie places a lot of emphasis on location. This time of year, as cold weather sets in, you might not usually think about outdoor parties; but if you're planning well ahead, you have to decide whether a summer event might be outdoors, and if so, what kind of venue can best accommodate it.

Ask yourself whether you want a location in the suburbs or downtown, Leslie adds. At first glance, if most of your guests live in the suburbs and drive, a suburban venue looks better. And guests flying in from out of town will want to avoid heavy downtown traffic. On the other hand, Leslie points out, a downtown location means easier access to public transit or taxis, and fewer designated drivers at an event with alcohol. Moreover, many young downtowners don't own cars these days.

Mortensen says hotels often provide a range of services that save you the trouble of calling on several other party professionals. A good hotel offers a good selection of crystal, chair covers and the like. Some will do the flowers and invitations for you.

Pay attention to the quality and presentation of the food, Leslie advises. If you're a serious prospect, a hotel or banquet hall should put on a taste panel. But they won't do this if you're still at the window shopping stage, since it's costly.

Also, Mortensen urges, look for a hotel that offers something extra special. Four Seasons Toronto hosts kosher events for groups of 250 to 500 in the Regency Ballroom, for example, but they also take pride in innovative cuisine, much of it with an Asian influence, from canapes to full-course meals.

A ballroom at the Four Season Toronto.

Rare sesame seared tuna on an avocado compote with a preserved ginger drizzle is not often seen on a kosher menu. Four Seasons Toronto smokes its own gravid lox in-house, as well.

Look for a level of service that includes literally going that proverbial extra mile, Mortensen advises. On one occasion, Four Seasons Toronto flew in kosher wasabi and pickled ginger from New York.

Atmosphere, setting and size all deserve careful thought, Leslie says. You don't necessarily want the most opulent room. Crystal chandeliers and sumptuous decor may be ideal for a wedding, but if you yourself want to decorate, or your bar mitzvah boy wants a basketball theme, a simpler room would be better.

"Walk the path of arrival that your guest will walk," advises Leslie. Put yourself in their steps, and imagine what they will see.

But the most important factor of all, Leslie says, is trust. The people working at your venue should have a good reputation that they have built over time. They should be competent, experienced and well organized. And they should be caring people who will enjoy working with you.

Other places to have a party that advertise in this supplement are: Akasaka Japanese Restaurant, 416-222-6861; Alley Catz, 416-481-6865; Baycrest Hospitality Services, 416-785-2500; Beverly Hills Caterers, 416-822-7056; The Boulevard Club, 416-532-3341; Capitol Event Theatre/York Event Theatre, 416-322-3322; Casa Loma, 416-923-1171; Columbus Centre/Villa Charities/Villa Colombo, 416-789-7011 ext. 298; Copper Creek Golf Club, 905-893-3370 ext. 201; Dave and Buster's, 905-760-7600; Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 416-368-2511 ext. 2657; Hudson's Bay Catering, 416-861-6138; Four Seasons Hotel Toronto, 416-964-0411; Kehila Catering, 905-669-7654 ext. 300; Liberty Grand, 416-542-3789/230; Estates of Sunny-Brook, 416-487-3841; Match Bar & Grill, 905-850-5699; Oliver-Bonacni Restaurants; Paradise Banquet & Convention Centre, 416-661-6612; Park Hyatt Toronto, 416-925-1234; Pickle Barrel, 416-493-4444; Richmond Hill Country Club, 905-731-2800; Rondo Banquet Hall, 905-707-0330; Sam Firestone Caterers, 416-782-8022; Scaramouche Restaurant/Pasta Bar, 416-961-8011; Spirale Banquet Hall & Ristorante, 416-391-5888; Toronto Marriott Bloor-Yorkville Hotel, 416-961-8000; Trielm Catering, 416-222-1230; Wildfire Grille, 416-483-4800.

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PARTY PLANNER

INVITATIONS SET THE TONE FOR ANY ENGAGEMENT

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Weeks ahead of the date, when your guests open that envelope and see that card, they will get an expectation of what your event will be like. For something as important as invitations, how should you choose your provider and get the best for your budget?

Let Elaine Anisman of Sendsations (416-322-5553), and Terry Kirshenbaum of Invitation House (416-593-0519) answer these questions.

Anisman recommends talking to different invitation companies. See who is patient, understands your needs, explains what's suitable and can keep within your budget. Find a professional who knows where you can cut and where you can add.

Anisman recommends you look at the invitation provider's other work before you make a final decision. Bring with you the basic information about the kind of event you are holding and where and when it will be, she advises. The more elaborate your event, the more details you need. Know what you want, but keep an open mind and listen to professional advice.

Your invitation, Kirshenbaum says, does more than give information: it sets the tone for your event. And in both Kirshenbaum and Anisman's experience, everyone wants their event to be extraordinary.

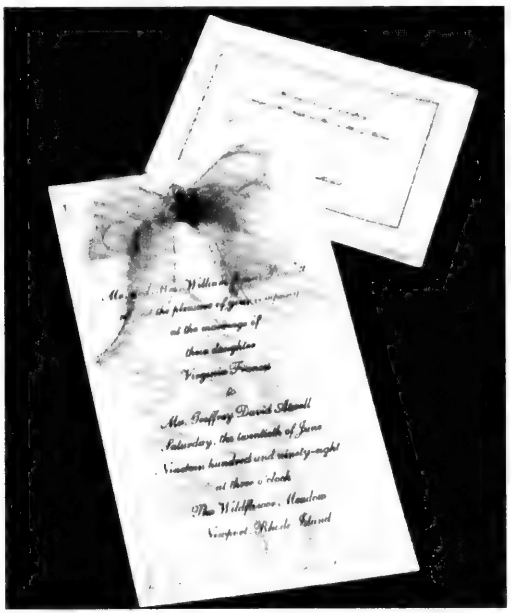
To impress your guests, says Kirshenbaum, you need a custom designer who will create something personalized, not just someone who flips through a catalogue. Anisman also recommends picking a company with an in-house designer.

Kirshenbaum says your invitation provider should know about new papers, typefaces, printing and colouring techniques on the market, since styles change in this field as in others. Anisman says it's equally important that she help you with wording and style.

Design companies need three to four weeks' production time, says Kirshenbaum, after which you should mail your invitations about two months in advance. Be prepared to book your invitation provider about 12 weeks prior to your event. Sooner is even better to allow for contingencies.

But Kirshenbaum cautions that if you order invitations farther in advance, you need to make sure the time/s and venue/s are definite. Otherwise, trying to plan ahead could backfire. If you order six months ahead and find out later that the shul can't accomodate your dinner till 7:00 p.m., and your invitations say 6:00 p.m., you'll need to reprint them. Many things cannot be prepared a year ahead. You may want to expand your guest list six months before the event, for example. But for a major event, Anisman recommends six months, even a year in advance, if possible, to avoid a rush.

More and more, the party business is becoming compartmentalized. Kirshenbaum says she gets a lot of her customers through event planners. Time was, only wealthy individuals used event planners; today, almost everyone does.



Invitations designed by Sendsations.

As for printing techniques, they're changing so fast, Kirshenbaum says it's hard to talk about them. She has to go to trade shows to keep up. Nonetheless, she maintains, nothing surpasses the beauty of calligraphy and real engraving.

These traditions are as popular as they ever were, Kirshenbaum says. Hand-crafted work says: "You, as my guest, matter; I'm giving you some time and effort." A beautiful invitation is an ideal scrapbook item, and can be kept as a souvenir.

Other invitation places advertising in this supplement are: Barbara Mortfield Invitations, 905-738-5063; Partyzazz-Heather Hennick, 905-881-5736; Paper Expressions, 905-764-7784; Papers'n Prints, 905-764-7455; The Printed Word, 416-484-4600.

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Consultant 'makes sure everyone works as a team'

By STACEY STEIN
Special to The CJN

Bridal consultant Tamara Temes likens hiring an event co-ordinator to getting an insurance package. A bridal consultant allows the couple to relax and enjoy their wedding night without having to worry about taking care of mishaps or glitches.

"You put a lot of effort into your wedding and you want to make sure it runs smoothly," said Temes (905-770-7977), who has been working as a bridal consultant for seven years. "The consultant makes sure everyone works together as a team. There's more on your shoulders if you do it on your own."

Making sure everything runs smoothly

Temes works on her own, co-ordinating about a dozen weddings during the summer months. Her Web site, www.tamaratemes.com, includes wedding tips and references from past clients.

Party and event co-ordinator Risa Gold (905-882-5044) says as our lives become more hectic, event co-ordinators are becoming increasingly important.

"Most people are in demanding careers," she said. "It's hard to take the time to organize a wedding. To put a wedding together is like being a project manager."

With 13 years of experience in event planning, Gold's company Risa Gold and Associates is branching out into full event co-ordinating.

While the business will still be heavily geared towards simchas such as weddings and bar/bat mitzvahs, Gold is establishing a special division for corporate functions and special events such as conventions, sales functions and Christmas parties.

Tamara Temes helps a bride on her wedding day.

She will have three associates working with her, which will enable her company to handle more events – up until now she has been planning around 40 events a year. With her new company, Gold also plans to organize meetings over tea for brides and their mothers. She hopes to bring in speakers to discuss various topics.

According to both Gold and Temes, clients should book a party consultant about a year to 1½ years in advance. Gold said couples planning a wedding should ideally call her company as soon as they get engaged.

Gold and Temes offer clients at least two or three in-person meetings. The first meeting with an event co-ordinator is a detail-oriented type of meeting, where the consultant gathers information about the client and the kind of event they want and provides the client with information, such as recommendations for suppliers.

For weddings, the consultant assists with the rehearsal and attends to details such as organizing the wedding procession. Gold said she also assists with speech writing.

On the day of the event, the consultant is there to ensure everything runs smoothly and takes care of any problems that may arise. In between the face-to-face meetings with the consultant, clients may call their consultants to discuss any concerns they have.

Risa Gold and Associates offers clients two packages – a full-service package and an on-site package.

The on-site package is for clients who require less involvement from the consultant – it includes one meeting prior to the wedding as well as the consultant's services for the rehearsal and the day of the event. The full-service package includes two to three meetings, more information and more involvement from the consultant, as well as more phone calls in between the face-to-face meetings.

Both Gold and Temes emphasize the importance of catering to each client's individual needs and preferences.

"I emphasize that every client is different," said Temes. "I make sure each person is happy. Not every person fits into the same mould."

Gold stresses the importance of providing clients with a personal touch. "I dig deep inside to find out what kind of wedding they want," she said. "It's their day and it's what they want. My job is to facilitate that."

Other consultants advertising in this supplement are: Events by Cindy, 416-787-3156; Heidi Gruenspan, 905-738-5030; Marla Kay, 905-882-2042; Cherry & Baker & Associates, 905-764-7121 or 905-731-8032.

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WHAT'S A MAN TO WEAR TO A SPECIAL AFFAIR?

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Lou Myles and Wendy Switzer Myles of Lou Myles Disegnatore (416-365-7777 or 905-738-3333; www.loumyles.ca) and Matthew Lee of Heritage Fine Clothing (416-789-5192) have timely answers to the question "What's a man to wear to a special affair?"

But while Lou Myles focuses on the tuxedo, Lee concentrates on the business suit.

Lou is a man of strong convictions. "Black tie," he maintains, "means a bow tie with a dinner suit, which is a tuxedo. It has to be a bow tie, and should be with a cummerbund. It's not whether I like it that counts: it's the only way. Some people do things differently, but their way isn't proper."

To emphasize his point, he says that within these limits, even a pink tuxedo is permissible. "It wouldn't look good, though," he warns.

Lou Myles with his wife Wendy.

To a bar or bat mitzvah or wedding, Lou insists, wear a black tie and tux. To a less formal occasion, wear a well-cut dark suit, white or powder blue shirt, and beautiful tie; or in summer, a suit jacket and tie.

Tuxedo fabric, says Wendy Switzer Myles, is often a blend of 85 per cent superfine worsted wool, and 15 per cent summer kid mohair. Shearing the kid in summer yields finer hair. A tux can also be pure worsted wool – or even pure silk, which is more fragile and delicate.

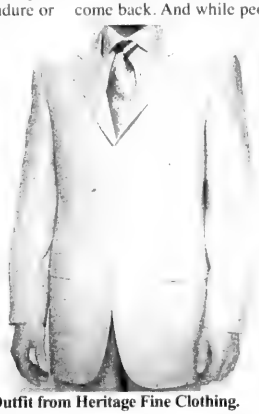
Silk, she continues, is used for the trim on the lapels, top collar, breast and coat pockets, buttons, and side seam of the trousers. The silk facings on the lapels can have a flat satin finish or a ribbed grosgrain finish.

Many fashions, Lou observes, are here today and gone tomorrow. And some people will wear something different, not to look good, but just to be different. Or they buy labels rather than quality, following trends like sheep.

On the other hand, he continues, some things endure or come back. He says an acquaintance of his recently wore a tux made in 1962 to a black-tie affair and got many compliments. Lou intends to bring this style back.

Lou sees it as his mission to lead the consumer and at the same time satisfy him.

Speaking generally, Lou holds that the essence of style is your silhouette. Look for what flatters your body – the rest, such as lapel size, is embellishment. You should feel good about what you wear, about how it fits you and about how it looks.



Outfit from Heritage Fine Clothing.

Lee also maintains that quality counts more than being trendy. And he agrees with Lou Myles that a good suit should make you feel both confident and comfortable.

Lee also prefers a conservative look. Colours, he says, are still the basic black, navy and charcoal. Wear a well-cut suit with white shirt and tie, he says, and you will always be in style.

Men's suits, Lee continues, are tending to striped fabric now, instead of plain. Three-button jackets are still in style, but the double-breasted two-button may be starting to come back. And while people talk from time to time about bringing back the three-piece suit with vest, it never actually happens.

The preferred suit fabric, Lee continues, is still super 100 or 120 worsted wool. He also draws attention to a new fabric, TechnoAir, developed in Italy. It breathes well, and doesn't crease easily. If you hang it overnight, it drapes easily, and any creases should disappear.

This is a great convenience for someone who travels for business and wants to look fresh upon arrival. Sitting for several hours in a car or plane will always put creases behind your knees, for instance. But in a TechnoAir suit, these creases can be easily smoothed out.

Lee estimate a fine suit will cost between $595 and $1,000. If you think of it as an investment in your own well-being and good appearance, it's well worthwhile, he says.

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You'll need more than that hand-held video-cam!

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

One sure way to make the precious memories of your affair live on is by capturing them on video.

But don't kid yourself into thinking that your home video camera will do the trick, says videographer Darren Sager of DMS Video Productions.

"Many people have video cameras, but everybody isn't a professional," says Sager, adding that the best videographers are up to speed on the latest film and editing technology and make their clients feel comfortable.

"You have to like the people you're hiring, [because] you deal with them for months."

At DMS – which is in its 17th year of business – clients are free to sit in the editing suite and make sure the finished product is to their liking.

"Clients can view it before they take it home," Sager says.

Gone are the days of microphones shoved in people's faces and bright strobe lights lighting up the screen, says Sager.

These days, tastes and trends abound. Sager says many clients prefer a classic, documentary-style film without hyped up special effects. "We stay away from lights, camera, action Hollywood," Sager says "We keep it simple." He notes high-end DVD productions are very popular.

At Rafael Studios, which has served 1,200 clients over the years, videos take on a dramatic dimension.

"Our videos have a narrative. They actually tell a story," says Rafael's Tom Koltai. For instance, he may take a bar mitzvah boy with his friends and film them in a park or high school in order to add a subplot to the film.

Koltai likes to use multiple screens, motion effects and cinematic editing techniques. And he urges clients to pay attention to sharpness, style and lighting.

"Lighting can overexpose people's faces and make them squint," he says.

Sager and Koltai encourage clients to meet face to face with prospective videographers.

"It's comforting for our clients," Sager says. "They put a face to a name."

Tom Koltai (right) of Rafael Studios pictured with his father Andy.

And make sure the person you were promised would do the shooting and editing is the person who is actually behind the lens on the day of the affair.

Clients should book six to eight months in advance, they say.

"This is something that lives on forever," Koltai says. "Make your decision on style and trust."

To reach Rafael Studios, contact 416-667-9999 or email tom@rafaelstudios.ca. To reach DMS, call 905-470-4040 or e-mail info@dmsvideo.com.

Other videographers advertising in this supplement are: Lisa Productions, 905-764-1033; Northern Memory Productions, 905-881-3734; Redstone Pictures, 416-256-4666; Twins Photo & Video, 905-707-2385; Video Affairs, 905-889-0909; Video Excellence, 905-731-4355; Video Productions by Josh, 905-709-9277.

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PARTY PLANNER

Let kids make their own fun

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

Parents like to say: "When we were kids, we had to make our own fun." Well, Keri Saltzman (905-731-2163) of Keri's Dancing Kids and Shelley Meretsky of Gourmet Temptations & Personally Yours (905-882-7531) put on parties that let kids do just that.

Saltzman started Keri's Dancing Kids three years ago. A communications student at York University, she enjoys both dancing and working with children, and Keri's Dancing Kids brings these passions together.

Saltzman puts on a two-hour party for boys or girls five to 11 years of age. In the first hour, she teaches them dance steps and short routines to pop songs. After learning these, the kids perform for each other in the second hour. To teach them, and for her own enjoyment, Saltzman keeps up to date on all the popular steps.

This makes for a high-energy party. Moreover, since Saltzman creates a different package for each party, she must be inventive in putting steps and routines together. She has done repeat business with the same kids, which gives her even more incentive to make sure each event is unique. She enjoys the challenge.

A party package also includes face painting and fingernail art. Other activities, like body art, crystal tattoos or small crafts like jewelry or bead making, depend on the client's interest. Saltzman also supplies CDs and a sound system.

Book three to four months ahead, Saltzman advises. Usually, she works in homes, although sometimes she works in other venues specified by the client, or in a studio. She puts on her parties mainly for birthdays and after-school events, but she can also be part of a larger party. This month, she is working at a McDonald's charity event.

Keri Saltzman (right) with Madison.

Meretsky of Gourmet Temptations and Personally Yours offers a venue for a crafts party for about 25 boys and girls aged five to 12 with two instructors. Each party lasts about an hour and 45 minutes.

The range of crafts and variety of materials is generous. It includes foam wall hangings and cork boards. Kids can also make candy art, decorate clocks and do different kinds of painting, including on canvas bags. They can also do clay pens and holders – for example, the holder could be a road, with a pen sitting in a clay car.

Everything is functional and can be used afterward. It's personalized, with the party kid's name or a friend's name on it. Everyone, not just the birthday kid, can take his or her craft piece home. And there's a special birthday song the instructors sing to the birthday kid.

The crafts are challenging, but not too challenging, since Meretsky wants each kid to go home feeling successful.

In her newest type of party, guests colour a paper doll that looks like a Groovy Girl. Other activities at a Groovy Girl party include decorating a makeup bag and putting makeup on themselves.

Another kids party place advertising in this supplement is: Annie's Art House, 416-781-7767.

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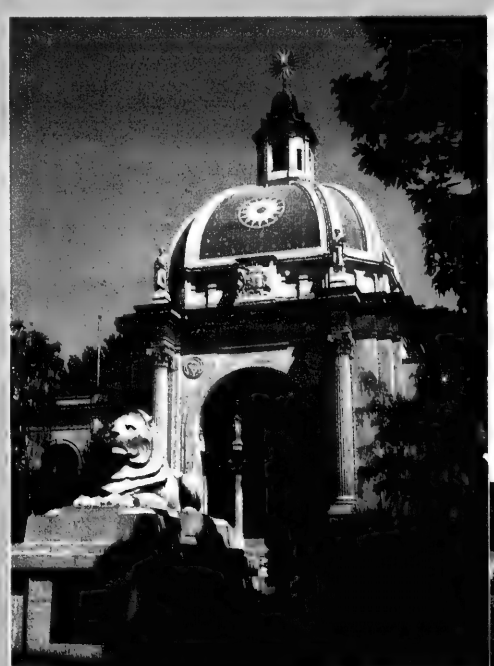
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Planners take pressure away and help relieve the stress

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Planning a function is a colossal project. Between finding the best venue, choosing the right band and making the affair a reality, the entire process can be quite stressful. If you're looking to cut the cost and the stress, consider the services provided by party and event planners.

"The event planner is the liaison between the family or company and the trades," says Hildy Dobrofsky. "We alleviate any potential problems or stress that can occur when planning a function."

Dobrofsky has planned her share of weddings, bar/bat mitzvahs, etc. over the years. That experience has taught her that clients often know what they want, but need someone to point them in the right direction. That's where the event planner comes in.

"I recommend the various bands, photographers, videographers" Dobrofsky says. "And most importantly, I'm there that night to make sure everything runs smoothly."

Because functions frequently run up sizeable bills, people may be somewhat leery of adding the additional cost of an event planner. But as Charlene Golfarb of CG & Friends explains, event planners can save you some dough.

"It will probably cost you more [without an event planner], because you aren't familiar with the resources that we know about," she says.

Goldfarb has worked in the event planning field for eight years. That experience, she says, has taught her which suppliers offer good quality services at reasonable rates.

She emphasizes that event planners can fulfill multiple roles: they can plan the entire event from start to finish; they can pitch in with some aspects; or they can be there just as a consultant on the day of a function. In all cases, what matters is that the event planner is on the same page as the client and they work as a team.

"Clients need someone who is creative, sticks within their budget and gives them what they want," she says. "You have to hire an event planner who suits you and your personality."

Dobrofsky adds that it is important for event planners to be calm and quick thinking. Because events, whether it be a product launch or wedding, are often put together by several people, Goldfarb says the event planner needs to cater to everyone's needs and wants.

For instance, she recently planned a bar mitzvah where the young man wanted a sports theme and the parents were interested in a biblical theme. "So we decided on doing biblical sports."

These days, themes for events are varied. Some popular ones include winter wonderlands, sports, safaris, casinos, movies and the list goes on.

What is key, Goldfarb and Dobrofsky both point out, is that each event is planned with originality. Ultimately, it can take months or more than a year to plan a stellar event.

So, "if you want to be able to relax and enjoy the function," Dobrofsky says, "an event planner is there to take that pressure away."

To reach Hildy Dobrofsky call 416-271-3241 or email hildyis@hotmail.com. To reach Charlene Goldfarb call 416-518-9585, or e-mail charlenegold farb@look.ca.

Other party planners advertising in this supplement are: Ricky Bessner Party Planning, 905-731-2005; Judy Stein Bridal Consultant, 905-764-2728; Up & Coming Events, 905-886-8148.

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Entertainer offers all styles of music

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

During her 20 years as an entertainer and entertainment provider at parties and weddings, Debi Sander Walker has made a lot of people happy.

And over that time, she's earned the unstinting praise of her many appreciative clients.

"With all your help, you and your band added so much to make the whole event a very magical one," one client said.

"We would not hesitate to recommend you to anyone," said another. "You are truly talented."

Debi Sander Walker

Walker, who has the distinction of being the only female big-band leader on the scene – she was the bandleader at the Prince Hotel for seven years – is the bandleader and the singer at the functions for which she's hired. She brings in musicians and other artists, such as comedians, mimes or dancers.

"As a company, we have worked with a wide variety of entertainers," Walker says. "I have enjoyed myself so much that it doesn't seem like work."

The musical selections she sings are posted on her Web site, www.debisanderwalker.com. She does lots of ballads – organized under the categories of swing, standard and contemporary ballads on the Web site – along with new country, rock, waltzes and some Jewish music. But clients aren't restricted to the songs on Walker's Web site and she welcomes special requests.

"It's a challenge, and it not only tells me what they want to hear, but I love making them happy," she says.

At functions, Walker, with input from her client, takes care of the order of the musical selections and the choice of songs for specific moments. "I'm the person that keeps the show running smoothly," she says.

Not only a bandleader and a singer, Walker (905-275-4744) also acts and writes songs.

She's been singing all her life; at university she studied classical music and performed opera. After university, Walker sang with a rock band. Becoming the bandleader at the Prince Hotel widened her scope of music and musical styles, she says.

"I love singing all styles of music. I'm lucky to have a voice that I can use in so many different ways."

Her self-penned song, *A Mother's Cry*, made it onto the charts, and on the acting front, she's created three characters, Carmellina, Ethel and Patsy, who perform at children's shows and provide comic breaks at motivational seminars.

"Motivational seminars can include rather long days," she says, "and a comic break in the middle can be quite refreshing."

A believer in community involvement, Walker has been a member of the Mississauga Board of Trade for the past seven years. In 2001, she won the Sam McCallion Community Involvement Award, earlier this year she received the Board of Trade's Chairman's Award and a few weeks ago she was presented with a Province of Ontario Volunteer Service Award.

Recently, she became a director of Carassauga, Mississauga's annual multicultural festival. "I feel good knowing that I have contributed all I could to help make something better," she says.

This year, Walker brought in Jeff Healey's jazz band and his rock band to entertain at a Board of Trade event.

"It was a fantastic night," she says. "People were standing most of the time."

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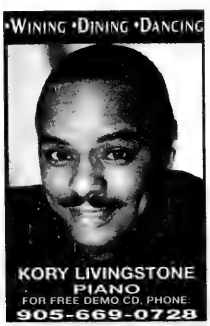

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Merger creates a stronger group of entertainers

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Mandell Entertainment Group and Entertainment Xtreme, leading entertainment event producers, have joined forces to form a new company, Mandell Xtreme.

Corey Mandell, CEO of the new Mandell Xtreme (416-923-7200) , says Jared Florence, owner of Entertainment Xtreme and a manager of Mandell Entertainment Group from 1996 to 1998, has become president of the new company.

The firms merged, says Mandell, so that "two top companies can work on the same side of the fence and become an even stronger company of entertainment producers."

Also new this fall, he says, has been the launch of the York Event Theatre at Yonge Street and Eglinton Avenue, just down the street from its sister event venue, the Capitol Theatre.

Both venues have kosher kitchens and offer a choice of caterers, as well as staff to advise clients on all aspects of event planning, Mandell says.

A third venue, located on the ground floor of Mandell Xtreme's new offices at Bloor Street and Avenue Road, is set to open within the next four months.

Another exciting development, he says, is Mandell Xtreme's purchase of the Prop Factory at Queen and Dufferin streets, which specializes in television, theatre and movie sets.

"What we do is recycle the props into the event industry. Recently, we used the stand-up props from YTV's *Uh Oh!* in order to create an arcade at a bar mitzvah.

Corey Mandell

"By having us buy the props, our clients are given the opportunity of getting expensive props at reasonable rates."

He says that with 200 staff members at Mandell Xtreme, they make it possible for clients to plan parties of any size and within a budget that starts as low as about $500.

A new trend, he says, is the return of a live element to party entertainment.

"By having musicians playing during the dinner hour, and premium MCs and disc jockeys entertaining during the party reception, we are pleasing guests of all ages and we are adding prestige to the event."

Florence says that as a result of their having joined together, the new company can promote clients' ultimate party planning experience with an all-star staff of dancers and performers.

"We also offer an array of interactive party concepts, such as hot press, which has guests choosing from a variety of items, such as hats, sweatpants, shirts, or T-shirts and having sayings ironed on to them. Guests find it so cool to take them home as give-aways.

"Also cool, are laminated crazy cards that say such things as 'backstage pass' or 'back-seat driver,' and include the guest's picture."

Above all, says Florence, Mandell Xtreme focuses on complete customer satisfaction. "We've redefined the art of live, interactive entertainment."

Other interactive entertainers advertising in this supplement are: Events Toronto, 416-698-5084; Freedom of Sound, 905-760-0040; Hart Entertainment, 416-762-2200; Magen Boys Entertainment Ltd., 416-569-TWIN; Mister Disc Jockey, 1-877-473-3800; Sing Your Heart Out! 416-322-7464; Superfly Entertainment, 416-652-2232; Times Square Entertainment, 905-881-6400; Starr Productions, 905-707-8211.

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Choosing a kosher caterer

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

With many hotels offering kosher food, the choice of caterers is increasing all the time.

Deanna Schaffer of Malmar Fine Foods & Catering (416-638-0091) and Miriam Myerowitz of Miriam's Table Catering (416-633-6554) have some suggestions on how to choose the one that's to your taste.

Look for a caterer you have rapport with, advise Schaffer and Myerowitz – someone who will provide what you want and make it the highest quality. Real ease of mind comes from knowing you're in trustworthy hands.

"Your guests," says Schaffer, "should not know who the caterer is, or even if your event is catered at all. All they should know is that the food is good, and well served."

And you as the host should know this will happen so that with less worry, you can be a participant at your own party.

Book as soon as you can, Schaffer urges. This gives the caterer more time to get the best staff and rentals, and in general do a better job. You're also more likely to get the caterer you want, because a reputable professional won't overbook.

"If I have to say no," Schaffer says, "people respect me for it."

At the same time, in Schaffer's experience, a host who prefers a particular caterer will sometimes move a party. This isn't possible with a predetermined date like a bar mitzvah, but people do move events like anniversary celebrations.

If your event isn't in a shul, call the caterer as soon as you book the venue, Myerowitz advises. For a bar or bat mitzvah, book two to three years ahead; for a wedding, about a year. Your major meeting with the caterer to go over details should be about four months before the event.

Your caterer should guide you and take care of you, says Schaffer, asking you about special diet or allergy requirements. And if you're hosting your event at home, she should advise you on how to prepare. All you should need to know when you go to see her, is what food you want.

And a good caterer pays attention to the small, considerate touches like finding out if you need a coat rack for a winter event. Such things add up, Schaffer says.

Myerowitz agrees that real service means going the extra mile, at times even doing things like flowers and invitations.

Many hosts are unaware of the range of services available. Myerowitz keeps lists of people she's worked with, from videographers to martini bars, and will give you names and numbers if you want. In order not to be beholden to one party professional, however, she won't recommend one over another.

"My obligation," she states, "is to you, the host, and no one else."

Find someone flexible enough to meet your needs, Myerowitz advises. And while you should know what you want, it often helps if you yourself are flexible and ready to accept the suggestions of a professional.

Myerowitz places a high value on reputation, but this doesn't mean ignoring newcomers. Oldtimers sometimes get set in their ways; and newcomers often work harder to earn a good name.

Miriam Myerowitz

Hotels, Myerowitz observes, have livened up the competition, even though they're more expensive than halls. If they bring in a mashgiach, they can use their own chef. They can also offer highly valued extras, such as a bridal suite, at cost.

Traditional Jewish dishes, Myerowitz says, have declined in popularity. "People want to eat and serve kosher Thai, kosher Japanese, kosher Chinese."

On the other hand, she adds, when it comes to things like the Simchat Torah lunch she donates to the shul each year, people do want traditional Jewish food. It has a kind of sentimental value, especially when people aren't under pressure to show they're up to date.

Myerowitz puts caterers on three levels. Some, she says, do only traditional food, and have the corresponding clientele. Others are mainly traditional, but will do something different if you push them. The top level are innovators, who don't do traditional food anymore.

Schaffer has been a caterer for 35 years; about half her business is in homes, the other half in halls and synagogues. In her view, 90 per cent of caterers' business comes from their reputation, only 10 per cent from what's in fashion.

People only have one bar mitzvah or 50th anniversary; they're not thinking about what's "in." They want a party they will remember happily for years.

Other kosher caterers advertising in this supplement are: Caterers York/Sweet York Desserts, 416-783-4293; Ely's Fine Foods, 416-782-3231; The Kosher Gourmet, 416-737-2732; Taam Tov Fine Foods c/o Toronto Zionist Council, 416-785-7079; Zuchter Berk Creative Caterers, 416-386-1086.

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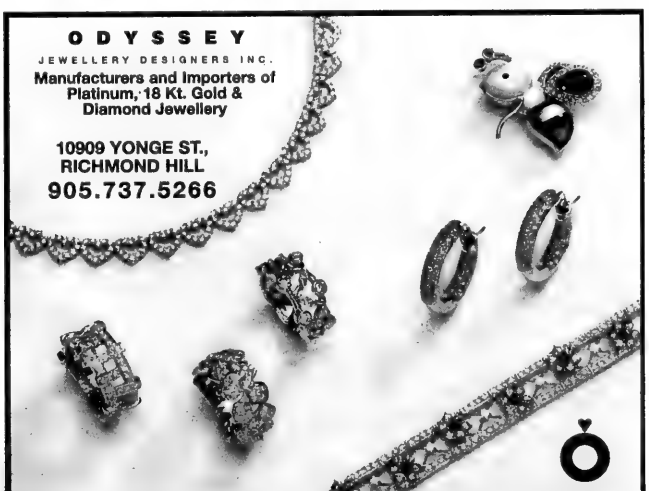

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Check out the band before you book

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

There is an aura, an energy that tends to permeate a party and it mainly flows from the band. The sound they generate, the type of music they sing and the connection they make with the guests are crucial to a party's success. So if you want to select the right band, go see them in action.

"I wouldn't hire just from a tape or CD," says Shelley Miller, the leader of the band that bears his name. "People have to go out to a shul or hotel and... check them out live."

Miller notes clients will frequently like a singer's voice and that will cement their choice. But he advises people to not just listen to the band, but to also take a close look at their chemistry with one another.

"You can book great players, but there is a magic that goes beyond that," Miller says. "The band has to have a relationship and that comes out as energy. You see they're having a good time." If the band is pumped, then ultimately that vibe becomes infectious for guests, Miller says.

The Sky's Band: Performers, not just musicians.

Morris Kast of The Sky's Band says bands have evolved into performers, not merely musicians.

"When we perform at a job, we don't just sing. Everyone in the band dances all night long," Kast says. "We want people dancing and moving right away."

Continued on page B45

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Check out the band before you book

Continued from page B44

Because people's tastes in music are diverse, Kast and Miller advise clients to discuss the type of music they want played at their affair.

Both are open to requests.

"The party has to have a balance because we're catering to all ages," Miller says. To meet the variety, it may help to hire a band that has several singers.

In The Sky's Band, there are four singers as part of the 11-piece crew. "Each of our lead singers specializes in a different field," Kast says.

"For example, we have one for the disco era, one for Frank Sinatra-type music and one for hip-hop."

Miller alters the size of the band and the number of singers depending on the affair. The different configurations range from five to 10 people. And while he says the size of the band should relate to the nature of the affair, in general, "the more, the merrier. Everybody adds energy to the sound."

DJs have become increasingly popular over the years and Kast and Miller note they have created a comfortable niche, especially for kids.

The distinction Miller makes between a band and DJ is the tone they set for the party. "When you want an elegant party, you want live entertainment," he says.

Because of the high number of bands on the party circuit, it is advisable to book more than a year in advance.

And to find potential bands, there is no better means than word of mouth.

"The best advice is to ask the people around you – your community, your friends," says Miller.

To reach Shelley Miller, call 416-481-1034 or e-mail him at Shelleymiller@rogers.com. To reach Morris Kast, call 416-565-1620.

Shelley Miller

Other bands advertising in this supplement are: The 42nd Street Band, 416-441-1555; Ambiance Flute & Guitar Duo, 416-693-8778; Bais Groove, 416-486-8417; Fern Lindzon Musical Entertainment, 416-225-6977; Flying Bulgar Productions, 416-603-7237; Fabulous Harvey Seigel Band, 416-782-9202; Joanna Jordan/Clazz Musical Productions, 416-967-4277; Joe Star Band, 905-881-1378; Klapman's Klezmer Band, 416-588-0854; Laurie Kugler Quartet, 416-534-6708; Kory Livingstone Band, 905-669-0728; Matt Pines Band, 416-234-5500; Paul Zurin, 905-770-3084; Nu Rhythm Sound, 905-882-5252; Larry Rodness, 416-650-5858; Mark Selby, 416-784-1554; Rick Levine Band, 905-881-6400; Lori Viola, 905-773-4398; Rhythm Kings, 905-882-5252.

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Mr. DJ provides fun for the whole family

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

People who throw a bash usually hope that every guest will revel in the fun. Ed McMurtry of Mr. Disc Jockey says guest participation isn't just a goal at functions, it's a must.

"The number 1 complaint from people who are unhappy with their parties is that the kids are being entertained and the adults are driven out of the room or vice versa," McMurtry says. "We have a unique style that combines adults and kids in the same room."

Mr. DJ's parties are in fact full-scale shows with diverse themes. At one party where hockey was the theme, Mr. DJ's entertainment crew stationed themselves in a penalty box, with Plexiglass and hockey boards.

At another affair, "guests arrived to have Charlie Chaplin escort them on a freight elevator, down to a larger sound stage to a starry reception," McMurtry says. "We had pieces of broken glass glued to threads, like rain drops in the air."

While some mingled with dress-up movie stars, others were treated to music at a set turned into Studio 54.

Mr. DJ's events can involve up to 35 production people, including a DJ, MC and the company's band, The Loud Neighbours.

The company, in its 12th year, also likes to do tribute videos for families.

McMurtry urges clients to not simply pop in for a few moments to inspect someone else's event, but rather come to the studio to see a film of an actual affair.

"We like to find out what the families are all about," he says.

He says it's important for clients to sit down with the entertainment company and bounce ideas off one another to come up with a unique party plan.

Along with the entertainment, there should also be plenty of props for guests to take home.

"We try to give out party favours that go along with the music," says McMurtry. "So for Latin music, we might give out classy moroccas."At other events, guests will leave with necklaces or "funky sunglasses."

McMurtry says some families are more formal than others and the party will be planned in accordance with their tastes.

As an example of something less traditional, McMurtry said that instead of speeches, one family put on their very own live theatre number.

"What we want is a surprise factor," he says. "We want people to see what they would never expect."

To reach Mr DJ contact 1-877-473-3800 or log onto www.mrdj.com.

Mr DJ's crew dressed for a hockey-themed party.

Other interactive entertainers advertising in this supplement are: Events Toronto, 416-698-5084; Freedom of Sound, 905-760-0040; Hart Entertainment, 416-762-2200; Magen Boys Entertainment Ltd., 416-569-TWIN; Mandell Entertainment Group, 416-923-7200; Sing Your Heart Out! 416-322-7464; Superfly Entertainment, 416-652-2232; Times Square Entertainment, 905-881-6400; Starr Productions, 905-707-8211.

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Two longtime retailers advise on dressy attire for children

By BARBARA SILVERSTEIN
Special to The CJN

When your son or daughter gets to Grade 7, the bar/bat mitzvah circuit begins. Your child's social calendar may rival that of the busiest socialite, and you'll need to find some fine quality dressy children's attire that will hold up for the year.

You can get some expert advice on what to buy from two long-standing retailers who have been dressing children for decades. Beatties, at 430 Eglinton Ave. W. near Avenue Road (416-481-4459), predominantly sells boys' apparel, while Maison Vali, at 112 Cumberland St. in Yorkville (416-923-3117) and 270 The Kingsway (416-239-5583), specializes in girl's clothing.

Elvira Vali is founder of the two Maison Vali stores, which offer medium- to high-end childrenswear. The store is known for fashion for girls. Vali's daughter Barbara now manages the retail business, while Vali focuses her attention on designing. Maison Vali carries garments for newborns to size 16 and can dress girls as old as 12 and 13.

Vali is a fashion designer who was manufacturing children apparel for some 40 years. She recently sold the manufacturing plant, Petite Originals, but she has stayed on as a designer. Vali designs a line of clothing under her own label, Elvira Vali, which is available in the United States and Canada.

"I am basically a fashion designer for little and bigger girls," she says.

Maison Vali carries her label, as well as imports from Europe and the United States.

"Maison Vali is the place people come to for a bat mitzvah or wedding," Vali says. "We do a fair number of bat mitzvahs. People come when they're seeking out something special."

How dressy the garment one chooses is depends on the taste of the parents and the child, says Vali. "It could be a suit or a dress with embellishment.

"The jacket dress is very popular. The bat mitzvah girl can cover up her shoulders and arms for the service and then she can bear her arms for the party."

As for sophistication, Vali says girls 10 and up prefer the junior looks and have a preference for gowns. "They like to look older than age 10.

"Girls try to get more fashionable at a younger and younger age. Some of them choose slinky clothes and slim, body-revealing garments, which I don't approve of for children. Today's 13-year-old girl – you wouldn't know she's 13. She looks 20 at least. They make themselves look older."

In the fall and winter, Vali says velvets are popular, both cotton and stretch velvet. "I use stretch velvet on top and an organza skirt. The dress can be pulled on over the head."

She notes that Kupro fabric, which feels like viscose, is used in many European-made garments. "It's washable, comfortable and soft, and it drapes nicely."

Cotton knits embellished with faux fur are another trend, according to Vali.

"It's suitable for semi-dressy affairs. You can go to a fine gathering without being formally dressed. We have hats to match. This style is always a popular item with us."

The soft feather-style boa is also a popular accessory, she adds.

Vali says cranberry, pumpkin, burnt orange and burgundy are the big colours for fall and winter this year.

Girls are also wearing a lot of black, she notes. "I adore black on kids. With the proper adornments, girls can look just smashing in black. I think back to Coco Chanel. She always had the little black dress. It's one of those safe classics. It applies to adults and juniors, as long as it's properly designed."

Vali does not see a lot of silk dresses for formal wear, because silk is not practical, she explains. "Today's parent wants to pass on garments and have the children wear them for more than one occasion."

As for the length of the garment, Vali says there are no hard rules. "A nice mid-calf dress, is very comfortable, instead of long to the ankle. It's very chic with the proper shoes and hose. For graduation, most of the girls wear long dresses."

Maison Vali carries what Vali describes as a "stunning," classic, double-breasted pea coat in wool imported from Italy. "People come from very far away to get the coat. Very few stores buy such expensive coats. It comes with a matching hat.

"We carry velvet hooded coats. We also have a stunning black cape. People usually buy it for formal wear. Not too many stores carry that cape."

While there are many options for female attire, the choices for boys are more limited, and thankfully, parents can easily find everything their sons need at a boyswear store with a large selection.

Beatties can outfit boys of all ages and sizes (husky as well) from head to toe in casual and dress clothes. There is also a men's division.

Dave Hadden, president of Beatties, grew up at the midtown store that was co-founded by his father, Bruce Hadden, in 1950. Beatties, which occupies a 4,000-square-foot retail space, offers fashionable, higher quality clothing, Hadden says.

"We carry brand names like Ralph Lauren, Tommy Bahama, Nautica, Timberland North 44... We really focus on offering special values on brand names for our customers."

Hadden offers several suggestions for dressing boys, including tips on buying suits, to consider when your own son has his turn on the bimah.

"For the bar mitzvah boy you're basically looking for a three-button suit in black or navy," advises Hadden. "Between sports jackets and suits, I never have less than 1,200 pieces. So people can always find what they're looking for in their size."

There's also a huge selection in dress shirts and ties. "We stock, at any given time, 500 to 800 dress shirts in different colours and sizes to meet our customers' needs."

As for accessories, Beatties is the only store in Toronto with Perry Ellis ties. Hadden says, noting that tone on tone ties (the shirt and tie are the same colour) are very popular.

Along with their extensive clothing collection, Beatties is known for service, Hadden says. "We pride ourselves on our service. We have our own in-house tailor. Dina Zak has been with us for over 20 years.

"Dina will re-cut the suit to fit the boys perfectly. She's a perfectionist... from the old school. Every garment has to be perfect. She knows every garment, and she knows what has to be done."

Hadden suggests that people buy the bar mitzvah suit six months ahead of time. "I reserve it for them. They come back for the fitting about two weeks before the bar mitzvah. We don't alter it until then. We'll change the suit if the child has a growth spurt."

Every bar mitzvah suit comes with a $25 gift certificate, he adds.

An elegant but more relaxed look is the blazer, which is often worn by the bar mitzvah guest rather than the bar mitzvah boy, says Hadden. "Navy or black are the most common. Boy's fashions follow the trends in menswear. Boy's blazers these days are single- breasted, three-button because that's what the men are wearing."

He notes that vests have fallen out of fashion, as have cuff pants, but an Italian knit long-sleeve polo-style shirt is an important casual dressy look for boys. The blazer can be paired with a mock turtle neck or a knit polo shirt, which can be worn instead of a dress shirt, Hadden says.

Beatties carries a line of dress shirts for boys that require very little or almost no ironing, he says. "Just throw them in the washing machine and dryer."

According to Hadden, the bar mitzvah boy should go with a white shirt because it's dressier than any other colour, but the guests can choose from a variety of colours.

"Shirts made from microfibre are very popular because they're comfortable for the kids and they look dressy. They come in a full range of colours and they wash and wear well."

The bar mitzvah is one of the most important days in your child's life, says Hadden. But "whatever the occasion, we make sure your child will look his best."

Another kids fashion place advertising in this supplement is: Crawford Boys, 416-782-8127.

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PARTY PLANNER

Tolerance is the key to compatibility between in-laws

By ELAINE COHEN
Business and Supplements Co-ordinator

Authors Eden Unger Bowditch and Aviva Samet start off *The Daughter-in-law's Survival Guide* on a positive note. The pair dedicate the book to their devoted husbands with the following phrase – "without whom we would not be daughters-in-law."

Bowditch is a journalist and Samet is a family therapist. They may have chosen different career paths, but the authors have known each other since childhood. They interviewed more than 50 daughters-in-law and carried out further research in writing this short, easy-to-read softcover pocket guide.

The bibliography will come in handy for readers interested in following up on the subject. Moreover, the authors don't bring themselves into the story. They draw a fresh perspective and use firsthand quotes from the daughters-in-law they interview. The latter hail from diverse backgrounds, but it's easy to relate to what each has to say.

In some instances, interviewees were concerned about the jealousy that existed between the bride's mother-in-law and her mother. These young women tried to perform a balancing act to ward off hard feelings.

These kinds of scenarios illustrate how, unwittingly, problems can arise. And it's not just about the wife, husband and mother-in-law – other dynamics are part of this complicated set-up.

When you marry, your mate comes with "baggage."

Whether your mate's family lives close by or far away, the in-law's influence, or lack of it, creeps into the relationship.

The parent-child bond stretches beyond the umbilical cord, so soaking up the information in this guide can help breed tolerance and prevent stressful situations.

As the authors attest, good intentions can be marred by a lack of understanding, which can end up causing a rift. The plot thickens when grandchildren enter the picture, as the interviewees reported based on various situations they had encountered.

In the introductory chapter, the authors describe the practices of different ethnic groups. They provide the reader with an enlightening window on cultural conventions.

Bowditch and Samet dislike the negative connotation associated with the term "mother-in-law." Instead, they prefer the French term *belle mere*. With regard to family, they laud the Yiddish word *machetunim*, derived from the Hebrew word *mechutan* meaning "relative by marriage".

Distributed by Raincoast Books in Canada, *The Daughter-in-law's Survival Guide* is a must-read for brides or "significant others."

The authors summarize each chapter with thought-provoking questions for daughters-in-law. Here are some examples from an early chapter titled "Where do we stand? An overview."

How would you describe your relationship with our mother-in-law? Good, bad or ugly? Are there any particular events or issues that illustrate why you feel this way? Can you describe those events or issues?

The last chapter, "Advice from daughters-in-law to daughters-in-law," simulates an Internet chat room, but it works equally well in print.

If you love each other enough..marriage is still not easy!

By COURTNEY NATHAN

Anyone who has been married knows the real truth that marriage is hard work and, while it might get easier over time, marriage always takes effort.

This is the number one thing I tell newly engaged couples in the marriage preparation class sponsored by Jewish Family Service, "I Do!"

Sure, engagement is exciting and happy and planning a wedding can be fun, even thrilling at times. But the real nitty-gritty that happens once you've said your "I dos" is what people rarely talk or think about beforehand.

The word "newlywed" conjures up images of smiling, happy couples in love, holding hands, dancing and kissing.

But a couple that is newly wed is not very different from anything else that's new. A new car, for example, may look shiny on the outside and smells clean and fresh. Yet, the seat isn't quite comfortable until you've sat in it for awhile, and all of those fancy gadgets can be confusing until you learn exactly what every one does and how to use it.

Same thing with a new pair of shoes. They look perfect and they go with everything in your closet, but for the first few weeks, they hurt your feet. It isn't until you wear them and they stretch a little, mold to the shape of your foot and get broken in that you realize how much you adore them and you can't believe you ever lived without them.

Marriage isn't any different.

Rabbi Harold Schulweis has this to say about marriage in the book, *Fighting for Your Jewish Marriage*: "Love in marriage is a gift, a potentiality to be cultivated. Marital love is a subtle art that calls for sustained and sensitive appreciation....The art of loving relies on a conscious sensibility, an awareness of the other who is not a mere extension of the self. The other is not an ear into which the 'I' can shout its wants and angers."

Marriage is about two people actively working together. It is complicated and it doesn't always feel good.

There is a great deal of pressure on newly engaged and recently married couples to be happy, even blissful. Yet, planning a wedding

Continued on page B50

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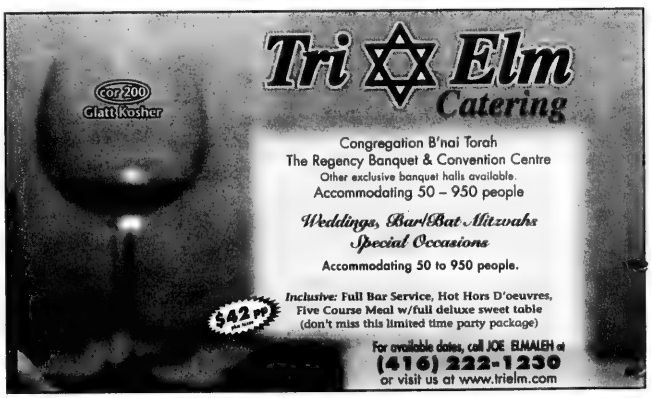
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If you love each other enough..marriage is still not easy!

ntinued from page B49

can be extremely stressful. Strong emotions surface, and family dynamics play out in often ugly and complicated ways. Religious feelings often become more pronounced, potentially creating difficulty for both interfaith and endogamous couples.

And that's just the beginning. Everyday married life raises all kinds of challenges as well. Suddenly you are both truly accountable to another person and must share in decision making wholeheartedly.

As Einhorn and Zimmerman write in their book, *In the Beginning: How to Survive Your Engagement and Build a Great Marriage*, "The responsibilities of giving each other emotional support, spending time together, co-ordinating finances, and taking care of personal health all require each partner to curtail many of his or her formerly solitary activities."

What does this mean for newly engaged and recently married couples? It means you should be aware that this is a critical time that is full of promise but is also emotionally loaded. Tread carefully through this time.

Talk with your partner about your feelings, fears, expectations and needs. And don't feel crazy or bad if you're not always feeling happy. Nobody feels happy all the time, and pretending like you do or pressuring yourself to feel that way only compounds normal problems and tensions.

In their provocative book, *In the Beginning*, Einhorn and Zimmerman suggest that at some point during engagement or early marriage every person asks him- or herself, "What did I get myself into?" Einhorn and Zimmerman assure the reader that this is a normal projection of marital anxiety that should be explored to determine its true source. They offer couples several questions to help evaluate the strength and health of their marriage.

- Do we have similar values?
- Do we respect each other?
- Does each of us admire qualities in our partner?
- Are we attracted to each other?
- Do we feel affection for each other?
- Do my trusted friends and relatives like the person I've chosen?

These are good questions to ask yourself and your partner to help you identify the strengths and potential pitfalls in your relationship. But remember, feelings change regularly and a marital foundation is built over time and maintained through diligent effort.

Reknowned psychologist Judith Wallerstein, Ph.D., studied divorce for 25 years before she decided to focus on what factors helped happy marriages stay happy. Her research resulted in the book, *The Good Marriage* (with Sandra Blakeslee, 1995), where she profiles four types of happy marriages:

Romantic, Rescue, Companionate and Traditional.

She says, "Of all human relationships, marriage is the most complex, the one you can tell the least about from the outside."

In *The Good Marriage*, Wallerstein suggests nine tasks that form the basis of a good, lasting relationship in her book:

- Separate emotionally from their childhood family and redefine that relationship
- Create intimacy while each person also retains autonomy
- Take on the role of parents while still protecting the marriage's intimacy
- Confront the crises of life and stay close no matter how difficult
- Feel safe expressing anger, conflict and differences of opinion
- Create a rich sexual relationship and maintain it despite hectic lifestyles
- Use humor to keep things in perspective and have fun
- Comfort, support and encourage each other
- Sustain early romantic images of falling in love with the other

With all the media mythology about romance, soul mates, wedded bliss and the many other fallacies of marriage, how could we not get caught up in search for marital perfection?

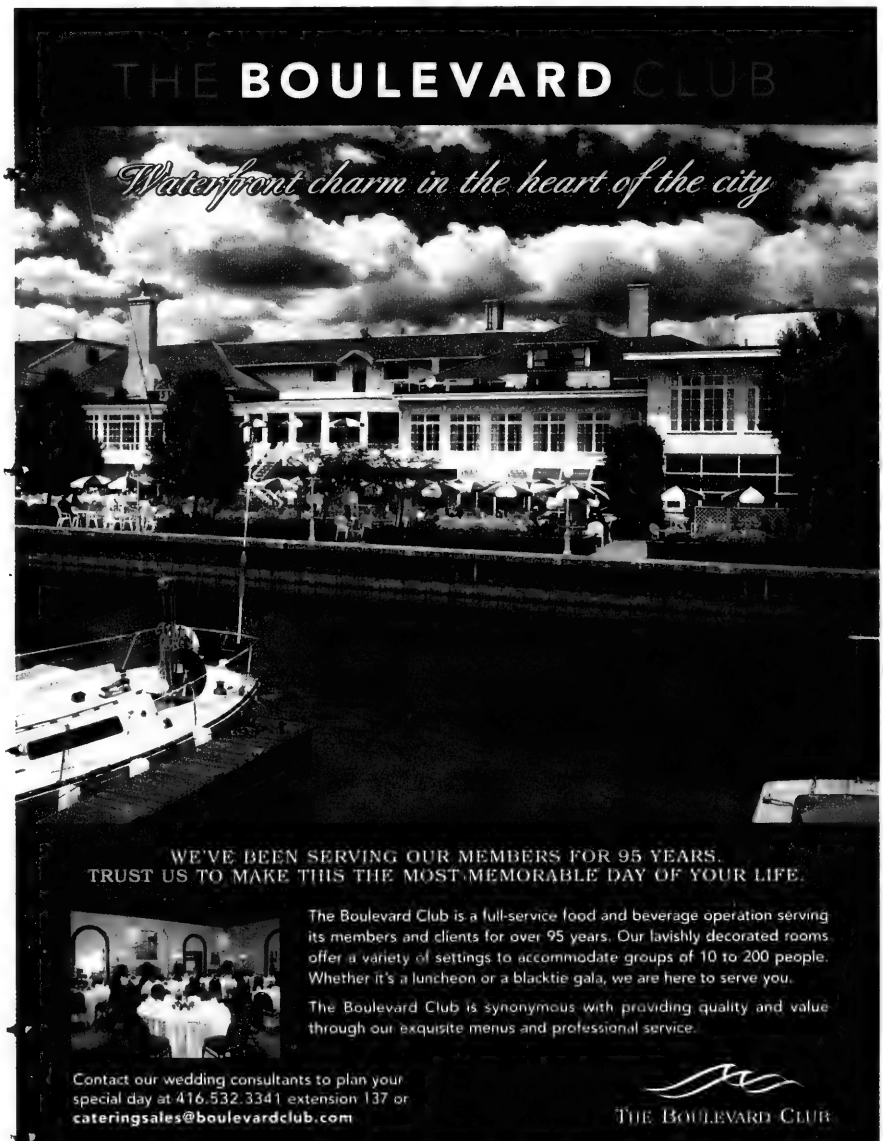
But just as the frightening movie *Fatal Attraction* isn't the norm, neither is soap opera passion (at least in the long term).

Marriage is about finding someone you like, trust, respect and value enough to want to spend the rest of your life with, create a home and a family with and sacrifice for. That's a lot to ask for and should not be taken lightly.

And despite all the work and the stress and the pressure, the payoff is tremendous. Knowing that you have found someone to love and trust and that you have made a commitment to stay together through thick and thin, to share life's challenges and triumphs together and that you are both willing to work to maintain a relationship for the rest of your lives...that's pretty special.

That's what dreams are made of.

Courtney Nathan is an outreach Co-ordinator at Jewish Family Service in the United States.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Leave the planning of bar, bat mitzvahs in Israel to the professionals

By ERIC LAYMAN
Special to The CJN

A bar or bat mitzvah in Israel links a milestone in an individual Jewish life to the 5,000-year heritage of the Jewish people.

Stanley Morais, EL AL Israel Airlines' sales and marketing manager for Canada (416-967-4222), says this experience can be enhanced even further by flying with Israel's national airline.

EL AL, with only 37 planes, does not have a large fleet. But its reputation for security is unsurpassed and sets the standard for other countries. It also has a strong reputation for its service.

EL AL has gone to great lengths to facilitate bar and bat mitzvah travel to Israel. The company flies Toronto-Tel Aviv non-stop in Boeing's newest aircraft, the 777. There are individual screens with five or six channels in each seat. But all this is an adjunct to the essential Israel experience.

For 11 hours, Morais points out, you will be in the air en route. With EL AL, it's almost as if you're in Israel before you arrive. The experience on board is a preliminary to the celebration. Virtually all your fellow passengers are going to a common destination and share a heritage with you. The first language you hear when you step on board is Hebrew.

When a bar or bat mitzvah is celebrated in Israel, it demonstrates a commitment to the future of the Jewish state. It also gives a Canadian boy or girl some insight into how teens come of age differently in Israel.

At 13, an Israeli teenager knows that he or she will be serving in the army in five years. This prospect, plus Israel's ever-present need for security, means that these young boys and girls don't take life for granted.

Visitors also see the vibrance of Israeli culture. Despite the constant threat of terror, Israelis go to their jobs, laugh and quarrel, drink coffee in cafés. Life triumphs over adversity.

Samara Kleinman of the Israel Government Tourist Office (416-964-3784; email info@igto.ca; Web site www.goisrael.com) says more and more Canadians considering a bar or bat mitzvah in Israel leave the planning to the professionals. Many tour operators, organizations, synagogues and specialty travel sponsors arrange group tours for families.

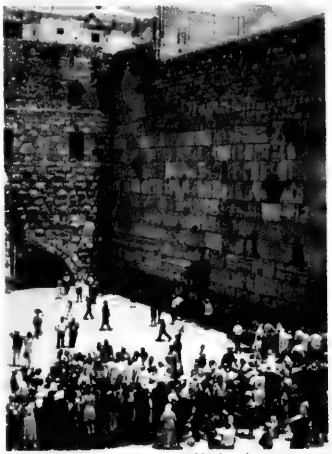
While parents gain relief from the work and pressure of planning, the bnei or bnot mitzvah befriend each other. This special bond reduces nervousness, and transforms what is an ordeal for some children, into a magical vacation and spiritual experience for the entire family.

Tours are arranged during school vacations and include special discounts, or even a free tour, for the bar or bat mitzvah.

Many organizations and travel sponsors make individual family arrangements similar to those for groups, or let you customize your itinerary. The planning is still left to professionals, but offers the privacy some families prefer.

Some parents who are familiar with Israel, or who have family and friends there, prefer to handle everything themselves.

Here are some bits of information: The Israel Government Tourist Office provides a certificate, free of charge, for those celebrating their bar or bat mitzvah at the Western Wall. The celebrant's name is in calligraphy, and the certificate is signed by the minister of tourism.



If you're taking a group or individual tour with an experienced operator or sponsor, they make arrangements for obtaining the certificate. Requests for certificates for families planning the arrangements themselves must be made at least 21 days before the ceremony.

Ceremony locations are: the Western Wall and tunnels, in the Orthodox tradition; the Southern Wall, according to you and your rabbi's traditions; the Tower of David Museum of the History of Jerusalem, and the Hurva Synagogue, for private ceremonies; Neot Kedumim nature preserve; Masada, according to the Orthodox, Conservative, Reform or Reconstructionist traditions; and any synagogue of your choice. **[IGTO pictures]**

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A wedding in Prague

By FRANCES GOODMAN PELLATT
Special to The CJN

A little over a year following their introduction, a Toronto couple was planning their wedding in a world far removed from their everyday life.

Fifty years after his maternal grandparents fled the onset of Communism in Czechoslovakia, Jonathan Center returned there to marry his bride Tania Lewis. The wedding took place July 29 at the Altneu Shul in Prague, now part of the Czech Republic.

"Part of the reason [they chose this venue] was that they did not want a conventional wedding," said Jonathan's mom Vera Center, who recently retired as vice-principal at Herzliah.

Tania, originally from South Africa, is a social worker and Jonathan, from Montreal, is a dentist. They have no attachment to any synagogue but are both drawn to Jewish traditions. They researched and organized their wedding without sharing their plans with anyone. The idea took root when the itinerary for a summer family trip to the region was finalized last spring.

"Five years ago, Jonathan's zaide, Joseph Lazarovic, did a family vacation of his own with his daughters and their husbands," said Tania from her home in Toronto's Kensington Market, the neighbourhood where most of the city's Jews lived in the early half of the 20th century.

"They spent time in Prague," she continued, "and visited the oldest synagogue in Europe, the Altneu Shul [the Old-New Synagogue], where Zaide Joe had an aliyah on Shabbat."

Tania Lewis and Jonathan Center outside the Altneu Synagogue in Prague.

Jonathan, who had also previously been to Prague on the 1988 inaugural March of the Living, was impressed by the Old Jewish Ghetto and particularly the cemetery and the Altneu Shul. But it was Tania's idea to get married in the magical 700-year old synagogue.

Continued on page B53

Prague's Altneu Synagogue, built in 1269-70.

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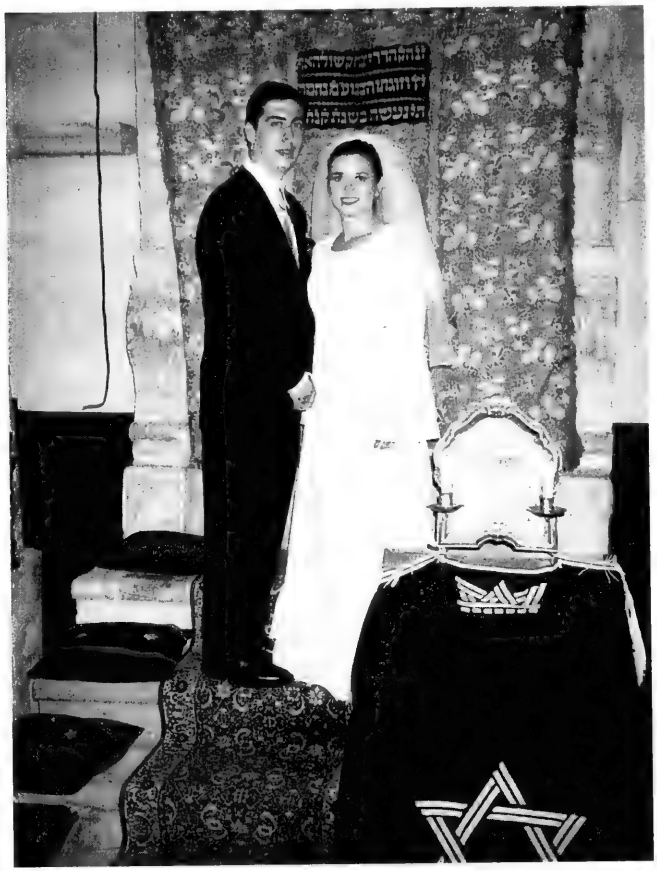

Jonathan Center and Tania Lewis exchange marriage vows

A Prague wedding

Continued from page B52

"Our idea came more from knowing exactly what we didn't want for our wedding rather than what we did want," said the couple, who said they wanted to do something unique and memorable. They told their parents and siblings about their plans a mere four weeks before the date.

"We were stunned. It was totally out of our realm of thought, but we were delighted," said Vera, who was born in Czechoslovakia and emigrated with her parents.

"The only part that was difficult was keeping it a secret for a month," said Vera, whose husband Steve is a retired high school teacher.

Tania said the most problematic part of the arrangements was connecting with the synagogue's rabbi to find out if it was possible for them to be married there. After numerous e-mails and meetings with Toronto rabbis, the couple was given the phone number for the chief rabbi of the Czech Republic and the Altneu Synagogue – Rabbi Sidon, who only speaks Czech and Hebrew.

They had several phone conversations with the rabbi, who assured them it was possible for their marriage to take place in his synagogue as long as they provided proof from the Canadian government that they had not been married and that their mothers were Jewish.

The Altneu Synagogue, like all synagogues in Prague, falls under the umbrella of the Jewish Museum of Prague and the Orthodox Rabbinate. Three rabbis officiated at the ceremony, which was performed in Hebrew (the sermon and jokes were in English). Jonathan's zaide's tallit was used as the chupah.

The small wedding party consisted only of immediate family, but it grew to about 30 people when a group of lost Israeli tourists overheard the singing in the synagogue and joined the simchah. There were also witnesses from Prague's Jewish community.

The couple knew there would be some family members and friends who would be shocked and perhaps disappointed about not being invited to or told about the wedding.

"[But u]ltimately we knew that everyone would be enthusiastic and happy for us and respect the fact that it was our wedding – we did it in a way that was meaningful to us," the newlyweds said.

A reception for friends and family members will be held in Toronto next month.

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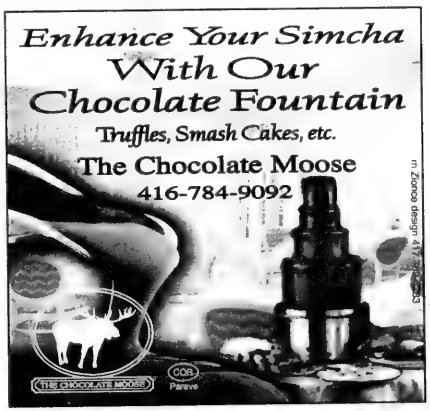

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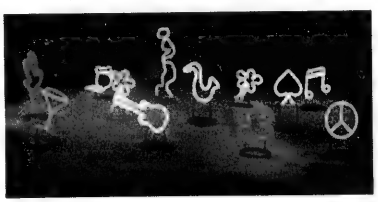

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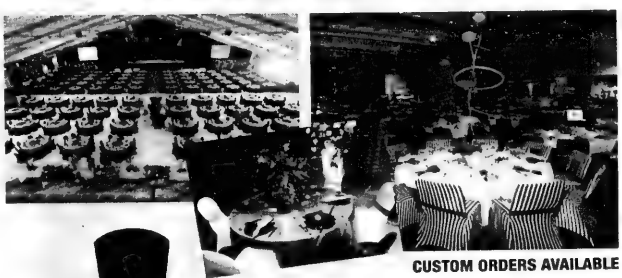

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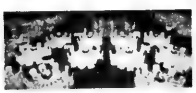

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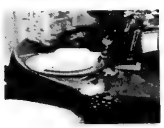

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PARTY PLANNER

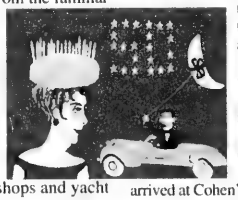
Non-traditional parties

By EFRAT SHALOM
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Actress Odeya Koren organized a surprise 50th birthday for her spouse near Mitzpeh Massu'ah in the Judean plain. When he was brought there on some pretext, he found some 50 friends and relatives preparing for a bike ride under a full moon. After the ride, an hour and a half later, they were taken into a cave where candles had been lit and rugs placed around low tables. As music played in the background, the guests enjoyed a catered meal.

"It was definitely not a banal birthday celebration," says Koren. "Some of the guests hadn't ridden a bicycle in 30 years or so. I wanted to make these 50-year-olds, who are settled in their ways, go back in time."

The Korens aren't the only ones to stray from the familiar tradition of birthday celebrations. Recently, many people have been replacing traditional 50th birthday parties with some very carefully planned and unconventional events. Instead of an intimate dinner in a restaurant surrounded by a small circle of relatives, they are having catered meals in caves and forest clearings. The modest surprise party at home is being replaced by treks all over the country, special performances by well-known artists, laughter workshops and yacht cruises with some guests.



For sums of $5,000-40,000, Tova Wald, a field trip and special events organizer, cooks up grand birthday parties. For example, one 17th-century style event was held in a Crusader castle surrounded by an olive orchard. To the sound of trumpets, the guest of honour was surprised to find 20 of his friends dressed in period costumes bowing to him, while others greeted him from horseback.

Another party was held in a house adjacent to a pecan orchard that was rented for the occasion in which the 50-year-old was astonished to find his friends, family and the singers Mati Caspi and Shlomo Gronich. After the singers and a gourmet meal, came an artistic program: Several of the guests presented the guest of honour's favourite Gashash Hahiver comedy troupe skit and his wife did a drag skit that a choreographer helped her prepare.

Dr. Vered Vinitzky-Serousi, a Hebrew University sociologist, thinks the need for grandiose statements on the part of one spouse is an indication of the nature of the couple's relationship.

"I'm totally unconvinced that this is a positive manifestation of the relationship between the couple. Maybe it actually stems from a desire to get out of a problematic routine," she says.

Wald also figures that unconventional 50th birthday parties are a kind of stimulant, reflecting a desire to generate renewed interest. "The kids have grown up, the relationship is known and familiar and this is the time to create new excitement," she says.

Tami Ramot, 49, of Yavneh, dragged her husband to an afternoon movie one Friday. During the intermission, when he went out to stretch his legs, he was astonished to find many of his friends coming out of all four movie theaters. Ramot did not settle for just renting the four movie theatres when the movies were over, the 50 guests enjoyed a catered meal in the foyer.

"Everyone will remember this birthday party because it was different," she says. "I assume that if I'd arranged a conventional party, I wouldn't have been excited about it. Here my adrenalin was really flowing."

Sociologist Amir Ben-Porat of Ben-Gurion University argues that the new trend is prevalent in the social strata that can be described as the new middle class – well to do, educated and consumers of cosmopolitan culture.

"At the age of 50, they are financially established and that's why they can afford to invest in their leisure-time activities. They are consumers of knowledge, spirituality, culture and trips all over the world," he explains. "It's questionable Israeliness, because this generation is more educated than their parents' generation, most of whom arrived here as immigrants."

Vinitzky-Serousi argues that these parties are a declaration of economic and social power. According to her, "the grandiose parties are certainly a function of available capital and leisure time."

Danny Gotwin, a Haifa University historian, thinks that the showiness of birthday celebrations is representative of consumer culture that is very typical of the middle class.

"The ability to experience something exciting and personal is negated by the need to produce a grandiose event that will be talked about the next day. In the past, couples would enjoy an intimate dinner at a restaurant and didn't need other people. Today, such experiences are not satisfying," says Gotwin.

Many events use elements drawn from the celebrant's childhood – such as goody bags filled with candies and childhood friends from different periods of his life, invited to fulfill a nostalgic longing. According to Vinitzky-Serousi, this nostalgia is usually a reaction to a crisis stemming from a transition period, which typically occurred around age 40.

"It is possible that this built-in mid-life crisis at 40 has skipped a decade," she says. "Due to an increase in lifespan and quality of life, the mental and cultural perception of 50-year-olds has changed. They are well established, healthy and look good and that's why they're keeping their heads high. However, while the spirit wants to show its vitality, the effects of age start to show up on the body."

Pnina Cohen decided to mark her 50th birthday with a party celebrating femininity, inspired by Anita Diament's book, *The Red Tent*. All 25 guests received a carefully designed invitation by email, including a request to bring a gift and some kind of dish suitable for a dinner.

On the day of the event, at 11 a.m. the guests arrived at Cohen's home on Moshav Bnei Atarot. A red tent was set up in the loft on the upper floor, sunlight shone through it and a red light shone in the inside of the tent where mattresses, rugs, pillows and candles were distributed around.

Inside the tent, the guests attended a seminar on "The Five Tibetans" – a Tibetan exercise method for restoring one's youth – and a belly dancer taught them how to swing their hips. At 8 p.m., after a dinner downstairs, the party ended.

Cohen says she was very moved by the way she marked her 50th birthday. "I managed to introduce the many friends I've made over the years: friends of mine from age five through university came. All of them shared recollections about me and it was a kind of retrospective on my life".

The cultural perception of age 50 leads to a desire for a new opportunity for self-actualization. Cohen, for example, now works in building up brand names; she dropped out of her academic studies around 25 years ago, and recently went back to university to complete her undergraduate degree in culture and sociology.

"There's a feeling that now, while we are still healthy and strong, is an opportunity to utilize one's full potential," she says. "I don't have women friends who say 'now that I'm a grandmother, I'll puree fruit in the blender for my grandchildren.' On the contrary. Many of my friends are packing a sleeping bag and heading off on treks to Alaska. My sister-in-law, just before she turned 50, packed a backpack, said goodbye to her husband and children and left for a stay of several months in northern India."

Cohen also says that her contemporaries – who belong to the founding generation of the state – lived for many years in a reality that did not encourage individualism.

"We grew up in an ascetic reality of total enlistment in the cause of the nation: the *Tzena* (post-statehood period of rationing), memorial days and monuments. Our parents, with their shattered dreams, had high expectations for us. We shouldered a huge load and we sped along in life's rat race. Now the desire to connect to ourselves is surfacing, the desire to do what we want and not what's expected of us."

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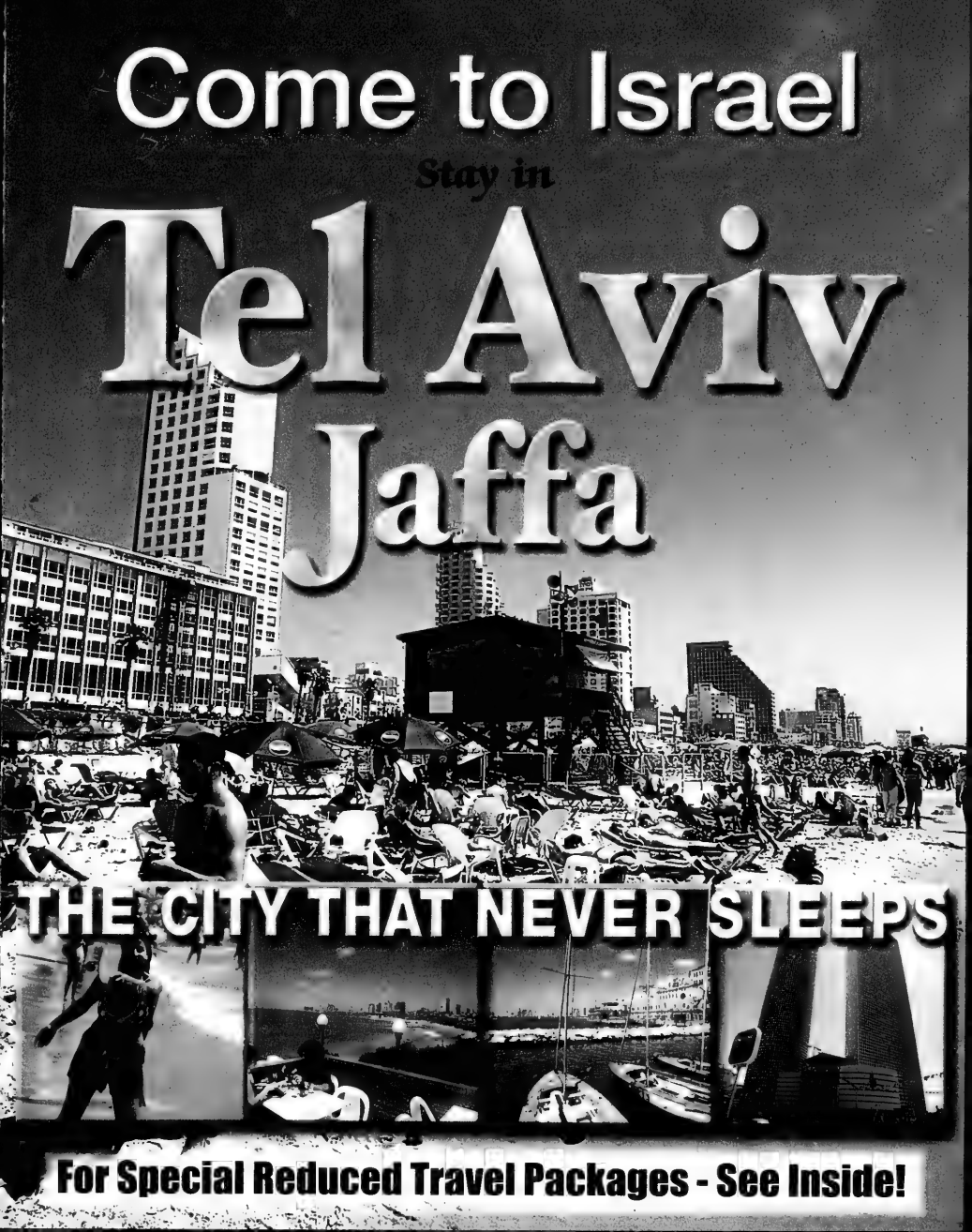
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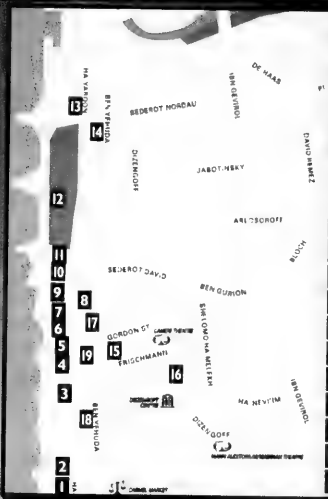

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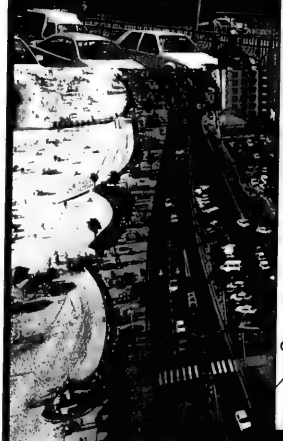

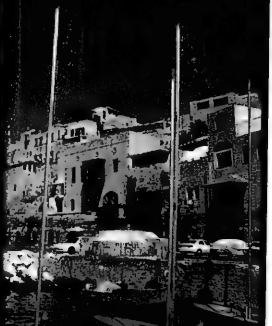

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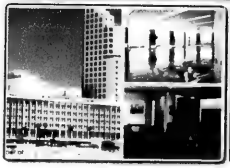

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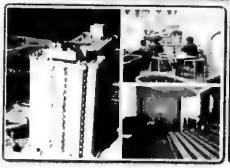

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1545
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Extra Night
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Intercontinental

Double
1759
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420
Extra Night
91

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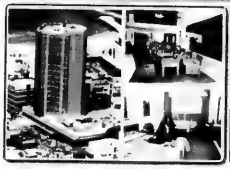

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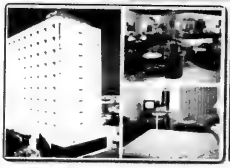

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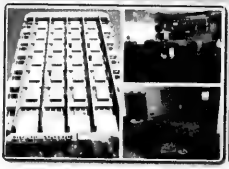

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46

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1499
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240
Extra Night
51

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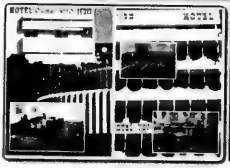
46

Center/Top



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This Week

National

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Chanukah Gifts

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Magen David Adom, CCRA cut a deal

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

The national president of Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel (CMDA) says the organization has made a deal with the federal tax department that will allow it to keep its charitable status, despite a Federal Court of Appeal ruling that " would have it revoked."

Joseph Bitton said CMDA has entered into an agreement with the charities directorate of the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) that "will enable our cause to continue uninterrupted.

"We are delighted that we will continue to be able to solicit the support of the Canadian community for our fundraising activities. Tax deductible receipts will be issued as usual," he said in a press release.

In an interview, Bitton said CMDA had not as of last week received the agreement in writing, but he expected it imminently and felt confident enough to make the announcement.

Bitton said he believed National Revenue Minister Elinor Caplan intervened, although CMDA had not directly asked her to. "There were lots of letters [of protest] from around the world, and an online petition that obtained over 4,300 signatures. Articles appeared in local, national and international newspapers," Bitton said.

"This case has caused an uproar and I think [Caplan] recognized that the problem had to be settled."

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Israel mourns

Thousands of people attended the funeral on Sunday of Col. Dror Weinberg, above, who, along with 11 other soldiers and civilians, was killed in Hebron last Sabbath eve. ***Please see story on page 51.***
[Isranet and Israel Sun photos]

Israelis invest billions in Canada

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

In 1998, the Israeli government implemented a measure aimed at improving conditions for its domestic economy, one which has had an unexpected impact on the Canadian real estate market as well.

In that year, restrictions on currency flows were relaxed, freeing pent-up capital and prompting Israeli investors to pour billions of dollars into properties abroad, including almost $4 billion in Canada.

In the last year and a half alone, more than $2 billion in Israeli investment has flowed into Canadian real estate, primarily in Montreal and Toronto, and those numbers can be expected to increase, say Gil Blutrich and Galia Feiler.

Blutrich and Feiler are well-acquainted with the Canadian real estate market and its attraction to Israeli investors. Blutrich is president of Skyline International Development Inc., a Canadian-based corporation

Continued on page 39

Shuls on 'hit list' respond

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Jewish officials say it is not surprising that four synagogues were included on a list of high profile terrorist targets in Canada that U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was reportedly going to turn over to Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham last week.

The synagogues were part of a list of 22 prominent Canadian targets that Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network might target, according to a report in the *National Post*. The list includes such prominent landmarks as the CN Tower, the Peace Bridge and houses of Parliament.

However Powell said he only heard of the list through published reports. "I have no such list," he told reporters in Ottawa.

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Abba Eban dies at age 87 — please see page 52

The News in Brief

CANADA

Seifert Hearing

VANCOUVER — The British Columbia Supreme Court began hearings last week into whether a former Nazi prison guard is fit to face an extradition hearing. The wife of Michael Seifert testified that his mental condition deteriorated after he suffered a fall earlier this year. Seifert, 78, is a former SS officer convicted in absentia in Italy for raping, torturing and killing prisoners at a Nazi concentration camp in World War II. A Canadian of Ukrainian origin, Seifert faces possible extradition to Italy to serve a life sentence. Ottawa has already begun the process of stripping him of his citizenship.

New Safe House

VANCOUVER — Jewish Women International of Canada and the Jewish Family Service Agency are in the process of setting up an Alternative Short Term Emergency Housing (ASTEH) shelter for women and their children who are fleeing abusive partners. The facility, which will open in the next few weeks, was made possible by the donation of an apartment and a grant from the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver. There are similar homes in Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg.

ISRAEL

Tourism Up Slightly

JERUSALEM — There has been an increase in the number of tourists visiting Israel in recent months, the Central Bureau of Statistics says. According to figures published last week, there has been a 2.5 per cent increase since May, with some 65,000 tourists entering monthly, Israel Radio reported.

Sprinzak Dies

JERUSALEM — Israeli political scientist Ehud Sprinzak, a counter-terrorism expert and adviser to prime ministers, died Nov. 8 of cancer at 62. Sprinzak was recognized around the world as an authority on terrorism, extremist politics and the radical right in Israel. He was founding dean of the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy at the Interdisciplinary Center in Herzliyah, after teaching for many years at Hebrew University.

Pollard Campaign

JERUSALEM — The Jerusalem-based Committee to Bring Jonathan Pollard Home says it is stepping up the campaign to have Israel press the United States to release the jailed 48-year-old former U.S. Navy intelligence analyst. On Nov. 21, Pollard begins his 18th year of a life sentence for passing classified U.S. military information to the Jewish state. Committee chairman Yehoshua Steinberg said Pollard has been used as a bargaining chip in ongoing peace talks, but that "at the close of each negotiation, the U.S. backed down from its promises" to release him.

WORLD

Nimoy Nudes

NEW YORK — Actor Leonard Nimoy, now on a 16-city book tour, was forced out of the Detroit Jewish Book Fair earlier this month after objections by some local Jewish leaders to his book *Shekhina*, a photo collection that includes pictures of naked women wrapped in Jewish ritual objects. Nimoy, who played Spock on TV's *Star Trek*, appeared instead at Temple Shir Shalom, a congregation in the area. Meanwhile, Rabbi Steven Dworken, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Council of America, e-mailed 1,000 RCA members accusing Nimoy of "debasing" the Shchinah – the feminine aspect of the divine spirit – and urged them to protest the book.

JDL Leader Dies

LOS ANGELES — Jewish Defence League leader Irv Rubin, who had been hospitalized for more than a week after trying to commit suicide in jail, has died. Rubin, 57, had been in a medically induced coma since Nov. 4. He and fellow JDL member Earl Krugel had been in jail awaiting trial since December for allegedly planning to bomb a mosque and the office of a congressman. Authorities said an investigation confirmed his death to be the result of a suicide attempt after Rubin's wife had called for a probe, believing he would not have tried to take his own life.

Harvard Disinvites Controversial Poet

BOSTON — Harvard's English department last week retracted an invitation to Irish poet Tom Paulin, who once said West Bank settlers should be "shot dead."

After student complaints, department chair Lawrence Buell said in a statement the reading had been cancelled "by mutual consent of the poet and the English department." Buell also said he "sincerely regretted the widespread consternation that has arisen as a result" of the invitation.

The invitation to deliver the prestigious Morris Gray poetry reading "had been originally decided on last winter solely on the basis of Mr. Paulin's lifetime accomplishments as a poet," the statement said.

Paulin, an Oxford University lecturer whose award-winning work has explored violence in Northern Ireland, told an Egyptian newspaper earlier this year that "Brooklyn-born" Jewish settlers should be "shot dead."

"I think they are Nazis, racists. I feel nothing but hatred for them," he also was quoted as saying. "I can understand how suicide bombers feel."

In his poem *Killed in the Crossfire*, he writes of "another little Palestinian boy in trainers jeans and a white teeshirt" killed by the "Zionist SS."

Paulin did not respond to media requests for comment last week. But in an April letter to the *Daily Telegraph*, he said he is not anti-Semitic and his views had been distorted.

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Israel, U.S. blamed for world's problems

Visiting York U professor talks on Remembrance Day

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

The United States is to blame for all of the world's problems and American policy is being driven by an Israeli agenda, says a York University visiting professor.

Aijaz Ahmad, who has published articles titled *The Nazification of Israel* and *Israel's Killing Fields*, told a group of 50 students and faculty members that former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak and current Prime Minister Ariel Sharon conspired to bring about the second intifadah in order to convince America to intervene in the Middle East.

Ahmad was speaking on Remembrance Day in York's sociology common room on the topic Politics in the Middle East.

According to the office of the Dean of Arts, Ahmad has been a visiting professor at York since July 1, 1997.

In his presentation last week, Ahmad said, "Never before have I seen a situation where the client [Israel] consistently dictates policy of the patron [United States]."

In terms of Israel and the United States, Ahmad said there is a "power structure which links the two."

He explained that U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and a group of advisers, including Richard Perle, are directing President George W. Bush.

This is the same group who advised incoming Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu in 1996 and exemplifies "the enormous weight Israel commands in the United States," said Ahmad, who is also a professorial fellow at the Nehru Memorial Museum and Library in New Delhi.

York Prof. Eric Lawee said "the talk was full of problematic illusions and misrepresentations."

There was an anti-democratic theme that ran throughout the talk, Lawee said, noting that Ahmad criticized the political parties in the United States and Israel without ever acknowledging that they were freely elected.

"There was absolutely no analysis of issues that might have affected voters – such as terrorism or suicide bombers.

"American and Israeli policies were blamed for absolutely everything," said Lawee, who was present for most of the talk.

Lawee also said that Ahmad's article comparing Israel to Nazi Germany was not only inflammatory, but wholly scandalous on academic grounds.

"I would say this man is obsessive in his search for [ostensible] American and Israeli crimes," Lawee added.

In a letter to the department of political science, Canadian Jewish Congress executive director Bernie Farber expressed "great concern about Mr. Aijaz Ahmad."

Farber noted that in Ahmad's writings, "Israel's actions are frequently compared to the actions of the Nazis or those of Cambodia's Pol Pot" and that in Farber's view, such language "crosses the anti-Semitic line."

York's dean of arts, Robert Drummond, said that if Ahmad's articles cross any legal line, there are means at law to deal with that.

"Otherwise it is my practice not to expect that I will agree with everything my colleagues write but to defend their freedom to write it," Drummond said.

It would be up to a court to decide whether Ahmad is guilty of any crime, he said.

However, Prof. Martin Lockshin, director of York's Centre for Jewish Studies, said that Ahmad is definitely "guilty of shoddy and offensive scholarship.

"I don't know how a person like this can get an appointment at York University and I intend to look into it and take steps that it won't happen again," Lockshin said.

Ahmad's talk was sponsored by the Middle Eastern Students Association, York University, the Coalition for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel, Jewish Women's Committee to End the Occupation and the Canadian

Continued on page 24

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A visit to Germany (2)

From the editor's desk

It is a profound existential paradox that in Germany today, a land of more than 80 million people, the Jewish presence is almost invisible and yet almost ubiquitous at the same time.

The approximately 100,000 Jews who live in Germany comprise slightly more than one eighth of one per cent of the total population in the country. Except in certain areas of some 90 communities in Germany, the likelihood of seeing, let alone meeting, a Jew is quite slim.

And yet, the "historical events in Germany before 1945," as Stephen Kramer, the youthful managing director of the *Zentralrat der Juden in Deutschland* (the Central Council of Jews in Germany), delicately and euphemistically referred to them, fill the myriad reformulating interstices of German life today to such a degree, that a visiting Jewish tourist bumps into them even without searching.

Thus, while walking on the streets of Berlin, the tourist frequently notices, embedded into the concrete sidewalk or the cobbled stones abutting a building, small rectangular brass plaques pinpointing the spot where Jews had once lived but were betrayed by fellow Germans and deported to their deaths during the period of National Socialism.

Thus, a woman in her mid-20s, in the midst of converting to Judaism, tells the tourist that she now avoids the subject of Israel's conflict with the Palestinians during conversations with her non-Jewish friends for fear of hearing comments that are too painful or too infuriating.

Thus, a non-Jewish woman in her mid-30s, tells the tourist as she guides him through the museum of the former Judengasse in Frankfurt, that she is "deeply pained by her country's past oppression of the Jews and appalled by its lingering prejudices."

Thus, two non-Jewish journalists, also in their mid-30s, in separate conversations in different places with the tourist, in response to questions about the conflict in the Middle East, both make a point of telling the inquisitive visitor that "their generation is tired of being reminded of any moral obligation" Germany may have to Israel and to the Jews.

Thus, a non-Jewish woman in her mid-50s guiding the Jewish cemetery at Worms, says it is important that the German generations never forget what their countrymen did during World War II.

Thus, the youthful managing director of the Central Council of Jews in Germany tells the tourist it is probably wiser that a Jewish man not wear his kippah in public.

The examples of the Jewish "paradox" in 21st-century Germany are too numerous to record in this space. But the "scarce and ubiquitous" Jews who are determined to establish a decidedly Jewish way of life in Germany have set about the task with purpose and resolve.

Hanna Liss of Frankfurt is a compelling example. Born in Hanover in 1964, she teaches Jewish biblical exegesis and Jewish hermeneutics at the *Hochshule für Jüdische Studien* (HJS) in the University of Heidelberg.

The HJS was founded 22 years ago in an attempt to respond to the increasing need for rabbis and teachers in the Jewish community. Since 1989, due to the influx of Russian Jews into Germany, that need has grown more urgent. This year, 159 students are enrolled at the HJS; 40 are Jewish. Prof. Liss openly concedes that rabbinics and Bible classes attract very few students.

The first post-war Jewish studies institute in Germany, Liss said, was founded in Berlin in 1960. Today, there are also institutes of Jewish learning in Düsseldorf, Halle, Eckwarden, Freiberg, Munich, Köln and Potsdam.

"It is difficult," Liss said, "to get German Jews interested in pursuing careers in Jewish studies." As a result, she "gets great satisfaction from raising students through Jewish studies." Some of the Jewish graduates, she proudly said, "will soon be teaching in the Jewish communities."

Also helping to buttress the identity, sense of community and of security for the Jews in Germany is the office of the American Jewish Committee (AJC) in Berlin, which is run by American-born Deidre Berger.

As managing director of Berlin's AJC office, Berger said her mandate is to defend Jewish interests in Germany by, Liss stated, "promoting democracy, pluralism and by standing up against anti-Semitism."

The office was founded in the mid-1990s as a response to "the changing Jewish-European circumstance in the wake of the crumbling of the Iron Curtain," Berger said. It is situated in a recently constructed building in what was formerly no man's land, the vacuum of sovereign space between East and West Berlin.

"Europe has a special responsibility towards guaranteeing the existence of Israel," said Berger. "It's a responsibility, we feel, we can emphasize better by being here, on site, in Berlin."

"From a Jewish perspective," Berger pointed out, "we are facing a challenge. There is no longer a sense of urgency and immediacy to the relationship between Germany and Israel. The younger generation of Germans no longer feels that personal attachment to history. Therefore, it is important to keep a German-Jewish dialogue alive that makes younger generations continue to have a feeling for the importance of Israel's existence and for the importance of Germany guaranteeing that existence.

"But," Berger added in her understated, eloquent manner, "it is not easy to do."

MBD

SeeJN

CHANUKAH TIME:

Junior kindergarten children at the United Synagogue Day School's Bathurst campus learn about Chanukah and the significance of the chanukiyah and the proper placement of the candles. The children are part of USDS' Early Years Centre of Excellence.

[Lucy Ruiz photo]

Israel not just a Jewish cause, says Irwin Cotler

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE
Special to The CJN

International human rights lawyer and Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler says he supports Israel "not because it's a Jewish cause, but because it's a just cause."

The McGill law professor was speaking at Toronto's Beth Tikvah Synagogue on the 64th anniversary of Kristallnacht, Nov. 9, during Holocaust Education Week.

Holocaust Education Week

Giving a talk called Echoes of Kristallnacht in Our Time, Cotler evoked unsettling parallels between that period and today.

Referring to the UN World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, shortly before Sept. 11, Cotler compared participants' de-legitimization of Israel to Nazi strategies.

He said he had eagerly anticipated addressing human rights issues in a country celebrating its release from apartheid, but left the conference in South Africa appalled, after Israel was indicted as an "apartheid state" in a statement comparing Palestinian resistance to "Nazi-type occupation," and using the term "holocaust" to describe Israeli rule.

Irwin Cotler

Quoting a colleague, Cotler said, "If Sept. 11 was the Kristallnacht of terror, Durban was the *Mein Kampf*."

The term Kristallnacht, meaning "night of broken glass," is a euphemism that "sanitizes" the atrocities that occured on that day, including the death of almost 100 Jews, he said.

Sanitization of language is one of many danger signs, Cotler said, as well as "crimes of silence."

Cotler, who was the legal representative of former political prisoners Nelson Mandela and Natan Sharansky, said that today, as during the Nazi period, "We are witnessing an appalling indifference in our day to the unthinkable – ethnic cleansing – and to the unspeakable – genocide – and, worst of all, to the preventable genocide in Rwanda.

"No one can say that we did not know, and so it becomes our responsibility to break down walls of indifference, to shatter conspiracies of silence."

"Indifference," he said, quoting Elie Wiesel, "always means coming down on the side of the victimizers, not the victims."

For many, these dangers only became clear after Sept. 11. But, Cotler said, "Sept. 11 overshadowed Durban, but Durban foreshadowed Sept. 11."

Cotler said he believes the road to Durban was paved by Jewish silence. Jews, "yearning for peace," were so deeply committed to the Oslo accords that they didn't debate these criticisms of Israel when they first began, resulting in the "one-sided indictment" at Durban.

Now, we must fight these views, even outside the Jewish community, he said: "In the next six months... make 10 non-Jews better aware of the Jewish case." If we're uncertain whether we could make a case for Israel, we should "go back and learn."

We must first combat prevailing myths, Cotler said, adding that to claims justifying Palestinian "resistance," we can counter that they were offered a state in 1947. Today's refugee problems are a consequence of the Arab refusal to coexist and the ensuing "war of extermination," he said.

We can also educate those around us about the Arab "teaching of contempt," through the education system, mosques and government, creating a cult of martyrdom and legalized hatred eerily reminiscent of Nazi Germany, he said.

Finally, he said, we should proclaim publicly that "Israel is the prototypical aboriginal people... speaking the same language... reading the same text... sharing a sense of peoplehood across space and time" as ancient inhabitants of the land.

Cotler discussed the global increase in anti-Israel sentiment, pointing to the recent allegations against Israel accusing it of war crimes and of violating the Geneva Convention.

"Forty per cent of United Nations Human Rights Commission resolutions in the past year were against Israel," and overlooked "real violators, like China, Syria and Iran," he said.

Cotler said the "new" anti-Semitism denies Israel's equality before the law. Modern anti-Semitism has shifted, "from Jews as individuals to Jews as a nation."

Quoting Martin Luther King, he spoke of "the denial to the Jewish people of a fundamental right... freely accord[ed] all other nations of the globe."

When an unidentified man began shouting accusations of hypocrisy barely five minutes into Cotler's speech, saying Cotler had "lambasted" Israel in the House of Commons for human rights violations, Cotler calmly said his intention had been merely to reiterate that "Israel... has a responsibility for any violations under international law."

"Israel is not above the law," Cotler later added. But "if individual Israelis engage in excessive practices, Israel itself holds the perpetrators accountable." This "remorse and self-restraint" contrast with the Palestinian glorification of homicide, leading to attacks which, per capita, he said, are "the equivalent of more than two dozen 9/11s."

Continued on page 15

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Bookstore designs own buttons to fight anti-Semitism

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Although the Toronto Women's Bookstore will not carry Stop the Homicide buttons recently offered to it by National Council of Jewish Women, Toronto section, and Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region (CJC-Ont), it has designed its own Stop Anti-Semitism buttons, which should be on display at the Harbord Street store within two weeks.

'Only with symmetry can there be justice'

In addition, says the store's co-manager Anjula Gogia, the store has ordered lapel pins designed with both the Israeli and the Palestinian flag and the words Justice-Peace-Life.

The pin is available for sale on a Web site, www.supportsanity.org, which states that the symbol "reflects the only solution that makes sense – two equally secure, viable and sovereign states for two equally worthy peoples. For only with symmetry can there be justice, and only with justice can there be peace. And only with peace can there be the life that the mainstream on both sides longs for."

Gogia said the pin clearly reflects the store's policy, and "we support it happily."

As a bookstore, she said, "We do not support violence or bombings."

Over the past few months, the bookstore has received complaints from some Jewish customers and CJC for selling buttons with slogans such as "Free Palestine – Time for Peace Time for Women;" "End the Occupation Now;" and "Palestine - Homeland Denied."

Meanwhile, Bruce Kurta, director of public affairs and communications at CJC-Ont. said that at least 1,000 Stop the Homicide buttons are currently for sale at local Jewish bookstores, as well at offices of NCJW, CJC-Ont. and the Jewish locals of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE).

As well, he said, orders for buttons have come from York University and the University of Western Ontario for sale on campus.

Proceeds will to go to the David Rosenzweig Memorial Fund for victims of Terror.

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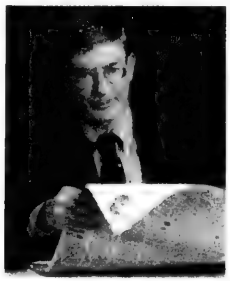
'I am an Israeli,' U.S. columnist tells audience

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

George Will has been a longtime supporter of the State of Israel. But, in an address to an overflowing house at the Holy Blossom Temple last week, the Washington-based columnist personalized the attachment.

Paraphrasing the late President John F. Kennedy, who told Berliners 40 years ago that he too was a Berliner, the syndicated columnist and television commentator said that all Canadians and Americans should say today, "I am an Israeli."



George Will

"The heat of burning jet fuel" has forged a special link between the United States and Israel and today Israel stands with the United States in a fight against terrorism, Will said.

Where in the past people asked, "can we save Israel," today the correct question is, "can Israel by its example save the rest of us, now that we are all Israelis," he continued.

Will delivered his remarks to an audience of 1,800 to 2,000 who filled the Holy Blossom sanctuary to capacity and spilled over to a downstairs auditorium. His speech was part of the temple's Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman fall lectures series.

Israel, Will said, blends two ancient traditions, those of Athens and Sparta. The Spartan characteristic provides the necessary "fierceness in response to barbarism."

Will cited the late U.S. Senator Henry "Scoop" Jackson, who broke with convention by noting the importance of Israel to the United States, and not the other way around. "I support Israel...not because I'm Jewish, but because I'm a free person concerned with freedom," Will said.

He criticized those who contend Israel's actions are "provocative." That mistakes the situation and frames the question improperly, he said. For some people, Israel's very existence is a provocation. Israel's opponents aren't concerned about land that it occupies. They are concerned that it occupies any land at all, Will said.

Addressing the theme,"two years after the reckoning," a reference to the failed Camp David talks,Will said Palestinian violence is "self-legitimizing" to many in the West.

That attitude derives from the liberal assumption that violence has root causes that can be laid at the feet of the broader society.

To illustrate his point, Will quoted an anecdote in which two sociologists come upon an individual who had been badly beaten and bloodied. One social worker turns to the other and says, "We need to find out who did this. He needs our help."

Turning to the origins of the Arab hostility to Israel, Will concluded that since it predates Israel's 1967 seizure of the West Bank and Gaza, return of the lands would not end the conflict. The lesson of the Camp David negotiations is that "the most Israel can give is less than [Palestinian Authority President Yasser] Arafat will take."

The Palestinians, for their part, have been plagued by the worst possible leadership, Will said.

In World War I, they backed the Ottoman Empire. In World War II, they backed Nazi Germany. They favoured the Soviet Union in the Cold War and in the Gulf War, they supported Saddam Hussein. "That's a losing streak," Will said.

The 1993 Olso peace process, which transplanted Arafat's "thugocracy" from Tunisia, represented a great mistake, he continued.

Nine years ago, there were no suicide bombings and it would have been inconceivable that 95 per cent of Palestinians would have voiced their approval, as they did in a recent poll, for such a tactic, Will said.

That demonstrates "how malleable a captive population is to a state-controlled propaganda and state-controlled clergy." A process of "de-Nazification" is now required, he said.

Will's biting analysis did not spare America's European allies. Their genius is largely exhausted, he said, and they cling to the last century's most successful ideology – anti-Semitism. France's seat as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, he joked, was a "reward for the role it played in defeating Germany." He suggested Arafat be exiled to France.

Will derided the recent U.S. plan to introduce "confidence-building measures" as a way of reducing tensions in the Mideast. That is no more than diplomacy as psychotherapy, practised by the U.S. State Department, "which is unfailingly wrong," he said.

The problem is not lack of confidence. Rather, it's that none of the Palestinians' promises at Oslo have been enforced, Will said.

Will also had choice words for the Saudi peace plan, which he called an oxymoron. (The plan calls for normalized relations between Israel and the Arab world in exchange for Israel's return to pre-1967 borders).

Saudi Arabia, he said, is no more than a family with a flag, a land governed by 3,000 cousins.

He warned against Arafat's claim of a "right of return." That is nothing more than a plan to "swamp Israel."

A Palestinian state, which a majority of Israelis favour, will one day emerge, but there is currently no indication of a Palestine emerging that is "a civilized social democracy," Will said. A Palestinian state will have to await the development of a new generation of leaders, he said.

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Eerie, hollow, amoral but sadly, unrefuted

The voice on the audiotape that was aired last week by the happily accommodating Al Jazeera television station in Qatar may or may not have been that of Osama bin Laden. To be sure, the identity of the speaker is important. But the content of what was spoken was of far greater import.

In a detached, eerily calm, almost hollow demeanour, the voice on the tape celebrated the many recent brutal attacks against westerners – beginning with "the conquests of New York and Washington," and ending with "the recent hostage-taking in Moscow" – as "but the response of Muslims eager to defend their religion."

But, how, the question begs to be asked, do savage, murderous rampages against mostly unarmed civilians defend a religion?

The logic of the message in the tape was perverse, a distortion of history, extolling violence and urging permanent jihad against the western world. Grounded in hatred, the statement was a paean to amorality, a chilling diatribe aimed primarily against the United States and Israel. But six other western nations, including Canada, were also singled out by the voice on the tape.

"As you kill, you will be killed and as you bomb, you will be bombed," the voice on the tape threatened. "So the Muslim nation begins to attack you with its children, who are committed before God to continue the jihad, by word and by the sword, to establish justice and eradicate injustice, for as long as their hearts continue to beat."

One day after the audiotape was made public, Al Jazeera disclosed it had in its possession a six-page manifesto purportedly sent by Al Qaeda promising more violence against the West.

Al Qaeda abhors the free, open, tolerant multi-denominational nature of western democracy. But it abhors Israel even more, for Israel is both a vanguard of western democracy and a sovereign *Jewish* body politic in what Al Qaeda considers to be exclusively the non-western, non-Jewish, Muslim Middle East.

Most western leaders, including Canadians, understand the grave implications for our western way of life contained in the threats by Al Qaeda and their violent collaborators. We denounce them; we oppose them and we resolve not be cowed by their terror.

But, in sad and puzzling contrast to the stout-hearted denunciations of Al Qaeda by western leaders has been the absence of any equivalent refutation by the leadership of the mainstream Muslim world. The result has been to foster, incorrectly we hope, a sense of indulgence toward Al Qaeda's hate-filled messages.

To permanently defeat this new terrorism, the terrorists must be abjectly, unambiguously rejected by their co-religionists. We therefore plead with Muslim leaders around the world to condemn as evil, without equivocation, the notion that the "Muslim nation" is at war with the West, that using children to attack anyone is somehow a sanctification of God's name and that jihad must continue.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farhad Saleh, Dani (Hamid) Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

CUPE Ont. president Sid Ryan wrong

Regarding the article in the Oct. 24 issue of *The CJN* titled "Workers mull leaving CUPE Ontario," certain matters need clarifying. The Jewish CUPE locals were not approached by Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) to encourage or even discuss de-certification from CUPE Ontario. CUPE Ontario president Sid Ryan implied that the Jewish locals were unduly influenced by Bernie Farber of the CJC and that he, in fact, is to blame for the current political differences between the locals in question and CUPE Ontario.

This is completely inaccurate. In fact, it would be much closer to the truth to say that Ryan himself should be taking responsibility for our current difficulties. In fact, Farber was unequivocal in urging us to remain certified and to look at alternative ways to make a statement that CUPE Ontario would hear.

Our locals are comprised of intelligent and independent members. We deeply resent the implication that we can be so easily influenced. We are investigating how best to solve this problem with CUPE Ontario while best serving the needs of our respective memberships. This may mean disaffiliating with CUPE Ontario while maintaining our connection with CUPE at the national level. In any event, it will not be Ryan's decision that influences how the Jewish CUPE Locals respond to this issue.

Janice Shaw, President
CUPE Local 265
Lil Nobel, President
CUPE Local 2063

* * *

Dominican Republic not only haven

Ed Butts' recent Perspectives article ("A little Caribbean hope during the Holocaust," *CJN*, Nov. 7) duly lauds the Dominican Republic for being a haven for Jews fleeing persecution before World War II, when western democracies – Canada included – shamefully and tragically refused to accept Jews.

However, Butts errs when he claims that the Dominican Republic "was the only country in the western hemisphere to open its doors to Jewish refugees."

In 1938, my parents, along with about 300 other European Jews, secured steerage on the few passenger ships still sailing to the Caribbean in a desperate attempt to escape Hitler's fomenting fury. They found safe haven in Trinidad, where my brother and I were born and where we lived out the war years on our "island stepping stone."

Barbados was another rare opening where Jews could enter without viasa or landing money. The fact that they lived freely (despite minimal internment once war broke out) and thrived (despite the aftermath of finding out that their families had been decimated) is a remarkable tribute to these islands that welcomed them when everyone else turned a deaf ear. Although not many Jews were lucky enough to find "a little Caribbean hope during the Holocaust," we should all know that were a few other oases for Jews in the West Indies, in addition to the one in the Dominican Republic.

Monica (Wolf) Shapiro
Montreal

* * *

A refreshing article...

Prof. Ernie Lightman's Perspectives article on the dilemma of the current "leftists" was a remarkably refreshing read ("Jewish and on the left: a tricky place to be," *CJN*, Nov. 14). It would be even more encouraging if there were more people like him. It is hard to believe these days that there are still decent people with upstanding morals and principles remaining on the left of the political spectrum. Most leftists, both Jewish (like Judy Rebick) and non-Jewish (like Svend Robinson), have gone on a rampage of Israel-bashing that borders on anti-Semitism. I abandoned the leftist ideology long ago, following this adage: "If you are young and not a leftist you have no heart, but if you are old and not a conservative you have no head." But despite remaining on the left, Lightman, it appears, still has his head.

Howard Mednick
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

...But a not refreshing letter

According to Jordy Cummings, Israel is a racist, colonial and pariah state, and its leader, Ariel Sharon, is "not good for Jews" (Letters, *CJN*, Oct. 24). Cummings compares the Israeli government to the governments of Iran and Afghanistan.

Millions of Arabs throughout the Mideast hate Jews and want to see their country wiped off the map. Their hatred is not hidden. The Arab press and their religious leaders call for the destruction of Israel and death to the Jews. Over one million Arab Israelis live in Israel, but the Palestinian territory must be *Judenrein*. Yet to Cummings, it is Israel that has "racist tendencies."

The Muslims do not want a Jewish state in the Middle East. They cannot be placated. If Israel were to withdraw from Gaza and the West Bank, nothing would change. Jews would still be despised and the Arabs would not rest until the last Jew in Israel was exterminated. Arab anti-Semitism is not new. Arabs have been persecuting and killing Jews in the Mideast for years before Israel was established. The Arabs cannot, or will not, live with Jews in their midst.

The left justifies Palestinian terrorism against Israeli civilians and overlooks vicious Arab anti-Semitism. The left demonstrates against the United States and Israel while supporting terrorists and despotic Arab regimes. With the moral decline of the left, it has become one of the most dangerous political movements in the world.

Harold Pomerantz
Dundas, Ont.

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Carter's Nobel Peace Prize could spell trouble for Israel

By PAUL C. MERKLEY

Jimmy Carter's name has been before the Nobel Prize committee 10 times since 1978, when the committee awarded its prize to former Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin and the late Egyptian leader Anwar Sadat, the other two architects of the (first) Camp David accords. Just a few weeks ago, however, the Nobel Prize committee took another look at its Carter file and, holding it up to the light of today's debate about U.S. policy toward Iraq, decided that the former U.S. president's time had come.

The Nobel Peace Prize it awarded to Carter, it said, recognizes his "untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development." Gunnar Berge, the head of the committee of five that made the choice, broke all the rules by boasting publicly about the political intention behind the selection: "With the position Carter has taken on [Iraq], it can and must also be seen as criticism of the line the current U.S. administration has taken on Iraq... It's a kick in the leg to all that follow the same line as the United States."

Friends of Israel, like all decent people, will ignore the temptation to respond with matching cynicism to this brutal political message and will endorse the committee's long-delayed recognition of Carter's great contributions to civilized life.

But friends of Israel should also prepare for the possibility that this award will inspire a media campaign, and perhaps even a political campaign, to put the Carter Center to work on a peace settlement between Israel and the Palestinians.

Over the years, Carter and his peace centre have made no secret of their availability for this task. No doubt the Carter organization is already on the case of our own foreign affairs minister, Bill Graham, who is always ready to appear to champion mediation.

But to give Carter and his organization such a public role would be ruinous for Israel. While he has succeeded beyond what is normally expected of human beings in achieving an even-handed approach to many thorny issues, Carter has never tried to do so in the case of the Israel-Arab conflict.

In several post-presidential writings, he has openly deplored the Balfour Declaration and espoused the Arab view of the history surrounding Israel's creation in 1948 and all subsequent stations in the story of Israel's costly struggle to remain alive in the midst of that sea of violent refusal.

He mocks those fellow Christians who support Israel as mindless "literalists" and political dupes. It is his undisguised ambition to be the anti-Cyrus of our day – turning back the consequences of 1948, which he assures us, in concert with anti-Zionists everywhere, is the cause of all the unhappiness that afflicts the region.

As soon as he left public office, Carter began publicly to accuse Begin of never having intended to abide by his promises, and has continued to blame him for the inability of the Arab leaders to follow in Sadat's footsteps. He has also repeatedly vilified the Israeli political system, the only democratic system in the Middle East, and consistently prettified the political system of Arab dictators, exalting such statesmen as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, the late Syrian leader Hafez Assad,

and, of course, the Saudi and Gulf State princes.

By the late 1980s, Carter was telling friends that he regretted not having invited the PLO to Camp David in 1978. In the mid-1980s, Carter conveyed that thought to PLO leader Yasser Arafat himself. Regular correspondence followed, and in April 1990 in Paris, the two met for the first time.

"Now in an atmosphere of cordiality, Arafat had accepted the [Camp David] accords and forgiven Carter for excluding him in 1978. Carter felt that a burden he had been carrying for years had been lifted... then they dried their tears, embraced, and said farewell," wrote historian Douglas Brinkley in his 1998 book *The Unfinished Presidency: Jimmy Carter's Journey Beyond the White House*.

After that initial meeting, Carter literally became a ghost writer for Arafat. In his proposed draft for the speech that Arafat gave to the Security Council of the United Nations on May 20, 1990, we find Carter advising Arafat: "The objective of the speech should be to secure maximum sympathy and support of other world leaders, especially including Americans and Israelis... [You should refer to various reports of Israeli cruelty in the West Bank and Gaza], then ask: 'What would you do, if these were your children and grandchildren? As the Palestinian leader, I share the responsibility for them.' The thrust of the speech should be to bring, not only the world's political leaders, but every parent and grandparent, into a realization of the excessively patient suffering of the Palestinians."

By a strange logical and moral inversion, the rock-throwing boys of the intifadah became for Carter embodiments of Gandhi's principle of non-violence: they were "instant heroes" exhibiting "an unprecedented commitment to their cause and a surprising threshold for absorbing pain." In so doing, he told the world in an op-ed piece in the *New York Times*, "they are appealing directly to the conscience of the world... They have pre-emptively attacked Israel's most cherished characteristic: its moral fiber."

Carter has sought to use his Carter Center to finish the unfinished work of the Camp David Accords. His conviction about the centre's impartiality is unaffected by the fact that, in its early years, it received several millions of dollars in financial support from Palestinian Arab businessmen, and millions more from Pakistani and other Muslim financiers who ran the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, which would eventually come to ruin in the biggest banking scandal of the last century.

'Only a minority of Americans agreed with Carter on the Gulf War issue.'

Carter has not restricted himself to words in his campaign to undermine Israel. In the months that followed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's conquest of Kuwait in August 1990, Carter worked ceaselessly to prevent the international action against Iraq that eventually reversed that conquest. He wrote personally to all the leaders of the major powers and urged them not to co-operate with American initiatives.

Instead, Carter advised that they hand over the matter to "an Arab League effort" that would bring peace to the region by linking the solution of the Kuwait matter to the issue that he believes is the source of all unhappiness among the Arabs – Israel's occupation of Palestine.

A few days before Operation Desert Storm was to begin, Carter wrote secretly to Assad, Mubarak, and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and urged them to withdraw their support for the Allied initiative: "The advances you made in guiding your nations' progress might well be lost. This war might also postpone indefinitely any efforts to resolve the Palestine issue."

The story of Carter's secret initiatives did not emerge for many years. When it did, some figures in the administration of former U.S. president George Bush concluded that Carter's actions had verged on treason. The elder Bush's secretary of defence, Dick Cheney, said: "For [Carter] to go behind our backs and ask world leaders to denounce our war policy was reprehensible, totally inappropriate, for a former president."

Only a minority of Americans agreed with Carter on the Gulf War issue. Yet most, it seems, gave him the benefit of the doubt, believing that he was wrong for the right reasons – because he declared that he abhorred violence and believed that anything was better than to pour down death and destruction upon the people of Iraq. He says the same today.

Yet his own Carter Doctrine of January 23, 1980, as expressed in a state of the union address in response to the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan – "Any attempt by an outside force to gain control of the Persian Gulf region will be regarded as an assault on the vital interests of the United States of America, and such force will be repelled by any means necessary, including military force" – was the explicit foundation for U.S. actions during the Gulf War.

There was no reason to believe that Carter had a monopoly on moral anguish at that hour. The larger truth was that his animosity towards Israel had become so intense that he could only see the Gulf War as a marvellous opportunity to put the peace process back on the track that he had opened up at Camp David some 12 years before.

Carter made this link publicly from the outset, but it was little noticed. In a speech on September 29, 1990, he said: "No matter how you look at what is happening in Kuwait, no matter how you look at what is happening in Lebanon, the core issue is now and will continue to be Israel-Palestine."

In an op-ed piece in the *New York Times* on January 2, 1991, Carter disclosed what he felt was the key to resolving the crisis in the Gulf: "Now is a propitious time for Israel to come forward with a genuine peace initiative," he wrote, thereby, in effect, shifting the responsibility for Saddam's invasion of Kuwait to Israel.

U.S. President George W. Bush is well aware of the humiliation Carter attempted to bring upon his father's diplomatic efforts during the desperate months that followed Saddam's seizure of Kuwait — when Carter publicly denounced the position of the elder Bush's administration while secretly urging Arab states and others to defy the American coalition strategy.

Still, it's not hard to see how those near the top of the current U.S. administration might wish to prove their willingness to have pursued all avenues to bring Carter on board as the United States prepares to confront Iraq.

We might recall that Carter's partner in the mediatory effort that eased the political crisis in Haiti in 1994 was none other than current U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell.

It's not difficult to see how Powell might be tempted to play the Carter card again. Let's hope and pray that he resists the temptation.

Paul C. Merkley is a retired professor of history at Carleton University and author of The Politics of Christian Zionism *and* Christian Attitudes Towards the State of Israel.

Looking back at turning 90

Several weeks ago, *The Canadian Jewish News* was good enough to announce that I would soon celebrate my 90th birthday.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

That station in my life has since come and gone.

At the end of my last column, I gave brief thanks to those of you who helped celebrate my special anniversary.

Needless to say, it was for me, personally, as well as for my family, a signal and significant event.

At one of the celebrations, some 1,000 people were present and that moved me more than I can possibly say.

I would like to repeat that I am most grateful to all of you who congratulated me and who, in some other way, acknowledged my special day.

Therefore, dear reader, if you sent me a personal note through the mail, or via telephone or e-mail, please understand that the messages I have received number in the hundreds, and I have simply been unable to respond individually to each one.

My strength is limited and responding to literally hundreds of messages individually, is simply impossible. But do know that I am deeply grateful and I pray that God may reward you for your generosity.

I, therefore, once again am taking to this public medium to thank all those of you who have been kind to me and have in some way expressed your friendship.

You have been most gracious and generous, and you have enriched my life more than I can possibly say.

I am deeply appreciative for the wonderful attention that I have received. You have made this birthday truly a milestone to remember.

But life goes on. My poor wife Elizabeth has now been in the hospital for two years, unable to recognize me or communicate in any way.

That is the heavy burden that I carry with me into my new stage of life, and I would give everything if only she could be returned to health.

But the experts are not very hopeful.

However, I still belong to those who believe in miracles, and who knows what will happen in the future.

My wife is a splendid person who deserves the best and whom I would like to see unshackled from the terrible bounds in which she is now a prisoner.

The highest rung, the lowest policy

Since my column last month was a critique of the Fraser Institute's approach to immigration and immigrants, I feel I should devote this month's column to the good idea that the institute recently promoted. The idea? That payment of welfare should not restrict the recipients' ability to earn extra income.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Let me explain. As readers of the general media know – that is, readers outside British Columbia who pay attention to our slightly bizarre political scene – we have elected a government that has co-opted the label "Liberal" to describe a gang of people who otherwise would be considered Socreds, Conservatives, Reform/Alliance or any other right-of-centre party ever hatched in Canada.

But make no mistake; the label "Liberal" goes only as far as the party's letterhead. Their ideas are old-fashioned conservative. They gave us a tax cut, which they were advised against; they broke their promises not to attack medical care or education; and they are on the way to plunging the province back into debt. They held a referendum on treaty negotiations with native peoples that cost millions, then threw away the results (even though the results seemed to back their position on treaty outcomes). They cut many therapies from the list of covered medical treatments, including physiotherapy. They promised millions of dollars to support Whistler's Olympic bid while they cut services to the elderly and the poor. And then they stepped over the line that Maimonides laid down 800 years ago.

Of course, the government probably never heard of Maimonides, so they can be excused for their ignorance. But even though the Fraser Institute probably never heard of the Rambam either, they got it right.

Maimonides, also known as the Rambam, listed 13 levels of tzedakah. I won't go through them all, but the highest is tzedakah that lets the recipient become self-sufficient. This level is what inspired such Jewish institutions as Hebrew Free Loan Societies, one of the best ideas our community ever had. By providing interest-free loans, HFLs helped people start small businesses or train them for new careers. Supported by the communities where they were located, recipients of these loans became independent and contributing members to the Jewish and general communities. They regained a sense of self-worth and were prevented from falling into despair or worse.

Now what has the B.C. government done? It has decreed that recipients of welfare can no longer earn any extra income outside their welfare payments, payments which were meagre enough to start with, given the costs of living in our province. This means, for example, that a single mother will get her welfare allowance, but will not be able to earn a lousy $200 per month as an envelope stuffer for a community organization. In a city where you are lucky to find an apartment for rent under $1,000 that will take children, this woman is in dire straights. Social housing? Wait for it. Food banks, Sally Ann and humiliation are her choices. Re-train? How to pay for childcare, also no longer funded?

And suddenly, like the cavalry in an old western movie, comes the Fraser Institute. While so far the insititute has had no effect on the government, I credit it for trying. It proposes letting that woman earn some extra cash, maybe enabling her to get some work skills and again feel like a part of the human community.

We as a society are judged by the way we treat our least fortunate. The Victorians developed the concept of the "deserving poor" versus the "undeserving poor," defined as those who by their own slothfulness and inattention to propriety did not "deserve" the charity of society. Anyone who has seen the movie *Angela's Ashes* cannot forget the scenes where the title character appears in front of the welfare board in Limerick, Ireland, to plead for money to feed her children, her hapless husband having deserted the family. Is this where we are headed?

Eight hundred years ago, our great teacher, Moses ben Maimon, got it right. I'm still waiting for our government to get it.

Winnipeg pride

No one in Winnipeg particularly likes when the mercury drops below minus 30. If fact, we tend to grumble about it under our very visible breath. Sure, the bravest among us will utter words like "fresh" and "crisp" to describe the bone-chilling, knee-knocking climate, but to be perfectly honest, those are euphemisms best reserved for iceberg lettuce, not icy burghs like Winnipeg.

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

As for the mosquitoes, occasionally referred to as Manitoba's provincial bird, well, at least they're frozen to death about six months of the year.

Winnipeggers often complain about the weather and the bugs. And there are a fair number of other Canadians familiar with Winnipeg quick to poke exaggerated fun at our 10 months of winter and two months of rough skating.

But having to wear a balaclava a few weeks a year (on particularly cold days, the entire city looks like the set of some mega-crime re-enactment for Crime Stoppers) and insect repellent for a good chunk of the summer is a small price to pay for living in such a fine, relaxed, accepting city.

As much as Winnipeggers gripe about the climate, the mosquitoes and other things, I think most of us are quietly proud of this place 670,000 people call home. I was reminded on the Remembrance Day long weekend how lucky we are.

On Saturday night, my wife and I hosted a young Jewish, Argentinean couple for dinner. They were in Winnipeg on an "exploratory" visit, meaning that after looking around, assessing job prospects, learning about the city and exploring accommodation options, they would figure out whether to pursue immigration here.

Married for only two months, Martin and Valeria decided that they wanted a future in Winnipeg. I think they made that decision before their plane even landed here. Based on some Internet browsing, some contact with a cousin who had recently moved here and contact with the local Jewish community, they determined that Winnipeg would become their home.

By the time we had dined with them, Martin and Valeria had been here about a week. They met Argentinean- and Canadian-born families, toured the city, hung out at the JCC and experienced their first snowfall. (They also made a point of reading the local papers while they were here. Martin read about a survey that concluded that a significant number of Winnipeggers are dissatisfied with the condition of city roads. He wished out loud that papers in Buenos Aries could look like this instead of being full of reports of crippling poverty, crime and social instability.)

Containing the couple's enthusiasm for Winnipeg is impossible. They think the people are outstanding, they see the Jewish community as hospitable, they love the scenery and they are counting down the months before the immigration paperwork is complete.

Until then, they will continue to stay in contact with Winnipeggers, read voraciously about Canadian history, work on their English (which is already pretty good) and, if I have anything to say about it, root for the Blue Bombers.

When Martin, a computer systems professional, and Valeria, a psychologist, arrive here in about a year and a half, they will join a few dozen Jewish families from Argentina who have moved to Winnipeg over the last several years. The influx of newcomers has been like a shot of adrenaline to the community. While strong, Winnipeg's Jewish community hasn't really grown from its population of somewhere between 13,000 and 14,000 in the past few years. Our programs and facilities are impressive, though, and it seems like every dot on the Jewish ideological landscape is represented. The new immigrants from Argentina and elsewhere like what they see.

Winnipeggers are a lucky bunch. The people are tolerant, the arts scene is superb, the economy is stable and there is a real sense of community. On the colder and buggier days, though, life-long 'Peggers tend to forget how good we've got it. Sometimes it takes a young couple from Buenos Aries to remind us. I'm grateful to them. I'll have to buy them balaclavas to say thanks.

Contact Stuart Slayen at stu_column@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

Netanyahu challenges Sharon

Within minutes of being sworn in as Israel's foreign minister on Nov. 7, Benjamin (Bibi) Netanyahu, the former prime minister, was angling for his boss's job, keenly anticipating Likud's Nov. 28 primary. Netanyahu, having joined Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's caretaker cabinet after the sudden dissolution of the national unity government, told reporters about a proposal he had put to Sharon. If he, Netanyahu, won the primary and was chosen to contest the Jan. 28 general election, Sharon would support him. But if Sharon was the victor, Netanyahu would back him.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

With this politically charged disclosure, Netanyahu officially acknowledged that his ultimate objective is to unseat Sharon, his perennial rival, and thus complete his return to the pinnacle of power. Soundly trounced by the Labour party's Ehud Barak in the 1999 general election, Netanyahu has since been plotting to revive his fortunes.

Sharon, who appointed Netanyahu after calling new elections, did not immediately respond to Netanyahu's proposition. Instead, through gritted teeth, he expressed confidence that Netanyahu would be loyal to him. In offering Netanyahu the post of foreign minister, Sharon had hoped to curb Netanyahu's criticism of his policies. And yet, on the first day in his new position, Netanyahu openly knocked Sharon, declaring that Israel had fallen into "dire straits" under his watch. He was referring to the terrible toll that the second Palestinian uprising has exacted on Israelis and to the recession that has engulfed Israel.

A loose cannon, Netanyahu further annoyed Sharon with his blithe announcement that, for now, he had struck the United States' most recent peace proposal, the so-called "road map," from Israel's agenda. Netanyahu explained that Washington's current preoccupation with the increasingly tense Iraqi question had momentarily sidelined Arab-Israeli diplomacy.

Sharon, to be sure, was never too enthusiastic about the American plan, considering it it objectionable on several counts. But because he values his relationship with U.S. President George W. Bush, Sharon was upset by Netanyahu's apparent failure to consult with him in advance. In any event, the Bush administration has decided to freeze the proposal until after the formation of a new government in Israel.

Netanyahu's unilateral comment about the "road map," as well as his subsequent threat to deport Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat from the West Bank should he oust Sharon in the primary, were in keeping with his strategy to outflank Sharon from the right. Much to nearly everyone's amazement, Netanyahu has succeeded in portraying Sharon as a moderate.

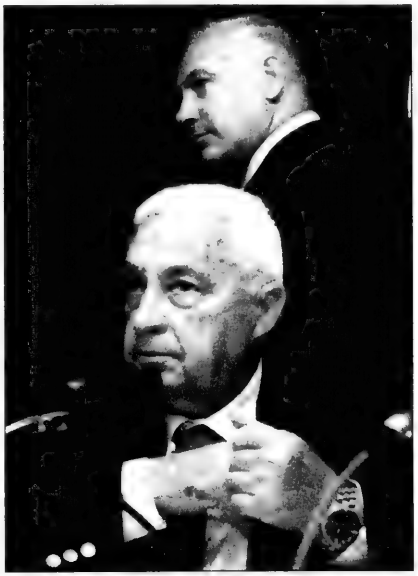
Ever since December 2000, when Netanyahu sat out the Likud leadership race he probably could have won with ease, he and his supporters have been nipping at Sharon's heels, castigating his government's Palestinian policy. Netanyahu, who was at Likud's helm from 1992 to 1999 and served as prime minister from 1996 until his ignominious defeat, has yearned to replace Sharon.

No sooner had Sharon beaten Barak in the February 2001 election than Netanyahu told *The Jerusalem Post*: "The Sharon government will fall within three months. I am saying this on behalf of the State of Israel and not just my own political future."

Clearly, there is no love lost between Sharon, 74, and Netanyahu, 53. Sharon still smarts from the perception that Netanyahu tried to exclude him from his cabinet in 1996. Still stung by the snub, Sharon dismissed Netanyahu "an expert only in his eyes" after Netanyahu advised him to banish Arafat and destroy the Palestinian Authority. Rubbing salt into the wound, Sharon deigned not to meet with Netanyahu for more than a year after becoming prime minister.

Long before the collapse of his government two weeks ago, Sharon had been scheming to thwart Netanyahu's comeback as prime minister. Sharon's decision to invite Center party stalwart Dan Meridor, an old Likudnik, into the cabinet last year was aimed at blocking Netanyahu from regaining ascendancy in the Likud. Similarly, Sharon's widely-publicized meeting in July with Shaul Mofaz – the ex-chief of staff – to discuss Mofaz's political future was in part regarded as a blatant effort to outmanoeuvre Netanyahu. Mofaz, having replaced Binyamin Ben-Eliezer as defence minister, is now Sharon's staunch ally.

The super-ambitious Netanyahu has been just as devious. Last May, shortly after Netanyahu announced his intention to run for office again, he irritated Sharon by convincing the Likud's central committee to reject Palestinian statehood. The decision was not binding, but it embarrassed Sharon, who had grudgingly come out in favour of a mini Palestinian entity without contiguous borders. Analysts interpreted Netanyahu's move as a brazen bid to wrest control of the Likud from Sharon.



Ariel Sharon and Benjamin Netanyahu square off for Likud's leadership in a Nov. 28 primary.

Netanyahu's camp followers have also caused Sharon sleepless nights. Last February, Yisrael Katz, a member of Knesset and a Netanyahu acolyte, set the tone when he declared, "The battle for the Likud leadership is under way." And in a foray into psychological warfare, Netanyahu supporters claimed that he was significantly more popular among right-wing voters than Sharon, at least according to polls. On a more practical level, Netanyahu's political patron, Moshe Arens, a former Israeli defence minister, seized control of Likud's secretariat.

In the main, Netanyahu has directed his appeal to the most hawkish segment of Israel's Jewish population. When Sharon deliberately refrained from responding militarily to the June 2001 disco suicide bombing in Tel Aviv, Netanyahu accused him of turning "restraint into ideology." And then, in a pointed reference to Sharon's security policy, Netanyahu said, "I think he is doing too little."

Netanyahu has been scathing in denouncing Sharon's toleration of Palestinian statehood – a concept he calls a "prescription for catastrophe." At best, Netanyahu would grant the Palestinians autonomy.

Having described Arafat as "much worse" than Osama bin Laden, Netanyahu has repeatedly urged Sharon to expel Arafat, now his nemesis but formerly his negotiating partner under the Oslo accords. Last week, Netanyahu suggested that a war in Iraq would be an opportune time to exile Arafat. Sharon has promised Bush that he will not eject or physically harm Arafat.

For all their differences, Sharon and Netanyahu are in agreement on virtually all the key issues. Both believe that: Arafat seeks Israel's destruction and cannot be a viable partner; a final peace accord cannot be achieved in the foreseeable future; Jewish settlements should remain in place; Israel cannot go back to the pre-1967 borders; Saudi Arabia's peace plan is a non-starter; Palestinian terrorism must be and can be crushed by military means.

Although Netanyahu has portrayed himself as a bolder hawk than Sharon, the fact remains that, as prime minister, Netanyahu relinquished two per cent of the West Bank and 80 per cent of Hebron, while Sharon has ceded absolutely nothing.

Netanyahu strategists expect his campaign to accentuate economic rather than diplomatic or security themes. But with the intifadah raging and a war in Iraq looming, this is really a debatable contention.

Judging by the latest surveys and scuttlebutt, Sharon is running ahead of Netanyahu. But we still do not know who will cross the finish line first on Nov. 28.

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Reform congregations thriving, movement head says

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

When it appeared that Israel was moving towards peace, the Reform movement saw a tremendous religious revival with a focus on issues of God, ritual and text, says Rabbi Eric Yoffie, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

"There was a certain embrace of fundamental religious questions which most of us viewed to be a healthy phenomenon," he said.

Rabbi Yoffie, a keynote speaker at the recent Canadian Council for Reform Judaism 2002 biennial convention, said that while Reform leaders welcomed a return to roots and sources, some became concerned that the focus became "overly much on the individual experience and not enough on peoplehood.

"The revival stemmed from healthy developments, but we had to be sure that it did not lead us away from the community," he said in an interview prior to the start of the convention.

Since the current intifadah, however, "we have had to worry about our basic survival, and as a result our attention has redirected itself to issues related to the welfare of the Jewish state," said Rabbi Yoffie.

"There is no ambivalence towards Israel, but there is a [general] confusion as to how to help the Jewish state.

"There are the general philanthropic efforts, of which we have done well, but there is a sense that we need to do more."

As a result, he said, the Reform movement has concentrated on developing practical programs "that help Jews move towards a more active [relationship] with Israel."

Although it has been difficult, of late, to organize tours to Israel, said Rabbi Yoffie, his movement recently announced eight national missions over the next 1½ years.

"There is a clear sense that many Reform Jews who might otherwise not participate in a tour to Israel, might go with other Reform Jews and Reform community leaders.

"We need to provide a vehicle to go and be physically present in Israel."

Artza, the Zionist arm of Reform Judaism, has taken on the challenge of developing hands-on, congregation-based programs to connect Reform Jews to Israel, he said.

About 300 congregations across North America recently took part in a teach-in that covered every topic from buying Israeli products to correcting media distortions, he said.

Rabbi Eric Yoffie

"People are hungry for information, and a program was put together that provided the basics."

A topic of particular interest, he said, is how to answer childrens' questions about the current situation in Israel.

"Nothing is simple about teaching children about bombs going off. We put a lot of thought into how we could help teachers and parents approach these subjects."

Recently, he said, a new religious school curriculum was developed for the movement's almost 800 supplementary Hebrew schools across North America.

"About 90 per cent of children in the Reform movement attend religious school, and we need to make sure that teachers receive the proper material to teach these children."

Essential to the new curriculum, he said, is an emphasis on family education. "Supplementary school is supplementary to what goes on at home, and we cannot supplement education if there is no foundation at home. If all signals at home are negative, the best supplementary school cannot make a difference."

Guidelines were passed at the last Reform national convention suggesting that every parent attend their child's school at least six times throughout the year, he said.

"Our curriculum includes family education for every grade level. We have developed lessons for parents that parallel, on an adult level, what their children are learning in school."

All in all, he said, the Reform movement is thriving, congregations are growing, and its camping system is expanding.

"The religious revival and re-ritualization is very important to us. Our best congregations are vibrant, religious places."

What he finds interesting, he said, is that the community in general is "far more committed than we would have imagined about five or 10 years ago.

"The level of commitment is extraordinary. At a national convention 10 years ago, worship was an incidental part of the proceedings. All that has now changed, and not only Shabbat worship, but Torah study, has become an essential part of the conventions."

"People are no longer interested in 'aboutism.' They do not want to learn about Judaism; they want to immerse themselves in it. Jewish learning is about an individual approach to the text."

They also want the "ultimate connection" he said, and that is not provided by general society. "That comes through God, Torah study and prayer."

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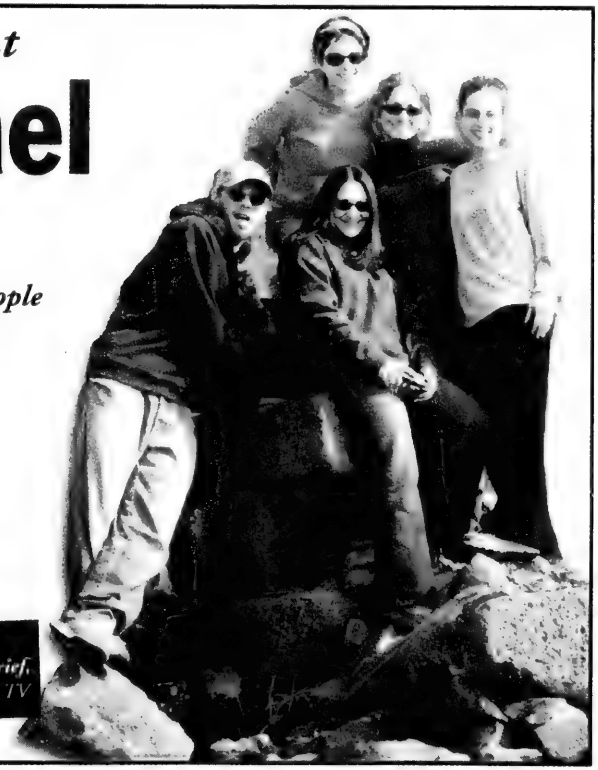

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UJA FEDERATION

Catholic church must admit crimes against Jews: author

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The Roman Catholic church must "repair" itself by owning up to its crimes against Jews, says the author of an explosive new book.

Describing the church's treatment of Jews down through the ages as a "history of hate and harm," Daniel Goldhagen called upon the Vatican to admit its "unjust and injurious deeds" and make concrete amends.

Holocaust Education Week

In *A Moral Reckoning: The Role of the Catholic Church in the Holocaust and its Unfilled Duty of Repair*, published by Random House, Goldhagen examines its historical record toward Jews and recommends remedies.

Goldhagen, who is affiliated with Harvard University's Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, believes the church can rehabilitate itself by raising the struggle against anti-Semitism to a "core teaching," alongside its traditional message of love and goodness.

Goldhagen's speech was sponsored by the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre and supported by the University of Toronto Hillel branch and Pages Books & Magazines.

He was also here in connection with Holocaust Education Week.

Goldhagen acknowledged that the church, on the whole, has not reacted well to *A Moral Reckoning*.

But Goldhagen is no stranger to controversy. His first book, *Hitler's Willing Executioners*, published in 1996, aroused an international furor. His thesis was that a uniquely German brand of "eliminationist anti-Semitism" enabled ordinary Germans to participate in the Holocaust.

In his lecture here at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Goldhagen declared there is no question but that the church's record in relating to Jews is "horrible."

It spread inflammatory calumnies, labelled Jews a "guilt-laden people" and, in effect, laid the foundations for Nazi anti-Semitism.

Taking these falsehoods to their logical conclusions, European cardinals, bishops and priests justified the persecution of Jews.

As for Pope Pius XII's role during the Holocaust, Goldhagen, in his book, debunks the claim that he worked tirelessly on behalf of Jews.

Urging the church to embrace the principle of "moral restitution," Goldhagen said the Vatican must tell the "full truth" about its stance toward Jews, restore the reputation of the Jewish people it has slandered relentlessly, open up its archives to scholars and fearlessly investigate itself.

In his view, one of its foremost duties is to confront the anti-Semitism of the Christian Bible, which is riddled with scores of anti-Jewish verses.

But in an implicit warning, Goldhagen observed that "the solution" must come from Christians themselves.

In the end, the church must cease being "a sinful church," and subject itself to "a full moral reckoning."

If it abides by its intrinsic philosophy, repair is possible, he said.

"Repair is a must, not a choice – an unavoidable moral duty."

Lest he be accused of tarring all Christians with the brush of anti-Semitism, Goldhagen unequivocally rejected the notion of collective guilt as "morally indefensible."

He said that today's church, under the leadership of Pope John Paul II, has no wish to disseminate anti-Jewish enmity.

The church has made enormous strides since Vatican II in 1965, and there are "many, many Christians" who do not subscribe to anti-Semitic beliefs, Goldhagen said.

Nevertheless, he said, sacred texts, notably the New Testament, remain a fount of prejudice.

Goldhagen credited the current pope with having taken constructive "symbolic steps" to break with the past, such as visiting a synagogue and calling Jews "older brothers in faith."

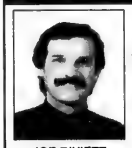
But, Goldhagen said, much more needs to be done.

In his book, he calls on the church to renounce its political ambitions to conquer all souls, to stop telling its faithful that Judaism is an illegitimate religion and to jettison the idea that Jews are an impediment to the salvation of humanity.

During a question-and-answer session, Goldhagen dismissed as "historically untrue" glowing post-war testimonials of Pope Pius XII by Jews and Zionist leaders, such as Golda Meir.

He suggested that these statements were made in the interests of political expediency.

WOOL CARPET SALE



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legacy of life

Oscar Shainhouse 1913 - 1999

a presentation of the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto

Oscar Shainhouse had a passion for life and nothing made him happier than reveling in it. He took great delight in everything that came his way, be it music, friends, family or community. Given his infectious smile and deeply kind heart, everyone who met Oscar was hooked.

"Oscar had a little bit of 'old country' mannerisms and culture in him and that made him stand out in the crowd," says **Ralph Fromer**, his friend of almost 70 years since their teenage days in a Toronto Betar chapter.

Oscar was born in 1913 in his grand parent's home in Kovna, Lithuania, the second of four children. His father **Abraham**, a shoichet by training, and his mother **Sarah** were both well educated in Torah and Jewish values and passed their love of learning on to their children. Oscar adored the language of the Torah – he often referred to it as poetry – and was fortunate to spend his childhood steeped in Jewish education and tradition.

The family moved to Toronto when Oscar was 17, where Abraham opened a dry goods store on Spadina Avenue and Oscar fell in with a magnificent group of Betar boys who were constantly struck by their new friend's charisma. Oscar found promise as a traveling salesman, first for a knitting company and then for a handbag manufacturer. Eventually, he and his brothers **Louis** and **Sam** opened National Knitting Mills, growing it into one of Canada's largest children's wear manufacturers.

Always the charmer, Oscar put his salesmanship to good use the night he crashed a pajama party in 1935 and managed to woo a beautiful girl named **Florence Wilson**. They were married a year later and became life partners and best friends for 62 years. Florence supported her husband in everything he did, whether it was visiting Israel, spending summers at music camp so Oscar could brush up on his violin techniques, or attending all of his performances with the Etobicoke Philharmonic Orchestra and Florida's Broward Orchestra. They even gave back to the community together, with Oscar joining Florence at Hadassah-Wizo when he became its first male life associate.

Oscar Shainhouse

"Papa had this strong presence," says granddaughter **Alli Shapiro**. "If he walked into a board room, he could own it. If he walked into an orchestra pit, he could own it. He was so confident and so loving. He would cut off his arm for anybody, he was that giving."

Oscar's giving nature extended to the community, too. In 1971 he received a Special Service Award from UJA Federation's Israel Special Fund Campaign for his tireless efforts as chairman of UJA's Knitting Group. He served as Honorary Vice President of the Board of Governors of Associated Hebrew Schools and was an active member of Herut-Likud, B'nai Brith-Forest Hill Lodge, and the Women's Wear Bureau of Toronto. He also served as a consultant to the Federal Business Development Bank in Ottawa.

Israel was also a major part of Oscar's life and he went there often – 29 times, in fact, frequently visiting his good friend Menachem Begin. One of his favourite things to do in Israel was to shmooze with the hotel bartenders and the local cabbies just so he could surround himself with Hebrew.

"I once asked Dad why there wasn't a Jewish National Fund Negev Dinner in his name," recalls daughter **Syrelle Bernstein**, who is involved at Baycrest and with other community organizations as are her three sisters **Marlene Brudner**, **Mary Carrel** and **Pam Shainhouse**. "He said he probably couldn't raise enough money. But that wasn't the real reason, of course. Dad was just too humble and didn't want the attention. He preferred to do things quietly."

When he wasn't busy with his adoring family, his business, or his volunteer work, Oscar could be found at the small cottage community on Kahshe Lake that he formed with a group of friends in 1947. It's been said that his violin resonated throughout the grounds, giving pleasure to all. That's not surprising – spreading warmth was always Oscar's specialty.

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto
UJA Federation

New liturgy dedicated to mark the Holocaust

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

An ambitious joint project of the Conservative movement's Rabbinical Assembly and the Schechter Institute of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem was dedicated recently as part of Holocaust Eduction Week.

"This is a historic event," commented one of the 1,100 attendees at the dedication ceremony for *Megillat Hashoah: the Holocaust Scroll*, held at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation.

The publication of Megillat Hashoah, expected to be completed for Yom Hashoah 2003, "will mark a milestone in the transformation of the Jewish calendar and a transformation of Yom Hashoah into a true sacred day in the cycle of the Jewish year, taking its rightful place as a day of mourning and commemoration," said Rabbi Reuven Hammer, Jerusalem-based president of the Rabbinical Assembly, which represents 1,600 Conservative rabbis worldwide.

Holocaust Education Week

Rabbi Hammer said he believed that unless Holocaust commemoration is marked by "appropriate liturgical formulations," specific prayers will not outlast those who actually experienced the Shoah. In fact, he noted, in the 1980s, the Rabbinical Assembly of Israel worked on a Yom Hashoah siddur, which is incorporated in a slightly revised version in the Conservative movement's new *Sim Shalom* siddur.

But it was Alex Eisen, a Beth David member and Holocaust survivor, who set the wheels in motion for the project. Eisen, who was instrumental in building the Holocaust memorial in Earl Bales Park, began to approach institutions a decade years ago, seeking to transform his dream of creating a Holocaust scroll into reality.

Two years ago, Eisen and Rabbi Philip Scheim, spiritual leader of Beth David, took the idea to the Rabbinical Assembly.

"I have never known, nor could I imagine existing in the world an individual like Alex," said Rabbi Scheim at the dedication, praising Eisen for his drive, courage, chutzpah, humour and persistence.

Rabbi Scheim also praised the "stunning Hebrew text" and "sensitive English translation" of the Megillah, parts of which were chanted in Hebrew and the rest of which was read in English.

The work was written in Hebrew by Avigdor Shinan, a professor of Hebrew literature at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and translated into English by New York liturgist Rabbi Jules Harlow. Some of the chapters are chanted using the cantillation of the Scroll of Eichah (Lamentations), which is read on Tisha B'Av.

It is a mitzvah incumbent upon every Jew and all human beings who believe in freedom and human dignity to remember the Holocaust, said Eisen.

"We hope the megillah will be accepted by Klal Yisrael, the collective Jewish people, as a meaningful religious way to commemorate the Holocaust for generations," said Rabbi David Golinkin, president of the Schechter Institute.

"You may ask why we need to compose a scroll right now," said Rabbi Golinkin, who steered the Jerusalem committee that produced the text. Survivors are quickly diminishing in number, and with them living memories, he noted. The scroll is also a response to an increase in Holocaust denial and distortion, as well as a way of ensuring that historic events will be remembered, he added.

There are six chapters to the scroll, one for each of the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. The text evokes the emotional toll of the Shoah using first-person narratives in chapters titled *Chaos and Confusion*, *Darkness*, and *Facing the Abyss*, but ends with a message of strength and hope in the final chapter, *There Will be Light Again*.

The dedication ceremony included the lighting of six memorial candles by members of the community, and the chanting of *K'El Maleh Rachamim* by Cantor Marshall Loomer and of the Mourners' Kaddish by Rabbis Abraham Feffer and Erwin Schild. The Renanim Youth Ensemble and Cantors Aaron Bensoussan, Louis Danto and Benjamin Maissner, who chanted one of the chapters, also participated.

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Book chronicles life in Montreal's Jewish orphanages

By STACEY STEIN
Special to The CJN

Like many Montrealers, Judy Gordon was not aware of the two Jewish orphanages in Montreal that provided a home for more than 300 Jewish children from 1909 to 1942. That is, not until she met her husband Myer Gordon, who spent most of his childhood at one of the orphanages.

Jewish Book Fair

"Nothing has been written about the orphanages in Montreal," said Judy, who has produced a new book on the subject. "Out of all the Jewish authors in Montreal who wrote about the city's history, none have written about the orphanages. It's a story that had to be told."

Myer was "the catalyst, the inspiration behind this book," said Judy, who now lives in Toronto with her husband.

The book, *Four Hundred Brothers and Sisters*, which was launched Nov. 10 with a reading at the Jewish Book Fair at the Leah Posluns Theatre, probes this little-known part of Montreal's history.

The Montefiore Hebrew Orphans' Home and the Montreal Hebrew Orphans' Home provided shelter and a Jewish upbringing to children who had lost one or both parents or whose families could not care for them.

Myer Gordon spent 10 years at the Montefiore home, having entered the orphanage at age five with his older brother Ben. Gordon's widowed mother came to the orphanage a year later to take her sons home, but staff at the orphanage asked that she only take home Ben and leave Myer because he was "such a good boy."

The Gordons took turns telling the story of the orphanages at the book reading, which was attended by a strong contingent of ex-Montrealers, including a few alumni from the orphanages.

Myer recounted personal experiences and memories from his years at the Montefiore home and Judy read passages from her book.

Children at both orphanages were well-treated and were provided with many enriching activities, Judy said. "They were well-cared for, schooled, learned manners, religion, values and caring.

"Life in the [Montreal Hebrew Orphans'] Home was marked by privacy, individual treatment and informality, and with appropriate discipline – and discipline not as a group, but based on the need to develop self-reliance," Judy said. "For any public appearances they made, their status as orphans was played down."

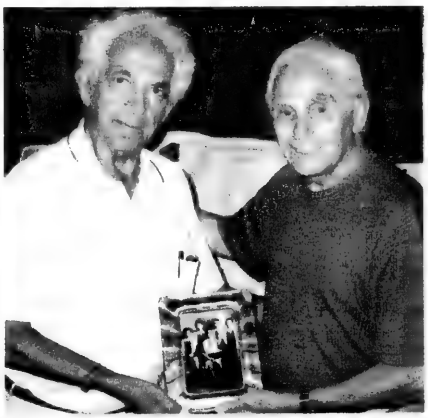
Not all of the children were orphans – many had one surviving parent. And some came from poor families and others were refugees from World War I.

The Montefiore home closed in 1936 and the Montreal home, located in Westmount, shut down in 1942. The buildings still exist today – the Westmount's is now a seminary for retired priests and the Montefiore's houses a French day-care centre.

The first combined reunion of alumni from both orphanages took place in 1989. Since then, there have been several more, including the last one this past August in Montreal.

Judy said her book is the culmination of one year of research and writing. Much of its material came from interviews with alumni of the two orphanages and from the Jewish archives in Montreal.

Judy has also written a humorous poetry book for children. Royalties from *Four Hundred Brothers and Sisters* are going to Montreal's Jewish Family Services to help needy children.



Myer Gordon (left) and fellow orphanage alumnus Earl Greenberg hold a photo taken at their group Bar Mitzvah at the Montefiore Hebrew Orpans Home in the 1930s, during a recent reunion in Montreal.

Israel not above the law: Cotler

Continued from page 5

"Every single word [I'm saying here]," he said, "I have also said in the House of Commons. I don't just speak about this to Jewish audiences."

For Cotler, Durban proved that Jews are a long way from equality. Yet, "whatever 2002 may be, it is not 1942," he said. "There is a Jewish state today as an antidote to Jewish powerlessness." And there are many "non-Jews... who will stand with us if we are prepared to make our case...

"Despair is not only a denial of our past, but a betrayal of our future. As long as they remain our abiding vision," he said, "truth and justice will prevail – Am Yisrael Chai!"

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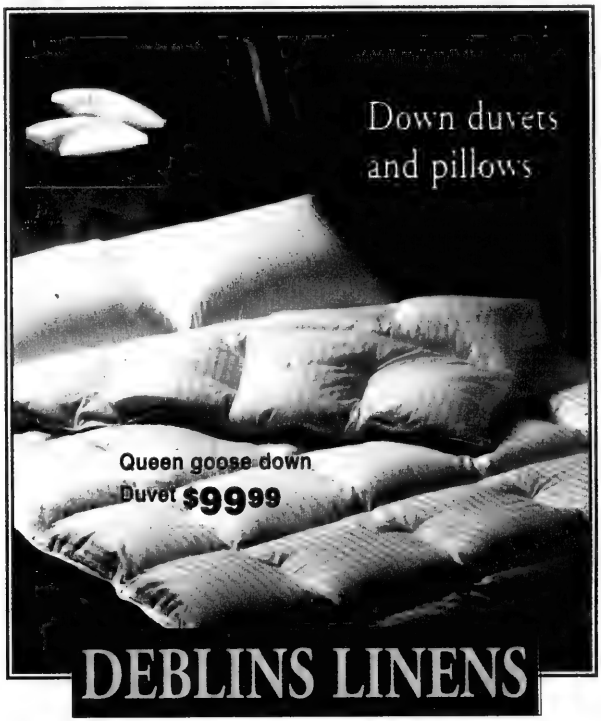

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Greater Toronto Area

Saddam must be stopped: Ross

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The United States courts catastrophe if it does not topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, suggests a former American diplomat who played a pivotal role in shaping U.S. policy during the Oslo peace process.

In a speech at the University of Toronto last week, Dennis Ross warned that Saddam is determined to build a nuclear arsenal.

And if he succeeds, he will invade his neighbours yet again, said Ross, referring to previous Iraqi invasions of Iran and Kuwait.

"I don't want to wait until he gets nuclear weapons," he said. "We'll face a catastrophe if we don't stop him."

Without explicitly advocating regime change in Baghdad, Ross suggested that Iraq and the Middle East will be better off if Saddam is deposed.

Delivering the Heather Reisman and Gerald Schwartz lecture at the Munk Centre for International Studies, Ross observed that Saddam – a "master of miscalculation" who surrounds himself with sycophants in fear of their lives – is driven by a desire to dominate the Middle East and recreate the ancient kingdom of Babylon.

"Saddam actually believes he won the [1991] Gulf War. No one can tell this guy the truth. He's full of self-delusions."

Saying that Saddam may miscalculate once more and try to bully his neighbours, Ross said Saddam will "play for time" and pretend to comply with the latest United Nations resolution on Iraq.

On Nov. 8, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution demanding Iraq's disarmament.

Ross predicted that "the moment of truth" will come Dec. 8, when Iraq is expected to make a full and accurate accounting of all its programs to develop and deliver weapons of mass destruction.

"My guess is Saddam will reveal things that will surprise the UN inspectors, and will dump enormous material on us."

But Ross intimated that Iraq will fall short of making a complete and honest disclosure.

In Ross's view, the full extent of Iraq's holdings will not be revealed until after Saddam's demise.

Once he is gone, Iraqi scientists will come forward with valuable information.

Ross, the facilitator of the 1995 Oslo 2 agreement and the 1997 Hebron accord, said the United States may have to send commandos to western Iraq to pre-empt an Iraqi missile strike against Israel.

Israel, though, has improved its capacity to counter Iraq Scuds, he added.

Saddam's downfall will touch off "unlimited expressions of joy" in Iraq, and the Arab world, which respects power, will adjust to the new order in Baghdad, Ross said.

Taking issue with analysts who claim a U.S. invasion of Iraq will destabilize the region, Ross said this won't happen if the war ends quickly, within about a month, and civilian casualties are minimal.

A clean U.S. victory, he noted, may be of benefit to Israel and the Palestinians.

It could create the conditions for a period of calm in Israel's current struggle with the Palestinians, end suicide bombings, if only for awhile, and embolden Palestinian reformers to reach an accommodation with Israel.

Now a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Ross said the reformers are in the vanguard of "a culture of responsibility" that rejects violence as a means by which to attain political goals.

He claimed reformers were making progress toward eroding Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's position until Israel's 10-day siege of his compound in Ramallah in September.

As a result of the siege, Arafat's popularity increased and the process of reform was put on hold.

Asserting that Arafat has failed as a leader due to his refusal to change with the times, Ross said he offers his people no "pathway to the future," or hope for a better tomorrow.

Ross expressed doubt about what an Israeli expulsion of Arafat might accomplish. But he conceded it might be a useful exercise if Arafat's ouster coincided with the launching of a major Israeli peace initiative.

Ross, a key player at the July 2000 Camp David summit, said Arafat had missed a great opportunity by walking away from a peace proposal made by former Israeli prime minister, Ehud Barak.

Turning to Washington's newest Arab-Israeli peace plan, he said the "road map," while "conceptually right," does not offer a path to a solution. Ross speculated that Saudi Arabia's peace plan, which it unveiled in Beirut last March, may have received a more upbeat reception in Israel had Arab leaders condemned a massive suicide bombing in Netanya around the same time.

He urged the Arab League to prove its sincerity by sending a delegation, with Saudi participants, to Israel to explain the plan.

He also called on Palestinian leaders to condemn suicide bombers, as opposed to only condemning the bombings themselves.

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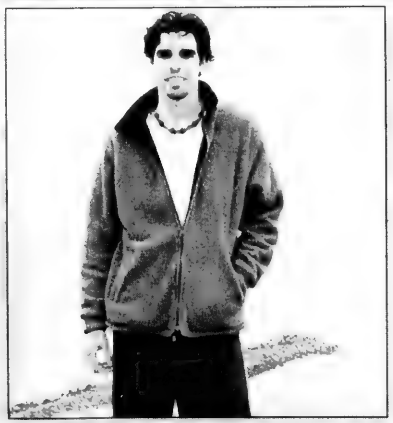

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Ronen has fought hard through intense pain with sheer determination and is now, 3 years later, physically rehabilitated and studying for a business degree. "It has been through the emotional and physical support of Beit Halochem that I am able to resume a 'normal' life. At Beit Halochem there is no shame or embarrassment in removing my artificial leg and going for a swim. I can become stronger in every way as a result of the facilities and friendship at Beit Halochem."

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Greater Toronto Area

Hospice library opens at JF&CS

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

A new library, dedicated to those living with cancer, opened last month – breast cancer awareness month – at the offices of Jewish Family & Child Service.

The library is a project of JF&CS and the Jewish Hospice, a home-centred palliative care program of Baycrest Centre, Circle of Care, JF&CS, UJA Federation and Mount Sinai Hospital.

The hospice program offers links to community resources and institutions, counselling and emotional support for patients and their families, assistance with daily living, spiritual care in co-ordination with an individual's own religious network, bereavement counselling and education for community and professional groups.

Sheila Walker, hospice co-ordinator, said the the first donations to the library were made by the families of Judith Orbach and Edith Veig, two members of a support group for terminally ill women that met about seven years ago.

All of the group's members have since died.

Walker says she formed the group after deciding that several women she had been meeting individually could benefit from the support of other women in the same situation.

"They talked about their fears, about how to enjoy a good quality of life even though they were ill, and basic things such as diet and exercise."

Walker said she was inspired by the original group to begin a second support group for anyone dealing with a life-threatening illness.

"We expanded the criteria for the group and made it available to women at any stage of their illness. This group ended because several of the women graduated and moved on with their lives."

It was gratifying, she said, to see some of these women – many dedicated their cancer material such as videos, tapes and books to the library – at the library dedication.

Barbra Walters, a family life educator who facilitated the support groups, said Jewish women want knowledge.

"It is part of our culture. Jewish patients tend to be very informed. Members of one group even had homework assignments," she said.

Since the hospice program was formed about nine years ago, it has served about 850 people and their families. "The Jewish context of support is very important. There are Jewish ways to respond to illness and dying," said Walters.

The library material – housed on a bookshelf donated by the Forest Hill Lyons Club – may be borrowed by appointment.

"Anyone who wants to view our material, or who is looking for emotional or physical support, can call our office. No one needs to face their struggles alone," said Walker.

Although there is no current support group, Walker said another one can be organized if people are interested.

For information on support groups, or on borrowing or donating library material, call the Jewish Hospice Program at 416-638-7800, ext. 260.

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First intifadah made Israel stronger: analyst

Accelerated process of healing from Holocaust

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Israel emerged from the first intifadah as a more healthy society, says Yossi Klein HaLevi, a contributing editor and Israel correspondent for the *New Republic* and a commentator for the *Los Angeles Times*.

After the first intifadah, the process of healing from the Holocaust became accelerated. "We did not feel that Israel had become victimized by choice," he told a capacity crowd recently at Holy Blossom Temple.

On a personal level, HaLevi said that as the son of a Holocaust survivor, the experience of defending Israel by serving in the West Bank and Gaza freed him from identifying himself as a victim.

HaLevi, who is also the author of the *Entrance to the Garden of Eden*, was the second speaker in Holy Blossom's Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman fall lecture series.

In the '90s, HaLevi said, partly as a result of that intifadah, "the centrist Israeli mainstream began the slow and excruciating process of forcing themselves to begin to read the other side's narrative.

"It is the story of two traumatized people with ample rights and ample wrongs, both struggling to find a place on the same piece of land."

Regarding the famous 1993 handshake on the White House lawn, he said, "the only reason we considered such a leap of faith was because we realized that we could not remain a healthy society if the occupation continued into the next generation. We were desperate to believe that peace was on the way."

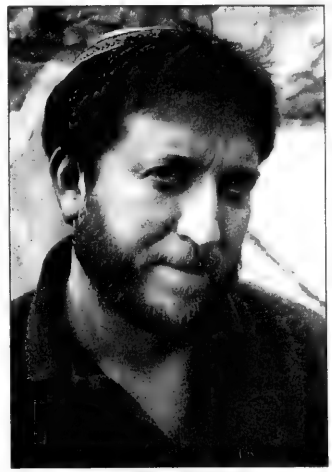
Israelis willfully blinded themselves to any unpleasant facts that might have undermined that optimism, he said.

The painful awakening to the truth of the peace process, however, "became the story of the mid-'90s.

"Gradually, we began to realize that the real question is 'Why are we-allowing [Palestinian Authority President] Yasser Arafat to create a culture that nurtures terrorism?'"

For decades, said HaLevi, Israelis allowed themselves to be dominated by two absurd ideologies.

"We wanted to believe we could dominate another people and still remain a democratic and Jewish society, and that we could empower a terrorist organization whose charter



Yossi Klein HaLevi

is committed to our destruction."

There are certain non-negotiable demands that history has imposed on the current generation of Jews, he said.

"The first is that we are forbidden to do to others what has been done to us, a lesson which has become the passion of the left. The second is that a generation after the Holocaust, we are forbidden to be fools. You do not empower someone who wants to destroy you."

As a people, we violated these imperatives, he said.

In recent months, Israelis have suffered an almost clinical depression, said HaLevi.

"We plunged into deep despair and disillusionment, and we were not sure what it would take to end the war."

A turn came however, with the Passover massacre, and "within hours, [we] realized that we were in an existential war and we had no choice but to fight. We stunned ourselves by our willingness and our ability to fight."

Now, he said, Israelis are experiencing long lulls between attacks, so the tactics are working.

In the last month, for the first time, dissident voices are showing up within the Palestinian leadership, HaLevi said. "They are beginning to attack Arafat over this war. [They see it as] a war of political suicide.

"These seem to be the first cracks in the resolve of the Palestinian leadership."

Just as Israelis took the first intifadah as an opportunity to confront themselves as a society, the Palestinians will begin to confront themselves and examine how parents could celebrate the destruction of their children, HaLevi said.

"Self-examination is the prerequisite for resuming the peace process."

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Italian Jewish author discusses life in Mussolini's Italy

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

She was a a typical Italian teenager when her world came crashing down under the oppressive weight of Benito Mussolini's anti-Semitic laws of 1938.

Italy's racial legislation, aping Nazi Germany's, marginalized Jews who had always felt more Italian than Jewish.

"Before 1938, we were like everyone else," said Angela Bianchini, one of Italy's most prominent novelists, short story writers and literary journalists.

"I was simply a person of a different religion," she added plaintively in an interview.

Bianchini, who has written several novels about her experiences as a persecuted Jew forced into exile, was in Toronto recently to deliver a lecture to the Canadian Society for Italian Studies.

Angela Bianchini

As might have been expected, her topic was herself – or, as she described it, "my existential narrative."

Now 80 and somewhat frail, Bianchini is the author of seven novels, including *The Edge of Europe* and *The Girl in Black*, the only two that have been translated into English.

Published by the University of Nebraska Press, *The Edge of Europe*, or *Capo d'Europa*, is autobiographical, taking place in Lisbon and revolving around a young Jewish woman fleeing fascist Italy.

Writing in the newspaper *La Stampa*, critic Furio Colombo called it "the only testimonial" in Italian literature on the flight of a Jew from Italy's racial intolerance.

In general, the themes of identity, persecution, uprootedness and exile inform Bianchini's works, explained Giuliana Katz, a professor of Italian at the University of Toronto.

"As an Italian Jew, compelled to leave Italy during World War II and to find refuge in the United States, Bianchini, in her novels, describes the pain and dazed feelings of a refugee who has to leave her family and become integrated in a new country."

Looking back at her long and turbulent life, Bianchini said ruefully, "History has looked for me."

She was born in Rome into a Sephardi Jewish family whose ancestors were expelled from Spain after the Inquisition.

Her mother, Marcella Levi, was widowed when her husband, Angelo, an Italian naval officer, was murdered under mysterious circumstances in Syria in 1920.

Angelo, apparently the only officer in the Italian navy at the time who was conversant in Arabic, was seconded to the foreign ministry when the major European powers were jockeying for influence and positions in the Middle East after World War I.

"I was born eight months after his death," said Bianchini.

Marcella raised Angela and her sister, Regina, single-handedly.

When the racial laws were enacted, Bianchini felt its effects immediately. She was expelled from school and forced to study at home. Nevertheless, as she noted with some pride, she passed her exams with flying colours.

However, she was not permitted to enter university.

Thanks to her mother's connections in the Italian government, she and Regina, as well as Regina's husband, were granted exit visas.

Regina, an art historian, and her husband left Italy in 1940. Bianchini departed a year later, leaving Marcella and her mother behind. They survived thanks to the kindness of anti-fascists.

After the war, Marcella's diary about her experiences during the war years was published in Italian under the title of *Where Shall I Go Now?*

Surprisingly, perhaps, Bianchini feels no bitterness or anger toward Italy regarding its treatment of its Jewish citizens.

As she put it: "It was a terrible mistake for the Italian people."

No one in Bianchini's extended family was killed during the Holocaust. But of Italy's 42,000 native-born Jews, approximately 8,000 perished, most in Auschwitz.

Six thousand Jews managed to emigrate before Germany occupied Italy in 1943 and began deporting Jews to concentration camps in Poland.

Bianchini spent 11 years in Baltimore, where she learned her fluent English. She studied at Johns Hopkins University, earning a PhD in French linguistics at 24.

"They were very good years," she recalled. "Objectively, Mussolini did me a good turn."

It never occurred to Bianchini not to return to Italy, where she was reunited with her mother.

"My ties with Italy were very strong, something I couldn't forget. We had been living in Italy for centuries."

Having returned to Rome, where she still resides, Bianchini turned her talents to writing commentaries on Spanish and Latin American literature for *La Stampa*, churning out plays for the Italian Broadcasting Corporation and translating medieval French novels into Italian.

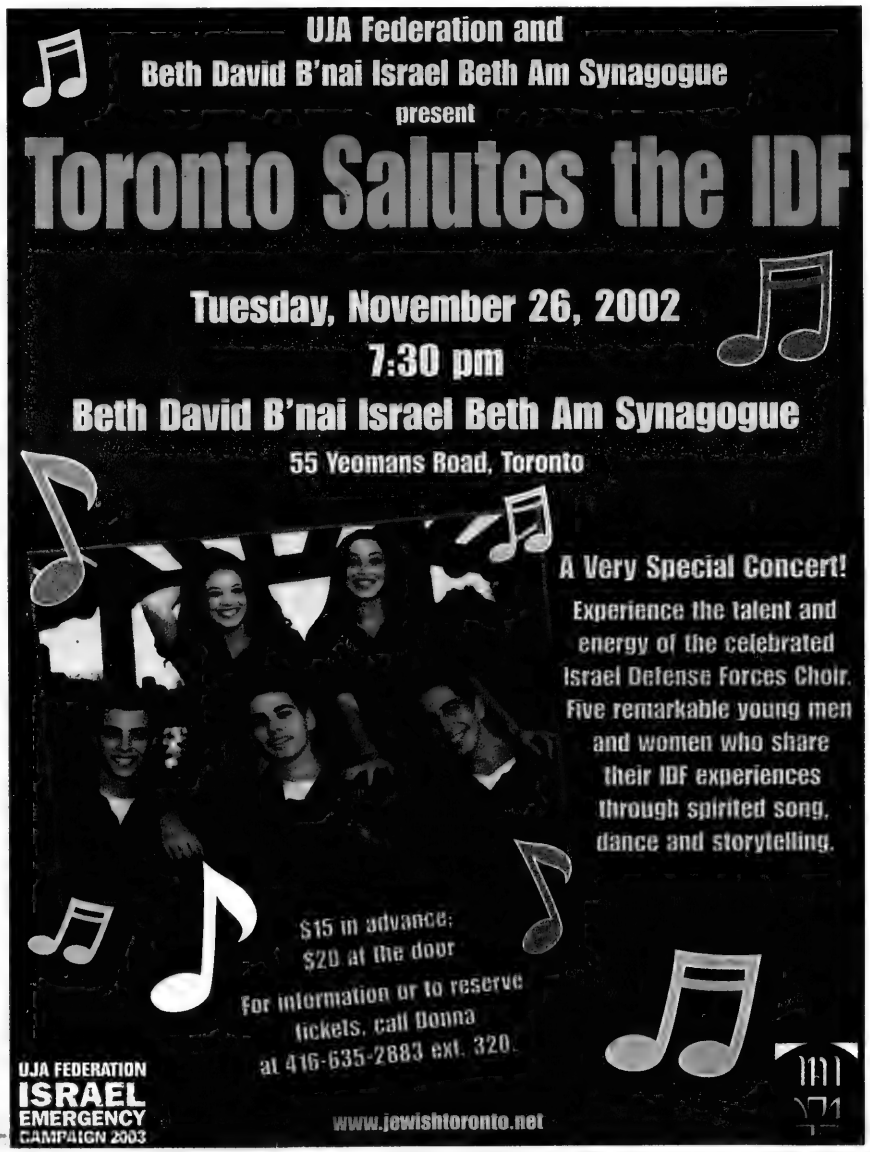
In 1962, when she was 41, she produced her first collection of short stories. Since then, she has concentrated on novels. In both forms, she has won prizes.

Bianchini's latest novel, *Nevada*, is set on a dude ranch in the early 1950s and is not, she noted, autobiographical.

She writes almost every day, in long-hand, and is currently mulling over the plot of her next novel. "I don't have it clear in my mind as yet."

Twice married, she was divorced from her first husband years ago. Her second husband died in 1997.

Bianchini's only child, a professor of ancient Oriental history, lives in Rome, as does her older sister.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Irish rabbi's descendants gather in Dublin

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The Leventon family reunion, held recently in Dublin, Ireland, brought together 127 direct descendants – including 28 from Canada – of Rosa and Rabbi Israel Leventon, who lived in the 19th century.

Rabbi Leventon served as the last spiritual leader of Dublin's Mary's Abbey Synagogue, which closed in 1892, and he was the first spiritual leader of the Adelaide Road Synagogue, which opened a short time later.

The Leventons' descendants who came to the reunion ranged in age from four to 95 and hailed from Ireland, Scotland, England, Israel, the United States, Belgium and Canada. Many had never met before.

"It took a year-and-a-half to collect names and addresses of relatives and put the reunion together," says Toronto's Joy Schreiber, who worked on the arrangements with two cousins in London, England.

Israel and Rosa (formerly Greenberg) were born in Poland in the early 1830s. They met and married in Poland and left in 1861 for England, where the rabbi served congregations in Leeds, Leicester and Swansea before moving to Dublin with their six children.

In Dublin, among his many duties he served as rabbi, cantor, Torah reader, mohel, shochet, sofer, registrar, secretary and teacher.

The patriarch of the Leventon family also inscribed a Torah on parchment of his own making, a 10-year labour of love. He presented the scroll to his synagogue in 1894, and it has been in continuous use ever since.

At the reunion, the Torah scroll, which had recently been repaired, was consecrated at a special Shabbat service.

The chief rabbi of Ireland, Yaakov Pearlman, spoke about Rabbi Leventon, saying the rabbi did a job that today would take 10 men. He added that it is believed that Rabbi Leventon's Sefer Torah is the only one ever written in Ireland.

"The thing that strikes me," said Schreiber, "is that it was such a joyous affair because the Leventon family was not touched by the Holocaust like my father Sidney Levitt's family."

Today, there are 337 Leventon descendants.

The reunion included family meals, services in the Dublin Synagogue and visits to the Irish Jewish Museum, which records that Jews lived in Ireland as far back as 1079 CE.

There was also a reception at city hall hosted by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, a visit to the fictional birth place of Leopold Bloom of James Joyce's *Ulysses*, and a visit to the park where Oscar Wilde is memorialized.

"We also visited the graves of Israel and Rosa Leventon," Schreiber said. "We realized that he was everything in his community."

Dublin now has 1,000 Jews, she said. There were more than 5,000 Jews at the turn of the 20th century.

To commemorate the occasion, everyone who attended received an engraved kiddush cup, and a "a handsome donation was given to the Jewish Home of Ireland in honour of Israel and Rosa by five generations who were there," Schreiber said.

The Leventon family now has a Web site and Schreiber said family members are frequently in touch.

Seen at the Leventon family reunion in Ireland are, from left, Neil Schreiber of Boca Raton, Fla., Ann Levitt of Toronto, Sydney Schreiber of Brussels, Joy Schreiber of Toronto, and Noah Miller of Burlington, Vt.

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Jewish Life

Acknowledging mazel tov

By RABBI REUVEN TRADBURKS

Rabbinic Reflections

We have all done it – when someone drops a glass and it shatters on the floor, we yell out mazel tov. Why do we do this? Well, one would assume we are imitating the traditional wedding custom that occurs at the end of the ceremony, under the chupah, when the groom breaks the glass to commemorate the destruction of the Temple and everyone yells out mazel tov. So, too, when we hear a glass break accidentally, we jokingly yell out mazel tov.

However, there is a more meaningful explanation. We all need to experience some suffering in life. Suffering can take a variety of forms – life-threatening illnesses, financial ruin, marital breakdowns, parent-child conflicts. Some suffering is much more manageable – flat tires, being stuck in traffic, rainy Sundays. So when a person breaks a glass, we yell mazel tov – meaning, boy, aren't you fortunate that your suffering is a little broken glass. You have good mazel to have such innocuous suffering.

The Chidushei HaRim, the first Gerer Rebbe, uses a similar theme when he describes the confrontation between Jacob and Esau in this week's parshah. Jacob is afraid to meet Esau – after all, Esau wanted to kill him the last time they saw each other 22 years ago. Jacob is preparing for some kind of confrontation. So the Torah describes in great detail all of Jacob's possessions – he comes to greet Esau with his entire entourage of servants, camels, donkeys, goats and cows. He instructs his servants to tell Esau that he, Jacob, has been with Laban until now and that he has a lot of servants and possessions.

But why the emphasis on these possessions? The Chidushei HaRim offers a simple explanation – Jacob wants to focus the confrontation on the material goods. In essence he is saying, if we are going to fight, let it be focused on my possessions rather than on spiritual things. If I have to lose something, let me lose my material things. We can all live without those. Let me divert the conflict away from the real nexus of the conflict, which is over the legacy of Abraham and the future of the Jewish people. I can live with a conflict over material things – in fact, I am willing to lose my material things – but I am not willing to lose my legacy as the leader of the Jewish people.

This is a profound insight on Jacob's preparation for his confrontation with Esau – diverting attention away from the substantive and to seemingly the trivial. The Chidushei HaRim explains a verse in Psalm 23 – "You prepare a table before me in the face of my enemies" – in the same way: You, HaShem, try to divert my enemies to fight over possessions, over my opulence and You save my inner being from opposition.

Struggle and challenge in material things can sometimes be a blessing in disguise because it saves us from challenges to our inner spiritual being. Misfortune displayed in trivial broken glasses is reason to rejoice that we have been spared much more serious misfortune – and that, indeed, is mazel tov.

Rabbi Tradburks is the spiritual leader of Kehillat Shaarei Torah Congregation in Toronto.

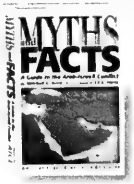
Long history of mistreatment of Jews in Arab lands

MYTH:

Jews who lived in Islamic countries were well-treated by the Arabs.

FACT:

While Jewish communities in Islamic countries fared better than those in Christian lands in Europe, Jews were no strangers to persecution and humiliation among the Arabs. As Princeton University historian Bernard Lewis has written in his book *Pro-Islamic Jews*: "The Golden Age of equal rights was a myth, and belief in it was a result, more than a cause, of Jewish sympathy for Islam."



In 622 AD, Mohammed, the founder of Islam, travelled to Medina to attract followers to his new faith. When the Jews of Medina refused to convert, two of the major Jewish tribes were expelled; in 627, Muhammad's followers killed between 600 and 900 of the men, and divided the surviving Jewish women and children among themselves.

The Muslim attitude toward Jews is reflected in various verses throughout the Qu'ran. "They [the Children of Israel] were consigned to humiliation and wretchedness. They brought the wrath of God upon themselves, and this because they used to deny God's signs and kill His Prophets unjustly and because they disobeyed and were transgressors" (Sura 2:61). According to the Qu'ran, the Jews try to introduce corruption (5:64), have always been disobedient (5:78), and are enemies of Allah, the Prophet and the angels (2:97-98).

Jews were generally viewed with contempt by their Muslim neighbours; "peaceful" coexistence between the two groups involved the subordination and degradation of the Jews. In the ninth century, Baghdad's Caliph al-Mutawakkil designated a yellow badge for Jews, setting a precedent that would be followed centuries later in Nazi Germany.

At various times, Jews in Muslim lands lived in relative peace and thrived culturally and economically. But their position was never secure, and changes in the political or social climate would often lead to persecution, violence and death.

When Jews were perceived as having achieved too comfortable a position in Islamic society, anti-Semitism would surface, often with devastating results. On Dec. 30, 1066, Joseph HaNagid, the Jewish vizier of Granada, Spain, was crucified by an Arab mob that proceeded to raze the Jewish quarter of the city and slaughter its 5,000 inhabitants. The riot was incited by Muslim preachers who had angrily objected to what they saw as inordinate Jewish political power.

Similarly, in 1465, Arab mobs in Fez slaughtered thousands of Jews, leaving only 11 alive, after a Jewish deputy vizier treated a Muslim woman in "an offensive manner." The killings touched off a wave of similar massacres throughout Morocco.

Other mass murders of Jews in Arab lands occurred in Morocco in the eighth century, where whole communities were wiped out by the Muslim ruler Idris I; North Africa in the 12th century, where the Almohads either forcibly converted or decimated several communities; Libya in 1785, where Ali Burzi Pasha murdered hundreds of Jews; Algiers, where Jews were massacred in 1805, 1815 and 1830; and Marrakesh, Morocco, where more than 300 hundred Jews were murdered between 1864 and 1880.

Decrees ordering the destruction of synagogues were enacted in Egypt and Syria (1014, 1293-4, 1301-2), Iraq (854-859, 1344) and Yemen (1676). Despite a prohibition in the Qu'ran, Jews were forced to convert to Islam or face death in Yemen (1165 and 1678), Morocco (1275, 1465 and 1790-92) and Baghdad (1333 and 1344).

The situation of Jews in Arab lands reached a low point in the 19th century. Jews in most of North Africa (including Algeria, Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Morocco) were forced to live in ghettos. In Morocco, which contained the largest Jewish community in the Islamic Diaspora, Jews were made to walk barefoot or wear shoes of straw when outside the ghetto. Muslim children threw stones at them. The frequency of anti-Jewish violence increased, and many Jews were executed on charges of apostasy. Ritual murder accusations against the Jews became commonplace in the Ottoman Empire.

In the 1940s, more than 1,000 Jews were killed in anti-Jewish rioting in Iraq, Libya, Egypt, Syria and Yemen, triggering the mass exodus of Jews from Arab countries.

Source: Myths & Facts Online – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict *by Mitchell G. Bard, www.jewishvirtual library.org.*

Jewish Life

Hope for the three great faiths

***Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths*, by Bruce Feiler, William Morrow, $36.50.**

All that we know about Abraham comes to us from the Hebrew Scriptures. There are no other sources for his existence. This lack of documentary evidence has encouraged Jewish, Christian and Muslim traditions to fashion elaborate midrashim around his life, activities and importance.

Books
Bernard Baskin

"They took a biblical figure open to all, tossed out what they wanted to ignore, and ginned up what they wanted to stress," writes Feiler. For Paul, Abraham was a symbol of faith that came before Mosaic Law. This was a useful interpretation for opening Christianity to the wider pagan world. Mohammed identified Abraham as a precursor of himself, a figure with Arabian roots who was ready to break with his polytheistic forebears.

Feiler, the author of last year's bestselling book, *Walking the Bible*, which took readers on a spiritual, theological and geographical tour through biblical lands, now insightfully rediscovers the central episodes of Abraham's saga: the initial call by god; Abraham's passive acceptance of Sarah's demand that he cast out his offspring Ishmael (viewed by Muslims as their ancestor); his challenge to God to spare Sodom and Gomorrah; and, most chillingly, the sacrifice of Isaac, which poses the question of whether devotion to God requires killing.

Feiler stresses that the account of the Akedah, in which God asks Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, is a central religious idea in each of the three monotheistic faiths. Jews, of course, read this story on Rosh Hashanah. Christians read it during the week of Easter, and Muslims read it during their holiest time, the last week of the Pilgrimage to Mecca.

Although the Akedah is often cited as the ultimate example of devotion to God, it is not mentioned anywhere else in the Torah apart from Genesis. Not David, Solomon, or any of the prophets refers to the story, though they allude to many other events in the patriarch's lives. "When later books cite Abraham, they mention his departure from Ur, his receipt of the covenants, his promise of land," Feiler writes. "Perhaps they were perplexed by the event. Perhaps they wanted to distance themselves from an allusion to child sacrifice. We don't know."

The Qu'ran has its own version of the life of Ishmael and his mother Hagar. Instead of banishing them to the Negev, Abraham actually takes them to Mecca, settles them there and returns home. Feiler writes, "Left alone in the desert, Hagar runs seven times between two rocks looking for water before an angel appears and saves her. A vital shift is under way, moving the locus of the story away from the Fertile Crescent to Arabia, where Ishmael grows up to become a prominent Arab."

Abraham's death promotes peace. His two rival sons, Isaac and Ishmael, come together for his funeral, the first time since they were torn apart three quarters of a century earlier. Abraham achieves in death what he could never achieve in life: a moment of reconciliation between his two sons, a peaceful, communal, side-by-side flicker of possibility in which they are not rivals, but brothers and mourners.

Well-researched and written, *Abraham* offers a vision of hope and reconciliation – not soon or easily to be attained in our bitterly fragmented society.

Chanukah gelt & the Internet

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It's one of the most popular traditions of one of the most well-known holidays of the year. But the question why we give Chanukah gelt can leave most people scratching their heads. Today, some Chanukah gelt traditions from the World Wide Web.

Ohr Somayach explains that Chanukah gelt is a Jewish custom rooted in the Talmud. "The Talmud states that even a very poor person must light Chanukah lights, even if he can't afford it. A person with no money is required to go 'knocking on doors' until he collects enough to buy at least one candle for each night of Chanukah. The Torah concept of charity – tzedakah – requires us to help the recipient in the most dignified manner possible. Therefore, the custom arose to give gifts of money during Chanukah so that someone who needs extra money for Chanukah candles can receive it in the form of 'Chanukah gelt'" **[http://www.ohr.org.il/ask/ask173.htm#Q5].**

Eliezer Siegel traces the evolution of the tradition in Gelt to Gifts: A Chanukah Journey **[http://www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Shokel/961121_Geltl.html].** He writes that because of the similarities of the words "Chanukah" (dedication) and "chinuch" (education), some Jewish communities used the Chanukah season to honour their religious teachers and students. In 18th-century eastern Europe, rabbis toured outlying villages during Chanukah to strengthen the townsfolk's Jewish education. Initially, these rabbis would decline payment. But eventually, they accepted tokens of appreciation for their time. Eventually, these gifts or gelt because almost obligatory to the rabbis, to other pillars of the community and then, in the 19th century, to children. Other traditions of giving coins or small gifts to kids have also been found in Persia, Yemen and pre-State of Israel Palestine.

If you do opt to give gifts, Jewish Family.com has some suggestions to keep your spending and nerves under control **[http://www.jflmail.com/articles/587.html].** Instead of trying to compete with the seasonal frenzy, Lisa Traiger says you should look for low-key Jewish-oriented gifts to bring Chanukah – and your kids – back to their roots. Some suggestions: Jewish books, music, dreidels, puzzles, crafts, and of course, gelt.

According to the Jewish Outreach Institute, there is another direct connection between gelt and the story of Chanukah. After the Temple was recaptured, the Jewish population was able to mint coins as an expression of their newly-won independence. After the Temple was destroyed in 70 C.E., Jewish coinage ended except for a brief period during the Bar Kochba Revolution. But all that changed when the State of Israel revived the tradition. "In a brilliantly conceived move to link the modern world with the ancient history of our people, the first Chanukah coin portrayed exactly the same menorah that had appeared on the Last Maccabean coins of Antigonus Matityahu, 1,998 years earlier" **[http://www.joi.org/celebrate/hanuk/gelt.shtml].**

You can view drawings of some original coins on the American Israel Numismatic Association Web site **[http://amerisrael.com/articles_chanukah_gelt_4.html].** And to look at some of the modern Chanukah coins minted in Israel, visit the Commemoratives International site. The Connecticut-based company operates a large Web site with pictures of the beautiful coins minted by Israel since 1958 **[http://www.comm em.com/prod 04.htm].**

Nowadays, most gelt exchanged at Chanukah isn't made of genuine gold or silver, but of chocolate. Many of our fond memories for those bags of coins can be traced to Israel's Elite chocolate company, which has an impressive Hebrew-only Web site **[http://www. elite.co.il/].** For the homemade touch, you can try some Surprise Chanukah Gelt **[http://shlk.com /222]** or chocolate coins with mint **[http: //shlk. com/224].**

How about a batch of Chanukah Gelt Cookies? These treats have *real* gelt inside **[http://shlk.com/223].** The Cyber-Kitchen site also has a recipe for White Cheesecake decorated with Chanukah Gelt. But if that's not decadent enough, try out the Chanukah Gelt Double Fudge Chocolate Layer Cake **[http://www.jewish-food.org/recipes/ geltcake.htm].** You have eight days to finish it off, so it shouldn't be a problem.

* * *

Two weeks ago, I told you about entire Jewish books that you can read on the Internet. Prof. André Bougaïeff of the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières has written to me about his project to put the entire text of Émile Zola's "J'Accuse...!" online **[http://www.uqtr. ca/~bougaief /EFL].** Zola wrote "J'Accuse...!" in 1898 to defend Jewish Captain Alfred Dreyfus during France's infamous Dreyfus Affair. The online book is in the original French with help in English. Merci, Professeur Bougaïeff.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based website producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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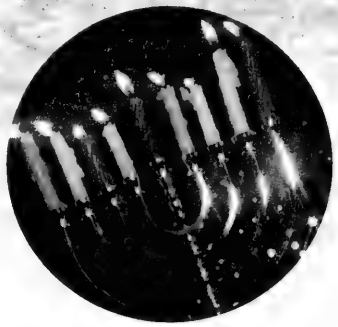

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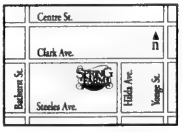

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On Campus

Tensions at York U are being addressed

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Despite – or perhaps because of – tensions among members of their respective groups at York University, Paul Cooper, president of the Young Zionist Partnership (YZP) and Ali Hassan, president of the Middle Eastern Students Association (MESA) maintain a cordial working relationship and were planning to meet this week with members of their executives.

"We try to maintain a working relationship for the good of our two groups and the good of the York community," said Cooper. "University is a place for debate to exist."

'We try to maintain a working relationship for the good of our two groups'

Recently the two groups were the subject of a front-page article in their campus newspaper *Excalibur*, after heated arguments broke out in a high-traffic area, the Vari-Ross link, when the YZP and MESA's Palestinian Human Rights committee had neighbouring tables. Each had literature deemed objectionable by the other group.

"I feel it's unfortunate that people who aren't interested in what's going on are forced to walk through a crowd of people yelling at us for having Israeli education on board," said Cooper, a co-founder last year of YZP, which is more right-wing and more politically oriented than JSF: The Centre for Jewish Campus Life at York University. YZP now has 180 members.

"Some students got carried away,' said Hassan. "Some people on both sides have families who have suffered." He said he was shoved when he asked one student for his name.

Cooper witnessed violence from the other side, in the form of a punching incident. But even in a non-hostile conversation with a moderate Arab student, he said, he was told that Jews have the upper hand because they own the media and the power structures and "can manufacture truth."

That exchange represents "a scary new attitude emerging on campus," said Cooper, who countered those assumptions one example at a time, noting for instance that media mogul Ted Turner is not Jewish.

The YZP poster that sparked objections from MESA bore two images side by side: under the headline "American terror," a white-robed and hooded Ku Klux Klan member; next to it bearing the title "Palestinian terror," an Arab, a keffiyah obscuring most of his face, and a bomb strapped to his head. The text read "The Face of Terror. Intolerance harms people of all races. The Common Bond is Hate!"

"Somehow that was deemed racist, as if we were referring to all Palestinians as terrorists, and as if we were referring to all Americans as terrorists," said Cooper. He noted that he and Hassan had had an "unofficial agreement" that each group would have items the other would "not enjoy" and that there would be no need to go to each other's tables.

Cooper said he told Hassan that some of MESA's information was statistically false. He also objected to pictures of Israeli soldiers dealing aggressively with children, because of a lack of context and misleading implications.

He does not see the recent incident as a setback in Jewish-Arab student relations. He said that at the upcoming meeting, the two groups would share what they planned to display. Although he expects that nobody will like anything the other group has, they plan to single out and not use the most offensive items and each group "will know the worst because [we'll] have agreed to it." Part of the agreement would include letting group members know what was discussed, he said.

Hassan said that plans are to "make sure that information from both sides is accurate and that none of the information will induce violence or threats, and that none of it could be construed as hate propaganda. Hopefully we'll be able to present both views without inducing hate."

They are even talking about the possibility of a joint event.

"Discussion is always good," said Hassan. "Yelling and screaming is not productive at all."

See page 30 for more On Campus.

Israel, U.S. get blamed for world's problems

Continued from page 3

Academics in Solidarity with Palestinian Academics.

***

Ahmad also encouraged those present to align themselves with global protests and participate in all demonstrations, including the Walk Out Against the War on Iraq, which took place on Nov. 13 at York at noon. Rally organizers "encouraged students, professors, workers to walk out of their classes or places of work... in protest against the unjust war."

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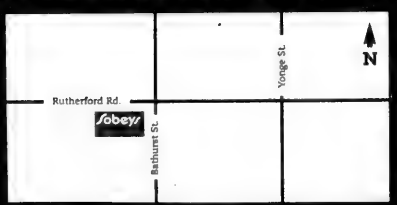

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Jewish Toronto

Helping Israel - from Toronto to Panama

When members of Toronto's Jewish community banded together on Israel's behalf, they joined countless Jews on many continents.

In the United States, United Jewish Communities (UJC), the umbrella organization for North American Jewish federation's, raised over $315 million U.S. to help ease Israel's emergency.

Keren Hayesod, the fundraising arm for the Jewish Agency - UJA Federation's overseas partner – works with 50 countries around the world to assist Israel.

Latin American communities fared better than ever as the crisis facing Israel was universally understood.

"We've seen particularly outstanding results in Mexico, and in Brazil," says KH Director General Gad Ben Ari. "Even small, more unlikely communities such as Panama, which has only 6,000 Jews, have come through. Panama quadrupled last year's total from $500,000 to $2 million this year."

Ben Ari also pointed to other solid contributors such as Greece and Australia, but says that Toronto's UJA Federation is the KH world leader.

"The results of Toronto's campaign have been simply incredible," notes Ben Ari. "Even though we, in Israel, recognize Toronto – and all of Canada – as a warm, strong, Zionist community, we didn't expect this."

Ben Ari, who was in Toronto in April just as the Israel Emergency Campaign began, says he felt something stirring among Torontonians.

"I could feel the electricity in the air, and I could see the look of determination on the faces of everybody I met in Toronto. I knew that this would be something special. The momentum was there from the very first day and it just kept gaining even more strength as the campaign wore on."

Gad Ben Ari, Director General of Keren Hayesod, in Toronto last April as UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 began.

The Israel Now Consortium is uniting Jewish Toronto

The Israel Now Consortium, with a membership of over 100 community organizations and growing, is a thriving force in initiating, planning and promoting pro-Israel activities in Toronto. Chaired by Julia Koschitzky, the consortium - under the auspices of UJA Federation and the Consulate General of Israel - offers one of North America's most unified voices on Israel's behalf.

The consortium – representing the entire religious and ideological spectrum of the community – is playing a critical role by ardently and passionately showing the citizens of Israel they will never stand alone.

"The consortium makes a bold statement to our brothers and sisters in Israel. It lets them know that we are here, doing something, big or small, every day for them," says Koschitzky.

Consortium-run rallies in Toronto attracted more than 20,000 participants, while also helping send thousands more to pro-Israel rallies in Washington and Ottawa by bus and plane. It also organized Toronto's largest-ever Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration at Earl Bales Park with over 10,000 participants on hand.

On Yom Ha'atzmaut, more than 10,000 people marched along Bathurst Street to Earl Bales Park for a celebration organized by the Israel Now Consortium.

For Richmond Hill dentist and Ottawa rally participant Alex Pister, the Israel Now Consortium is essential in uniting Jews for the good of Israel.

"I'll be honest with you," says Pister, "I didn't want to go to Ottawa. My wife convinced me that it was my moral obligation to go, and it turned out to be one of the best decisions I made. These rallies are essential. It was great to see so many Jews, young and old, from all religious backgrounds, together. Even my two young daughters who came with me said afterwards that they were so happy and proud to be Jewish."

"The Israel Now Consortium is an extremely important organization under the tremendous leadership of Julia Koschitzky," says Israel's Consul General Meir Romem. "The Israel Now Consortium has been doing an outstanding job. The rallies, the educational speakers, everything they are doing in Toronto is having a wonderful affect on Israel. The Consulate is very happy with the work of the consortium, and so is Israel."

"The consortium is a reflection of Toronto's remarkable Jewish community and its unbreakable bond with Israel," adds Koschitzky. "Few communities in the world have united to such an extraordinary extent on behalf of Israel and the impact can only be positive and powerful."

Jewish Chamber of Commerce holds inaugural event

Isadore "Issy" Sharp, (left) Chairman and CEO of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts was the keynote speaker at the first event held by Toronto's Jewish Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with UJA Federation. Sharp addressed more than 300 people on hand for the event. Pictured, Sharp, (left) enjoys a chat with Richard Wajs, Chair of the Jewish Chamber of Commerce. The new initiative will offer Toronto's young Jewish business community the opportunity to meet and network with several outstanding business leaders.

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JEWISH TORONTO IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

Community comes through for unprecedented results

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 has raised $61 million so far, on track for $66 million, making it the most successful campaign in the history of Toronto's Jewish community and the Jewish world's third largest.

A portion of funds raised during UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 will assist Israel's victims of terror.

Israel emergency funds raised will assist Israel's victims of terror; expand security at kindergartens and daycare centres; enhance medical, psychological and human services for Israel's most vulnerable; and intensify Israel advocacy activities in Canada.

Emergency money will be allocated to:

- Security guards at Israeli pre-schools
- Israeli children who have lost one or both parents at the hands of terrorists
- Israeli hospitals and trauma centres for medical equipment
- Parent and child centres and expanded programming for children at risk
- Intensified efforts to promote support for Israel in Canada and to fight a new worldwide wave of anti-Semitism

"When this campaign began in April, every volunteer and donor knew that Israel could never survive indifference," says Howard Sokolowski, chair of the campaign with Ronnie Appleby. "So the outpouring of love for Israel was immediate and never-ending. We witnessed a revival of love for Israel among thousands of young people who gave gifts, joined missions, planned programs and proudly held placards at community events."

"From day one, people knew that it was up to all of us to stand together with Israel during these tough times," says Appleby. "They came through as expected, and the entire community should feel proud."

The chronology of a campaign

In early April this year, UJA Federation and Toronto's Jewish community – with the urgency of Israel's situation on everyone's mind – sprang into action.

Toronto's UJA Federation annual campaign was about to begin – four months earlier than usual – in conjunction with Israel Emergency Campaigns across North America.

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 recently surpassed the $60 million mark, $19 million more than last year at this time, on its way to $66 million.

In the first two months of the Emergency Campaign, UJA had raised more than $45 million.

"The need for programs to serve Israel's most vulnerable was dramatically increasing as resources were – necessarily – being diverted to security; the cost of long-term terror relief increased with every blast," says Howard Sokolowski, chair of the campaign with Ronnie Appleby.

"Israeli families and the entire country are suffering economic hardships, so these emergency fundraising dollars have made a major difference," says Appleby. "Our message to Israel loudly and clearly is that 'we're with you.'"

Appleby and Sokolowski immediately recruited an emergency cabinet for the most important UJA campaign since the 1973 Yom Kippur War. A UJA leadership delegation took off for Israel on April 8 for an emergency fact-finding mission.

An emergency meeting of leading donors, chaired by Barry Sherman and Irving Granovsky, was quickly called at Toronto's Royal York Hotel where $7.5 million additional dollars for Israel were raised.

UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 was not based solely on fundraising. Monthly missions to Israel and advocacy for Israel were the other key components. One of the world's largest demonstrations of support for Israel occurred on UJA Federation's Walk With Israel, on May 20, when 25,000 Torontonians marched through the downtown streets and filled the SkyDome.

Campaign supporter Dov Altman was not surprised by Toronto's commitment to Israel.

Ambassador Alon Pinkas (second from left) joined UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 Chairs Howard Sokolowski (left), Ronnie Appleby (right) and Hinda Silber, Chair of Women's Campaign & Advocacy at the official Campaign launch in April.

"As a community, we in Toronto have always been very generous to Israel – not only through UJA Federation, but other organizations as well," says Altman. "We, as parents, are proud to support Israel and show our children just how remarkable a people we are."

For long-time UJA Federation campaign canvasser, Agi Mandel, convincing Toronto's Jewish community to dig deep wasn't a difficult assignment.

"Everybody understood Israel's situation clearly," says Mandel. "It was actually exhilarating to speak to the members of this incredible community. Talking to virtual strangers, we had the common concern and interest of Israel which we would end up discussing and sharing with each other. We are so fortunate to be a part of this amazing community."

Our mission is Israel

a record 29 missions in 24 months

Members of Toronto's Jewish community have not only financially supported Israel the past two years, they've been visiting Israel on solidarity missions as well. In fact, over 2,000 Torontonians have joined solidarity trips – 1300 of them on UJA Federation's 29 missions – the most of any other North American community.

"I don't believe there is any other Jewish community in the world that has sent nearly 30 missions in 24 months," says Victor Yagoda of the UIA Federations Canada office in Israel.

"Believe me, I was not someone who was likely to ever go on a mission to Israel," says Jonathan Kirshblum. "I've been to Israel over 20 times on my own or with family, and I visit family in Israel quite often, so for me, a mission was not really an option."

However, that mentality changed after he saw the positive impact of his mission on the people of Israel.

"The war with the Palestinians is not really a military war; it's a spiritual war, testing the spiritual resolve of Israelis," he says. "I learned that by sending mission after mission to Israel, we are showing Israelis that they are not alone, and that missions are vital for their spiritual well-being."

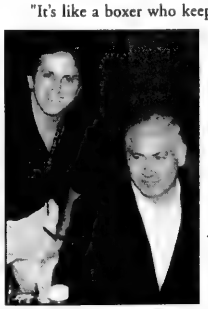
Toronto's Philip Ladovsky, a recent mission participant, says that missions serve as an educational tool for Jews of every age.

"I went because it's essential that as many of us go as possible," says Ladovsky, "but I also went because I wanted my son, Nathan, who recently had his bar mitzvah, to see Israel firsthand."

Ladovsky figured that it was time for Nathan – who has spent the last 8 years involved in Zionist studies at Bialik – to get out of a book and onto the land itself.

"The time was right for my son to go and appreciate Israel for all that it is. I wanted him to meet its remarkable people, touch its earth, and breathe its air. He did it, and, hopefully, we'll do it again soon with my two other sons."

"It's like a boxer who keeps getting hit over and over again," adds Kirshblum. "If he returns to his corner at the bell, but there's nobody there to encourage and soothe him, what will happen? Israel needs us in her corner."



Pictured left: Jonathan Kirshblum, who recently participated on his first mission, meets with former Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem.

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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Nov. ,25 is deadline for Dec. 5 issue and Monday, Dec. 2, is deadline for Dec. 12. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, Nov. 21

FROM HERZL TO HI-TECH

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am fall lecture series, Israel at 55: Strengths and Challenges, continues with From Herzl to Hi-Tech... From Micro to Macro by **Dr. Joseph Fox**, Weizmann Institute Canada, and **Dr. Bradley Strauss,** cardiologist, 8 p.m., 416-633-5500.

TOURISM EVENING

Beth Tikvah Congregation welcomes you to Israel: I Care and I am Going, a tourism evening with the Israel Government Tourist Office. Learn how to organize a synagogue mission or volunteer trip to Israel. 8 p.m. 416-224-3433.

Friday, Nov. 22

AT SOLEL

What It's Like to Be a Jew and Work for the *Toronto Star*, guest speaker **Vivian Macdonald.** 8:30 p.m., Solel Congregation, 2399 Folkway Dr., Mississauga. 905-820-5915.

NASHIRA SHABBAT

Kabalat Shabbat service for those in their 20s and 30s, followed by dinner, singing, 6 p.m. First Narayever Congregation, 187 Brunswick Ave.

KABALAT SHABBAT

Shir Libeynu Congregation Kabalat Shabbat: Marking the Miraculous. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Metropolitan United Church, Church House, 300 Queen St. E. 416-465-5488.

Saturday, Nov. 23

ISRAEL AND THE MEDIA

Christie Blatchford, *National Post,* discusses Through a Journalist's Eyes: Israel and the Media, at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation's Saturday Night Live Learning Program. Singles welcome. 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 24

THE STORY OF CHANUKAH

Temple Sinai's morning lecture series features its director of education **Ira Schweitzer**. Topic: The True Story of Chanukah. Services at 9:30 a.m., lecture at 9:50 a.m.

HOLIDAY GIFT SHOW

Montessori Jewish Day School Holiday Gift Show, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., 585 Cranbrooke Ave.

WINGATE BRANCH

General Wingate Branch, Royal Canadian Legion, general members breakfast meeting, 9:15 a.m., Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave. 416-782-5024.

ISRAELI DANCING

Shaar Shalom's Mother-Daughter Israeli Dancing for adults with children in Grades 1-6, 6:30 p.m. Fathers, sons, grandparents welcome. 905-889-4975, ext. 62.

SINGLES BRUNCH

Intersynagogue Singles presents musician **Mickey Lewin**, brunch at 11:30 a.m. at Adath Israel Synagogue. **Nilly**, 416-635-5340.

OPEN AUCTION

Carmel Chapter of Hadassah-WIZO Open Auction at Earl Bales Community Centre. Light supper 6:30 p.m., fun auction 7:30 p.m. **Helen** 416-633-5653 or **Elva** 416-665-2096.

JEWISH STUDIES PROGRAM

The Jewish studies program, University of Toronto, Joseph and Gertie Schwartz Memorial Lecture by **Prof. William Propp,** University of California, San Diego. Topic: The Physics of Holiness: Life, the Universe, and Everything According to the Torah. 8 p.m., University

Continued on page 29

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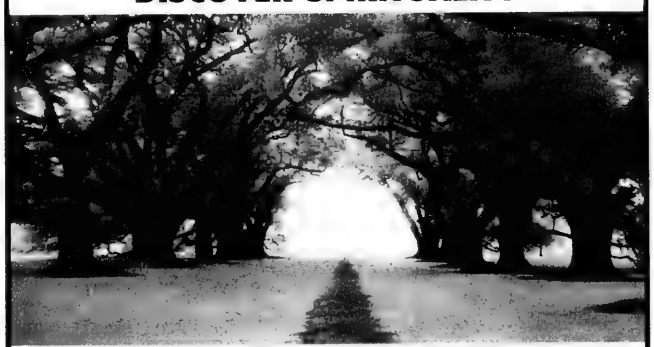

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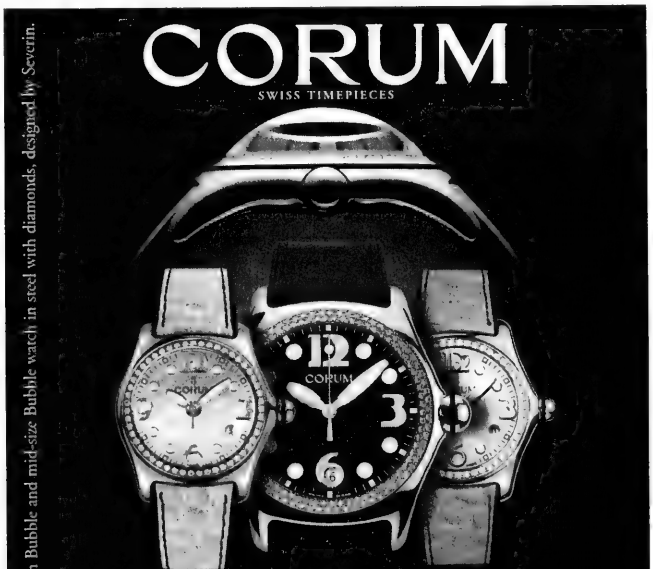

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Continued from page 28

College, 15 King's College Circle, Room 140. 416-978-8118.

FORGERY OF THE TALMUD

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation and Congregation B'nai Torah feature **Prof. Sid Leiman** of Brooklyn College, speaking on Scholars and Scoundrels: Modern Jewish Forgery of the Talmud, 8 p.m. at BAYT.

GAMES SINGLES PLAY

Social evening for men and ladies, Trivial Pursuit, Scrabble and more, 7:30 p.m., Beth Torah Synagogue, 47 Glenbrook Ave. **Mollie** 416-733-3634.

Monday, Nov. 25

THE SITUATION IN ISRAEL

Panel discussion, Viewpoints on Hamatzav, The Situation in Israel, 7:30 p.m. at Congregation Darchei Noam, 15 Hove St. Featuring **Prof. Emanuel Adler,** U of T. **Simon Rosenblum**, Canadian Jewish Congress, and **Moshe Ronen**, CJC. Moderator **Frank Bialystock**, University of Waterloo. 416-638-4783.

Tuesday, Nov. 26

ISRAEL AND THE MIDEAST

Frank Dimant, executive vice-president, B'nai Brith Canada, speaks on Israel and the Turmoil in the Middle East. 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. 416-781-3511.

MOSES & THE EXODUS

At Adath Israel Synagogue, **Prof. Baruch Schwartz** of Hebrew University speaks on Did Moses and the Exodus Really Happen? Some Scholarly Investigations, 8 p.m.

SISTERHOOD MEETING

Shaarei Shomayim Sisterhood meeting and lunch with **Shuli Grunwald.** Topic: Nutrition for Seniors, 12:30 p.m. Reserve. **Ruth Fruitman** 905-731-6660.

CHUG TANACH

Meets at 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue to study the Book of Ezekiel, led by **Rabbi Irwin Witty**.

BOOK REVIEW

Adath Israel Sisterhood book review series, facilitated by **Heather Kassel,** focuses on *The Stone Carvers* by **Jane Urquhart**, 8 p.m.

JEWISH FAMILY INSTITUTE

How to Raise a Mensch, with **Sarah Chana Radcliffe**, 5-week series, 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., the Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. RSVP 416-785-1107, ext. 204.

Wednesday, Nov. 27

CHALLENGES OF SUPPORT

Canada-Israel Committee, Israel Now, Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am present **Peter Beinart**, editor, *The New Republic*, speaking on Israel and North American Jewry: The Challenges of Support, 8 p.m. at the synagogue.

ERNEST RAAB SCULPTURE

Canadian artist **Ernest Raab** presents the Beth Tzedec Reuben & Helene Dennis Museum and synagogue with a gift of his work, a bronze sculpture titled Mathausen, 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3514, ext. 32.

CABARET NIGHT

The Mature Adults Get Together Group of Kehillat Shaarei Torah Synagogue, sing-a-long, fun, food, dancing, plus **Lyle Muscat** performs Hebrew, Yiddish and show tunes on the electronic keyboard. 8 p.m., 2640 Bayview Ave. 416-229-2600.

JEWISH BLACK

Holy Blossom Temple Library sponsors the panel discussion The Jewish Black Experience, 7:30 p.m. **Anne** 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

JEWISH GENEALOGY

Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) meets 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. The film *Atlantic Drift* is being shown with commentary by member **Henry Wellisch**.

Thursday, Nov. 28

DIABETES EDUCATION

Diabetes education is coming to the Bernard Betel Centre. A general information session is scheduled for 1:15-2:15 p.m. Also, a nurse and a dietician will be available on Tuesdays, starting Dec. 3.

SPECIAL MOVIE NIGHT

Gila Chapter, Toronto Hadassah-WIZO movie night in memory of **Penny Benjamin**, 8 p.m. Reception 7 p.m., film *Analyze That* at 8 p.m. Grande Cinemas, Yonge and Sheppard. Proceeds to Assaf Harofeh Medical Centre, oncology department.

And What Else Is New

CHABAD OF MARKHAM

Adult Education Courses: Basic Judaism Crash Course, **Rabbi Plotkin**, Tuesday. 8 p.m.; Thank God I'm a Woman, **Goldie Plotkin**, Wednesday 9:15a.m.; Hebrew Reading for Beginners, **Rabbi Gitlin**, Wednesday 8 p.m.; Kabbalah, **Rabbi Plotkin**, Wednesdays 8 p.m.; Exploring Jewish Meditation, **Chashi Skobac**, Mondays 8 p.m.

SHABBAT CHANUKAH

Beth Tzedec Sisterhood members will participate in the Shabbat Chanukah services, Nov. 30, which begin 8:45 a.m. Luncheon follows. **Rachel Schlesinger** speaks on Eight Jewish Women Through the Ages. Pre-paid reservations necessary. Call 416-781-3511 by Nov. 25.

CARLEBACH SHABBATON

With **Rabbi Baruch Lazewnik** and filmmaker **Simcha Jacobovici** at the Riverdale Shul, 179A Danforth Ave. Chanukah, Friday, Nov. 29 and Shabbat, Saturday, Nov. 30 Chanukah candles, Kabalat Shabbat, Shabbat dinner, melaveh malka. 416-826-4539.

HEBREW COURSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave., winter courses for adults, teens and pre-teens in conversational Hebrew for all levels, run mid-January to mid-April. For details, **Joseph Klinger** 416-787-0197.

CHANUKAH GIFT DRIVE

National Council of Jewish Women Chanukah Gift Drive for the Huronia Regional Centre, a home for developmentally delayed adults. Drop off gifts by Nov. 27 at Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100.

ISRAELI FOLK DANCING

Israeli folk dancing, classic and traditional, with **Teme** and **Yossi**, the first Sunday of the month, Dec. 1 to June 1 at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. Teme 416-630-5871 or Yossi 905-781-0004.

JF & CS WORKSHOPS

Jewish Family & Child Service workshops. Registration, **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Developing a Successful Parenting Plan, for parents wanting to develop a business-like relationship with their "ex" partners, Tuesday, Dec. 10, Promenade Mall, Suite 313, from 6:30-8:30.

High Conflict Divorce, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 4600 Bathurst St., Lipa Green Building, 6:30-9 p.m.

Adolescents and Divorce, Wednesday, Dec. 11, Promenade Mall, Suite 313, from 7-9 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building), Chanukah dance party Nov. 30. On Nov. 21, video movie; Nov. 28, free evening for stories and discussion. **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Saturday dances Nov. 23, Dec. 7, 21; Sunday dances Dec. 1, 15; Dec. 29, pre-New Year's party. Membership open. 416-395-7881.

Young at Heart Seniors Florida vacation at glatt kosher Saxony Hotel. Will give plane and medical cancellation. 2 weeks and up on the ocean with meals or efficiency and more. **Helen** 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Science Fiction: Exploring the Future, **Prof. Allan Weiss,** York University, Tuesday, Nov. 26, 10 a.m. **Barbara Zigler** ext. 134.

Osteoporosis Interest Group. Tuesday, Nov. 26, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Elaine Beltijar,** clinical pharmacist, presents Drug Therapy for Osteoporosis. For information, ext. 126.

Current Events with **Joe Black** every Monday, 10-11:30 a.m.

The Armchair Traveller, Thursday, Nov. 28, 10-11 a.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking people, meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Nov. 26, concert with Toronto Taffanel Winds Assembly; Dec. 3, Chanukah party, entertainment by **Essi Zohar** and **Rita**. Call **Anna** ext.110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Sunday, Nov. 24, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer** speaks on The Spiritual Self-Transformation of Chanukah. Presented by Downtown Jewish Community School in co-operation with the Miles Nadal JCC.

Registration for winter session begins Sunday, Nov. 24. Programs start Jan. 6.

Hebrew Language, Hebrew 2, a 6-week program begins Jan. 14. Tuesdays 8-9:30 p.m. with **Esther Benari-Altman.**

Senior events: Thursday, Nov. 21, Sing-a-Long 1 p.m. and Healthy Living for Longevity with **Sharon Leach** at 2 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 28. volunteer mailing flyers.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St.416-636-1880.

Chanukahpalooza! at the BJCC. A great Chanukah celebration, Sunday, Dec. 1, 12:30-2:30 p.m. Fun for the entire family. Grand prize draw.

MORE SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 30

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A Panel Discussion

Viewpoints on Hamatzav

The Situation in Israel

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Dr. Frank Bialystok
Adjunct Professor of History, Waterloo University

Panelists:
Professor Emanuel Adler,
Charles and Andrea Bronfman Chair in Israel Studies, University of Toronto, Visiting Professor from Hebrew U.

Simon Rosenblum,
Director of Public Policy and Israel Affairs for the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region

Moshe Ronen,
Chair, Board of Governors of the Canadian Jewish Congress, National Past President

Monday, November 25, 2002
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For more information, call
Congregation Darchei Noam at 416-638-4783

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SINGLES EVENTS

DEADLINE:
Wednesday 4 p.m.
8 days preceding issue date

For rates or to place an ad call 416-391-1836

The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries on events to the event's organizers

***GAMES Jewish Singles Play! Sunday, Nov. 24, 7:30 pm,** Beth Torah, 47 Glenbrook. Grp 'A': ages 21-39; Grp 'B': 40-69. **"Millionaire" game, etc. Bingo** 7:30-8 pm. Prizes, refresh. **$6. 124 couples have already met!** Free introductions. Mollie, 416-733-3634.

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On Campus

Students brave cold to commemorate Holocaust victims

By LARA RABINOVITCH
Special to The CJN

At the recent Reading of the Names ceremony held at the University of Toronto as part of Holocaust Education Week, students stood outside in the cold in 20-minute shifts, from noon on Nov. 7 to noon on Nov. 8, reading the names of almost 20,000 Jews murdered during the Holocaust.

Holocaust Education Week

More than 75 students participated in the fourth annual event, which also marked the anniversary of Kristallnacht, the Night of Broken Glass, which occurred Nov. 9, 1938. Some Holocaust survivors also attended and read the names of their loved ones who had perished.

> *'When you read that person's name, you give them an identity'*

Co-organized by Hyla Korn, the orientation, outreach and engagement co-ordinator for Hillel at U of T and the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, and Noah Lazar, the philanthropy chair of the Jewish fraternity Alpha Epsilon Pi, the solemn event was held outside the University College Union building, near St. George and Harbord Streets. Korn and Lazar are both third year undergraduate students at U of T.

Robert Birgeneau, the university's president, was among the first to read names over the loudspeaker. Most names were read, along with place of birth and residence, and age and place of death. Approximately 700 of the people named were relatives of members of the Toronto Jewish community.

Frank Bialystok, adjunct professor of history at the University of Waterloo and author of *Delayed Impact: The Holocaust and the Canadian Jewish Community*, delivered a brief address at the ceremony's conclusion.

"When you read that person's name, you give them an identity," he said.

Bialystok said the ceremony is "a way of reconnecting with a heritage that was ruptured, a civilization that was destroyed."

One student added it would take almost one year of continual reading of names to identify all those who were murdered in the Holocaust.

Both Korn and Lazar, who had only four hours of sleep each during the event, thanked the participants and attendees for their support. They said many of the survivors were grateful that the students initiated the reading to honour and remember those who were killed.

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Congregation Darchei Noam presents

Beyond the December Dilemma

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Tina Grimberg is the rabbi of Congregation Darchei Noam, the Reconstructionist Synagogue of Toronto.

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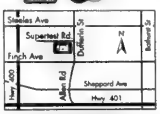

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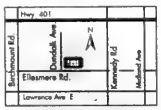

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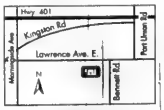

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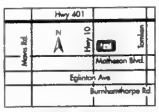

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United Church minister discusses Malcolm Ross

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Rev. James Leland says his life changed forever when he became aware of the anti-Semitic writings of former New Brunswick school teacher Malcolm Ross.

Until he heard about the Holocaust denial of Ross and others, the United Church minister said he knew little about Jews or Judaism. He was, in fact, happy with his quiet life in rural New Brunswick and had never imagined himself as a participant in a demonstration, let alone the instigator and leader of one.

In 1996, the Supreme Court of Canada upheld a human rights board ruling that upheld the Moncton, N.B., school board's order to remove Ross from teaching because he had published anti-Semitic material during his off-duty time.

Holocaust Education Week

The school board ordered Ross out of the classroom and gave him an administrative position after a 1988 complaint by a Jewish parent.

Feeling at the time that the Jews of the province were afraid to protest, Rev. Leland said he waited in vain for someone else to speak up.

"I was certain that there would be people who would speak out against this, but there was silence and Malcolm Ross went unopposed," he told a gathering at Southminster United Church as part of Holocaust Education Week.

"This was unacceptable to me. I could not stand the silence. I waited awhile, but then I found myself in a dilemma – I did not feel qualified or skilful enough, did not feel that I knew enough to make a stance," said the minister, who now lives in Ontario.

Beginning with a letter-writing campaign to churches, newspapers, teachers' union and government departments, Rev. Leland then spoke to groups and organized both individuals and organizations to refute Ross and other Holocaust deniers. He also met with Rabbi David Spiro, then of Fredericton, and immersed himself in reading and studying about Judaism.

"I wrote a letter to the people of New Brunswick and sent it to all the major newspapers. I pointed out to the people of New Brunswick that Malcolm Ross must be condemned and... that there was a need for Holocaust education in the schools of New Brunswick.

"I felt that young people could be swayed by racists without the proper education," he said.

As the media became aware of Rev. Leland's campaign, he said he began to get threatening calls and letters.

"For the very first time in my life, I felt threatened, insecure, attacked, and I knew what it was to be hated," he said.

Persevering, he said he was instrumental in the introduction of Holocaust education in N.B. schools.

Last month, Rev. Leland was recognized by the Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies for his work fighting anti-Semitism. He has received similar recognition from the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Atlantic Jewish Council, including the AJC's Jerusalem Award for his commitment to social justice.

On the same program, Rabbi Ely Braun of Beth Shalom Synagogue described his return for the first time to Germany, where he was born. In July 2001, after a rabbinic mission to Berlin, Rabbi Braun was joined by his mother, brother and sister-in-law on a family trip to Poland and Belarus. He shared his moving experience of returning to his roots and the bittersweet feelings the trip engendered.

Elsewhere in this issue...

Israeli college geared to new millennium

see page 53

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Coast to Coast

Internet hate must be confronted: activist

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Though the number of neo-Nazis actively using the Internet to promote hatred is small, there aren't enough people working to refute them, says the director of a Web site dedicated to countering online Holocaust denial and racism.

Holocaust Education Week

Speaking at Congregation Machzikei Hadas as part of Holocaust Education Week, Ken McVay urged his mainly Jewish audience to "never quit" fighting racism, "because the minute you do, you are granting some Nazi a little more space to spread hate. The message of the Shoah is to never, ever forget."

When asked how widespread anti-Semitic propaganda is on the Internet, McVay, a non-Jew who has made it his life's work to fight Holocaust denial on the Web, said there is nothing to be alarmed about in terms of sheer volume.

He estimated that of the approximately 600 million people using the Internet, only about 200 to 300 are promulgating Nazi hatred.

But the "most serious problem" is that "there are only about two dozen people actively refuting their ideology.

"The danger is that one person can put up a very professional Web site and appear to represent thousands, and can reach people around the world," McVay said.

"My message to the world and, in particular, to the Jewish community, is that the hatred is not being confronted as it should."

A former U.S. Marine who has lived in British Columbia for 35 years, McVay credits his grandfather for teaching him to stand up for what is right.

He said he first encountered anti-Semitic literature and Holocaust denial propaganda on the Internet 10 years ago. The discovery led him to research the Holocaust and engage Holocaust deniers by countering their anti-Semitic propaganda with facts that he posts online.

The result of that work – the Nizkor Project, at www.nizkor.org – is perhaps the most extensive Web site dedicated to the refutation of Holocaust denial, one that is used extensively by researchers, journalists and students.

McVay said it is a "very bad time to be a Jew in Canada," because the situation in the Middle East has led to an increase in anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic incidents here.

McVay said he has been "accused" of being Jewish and has received many death threats because of his very public work.

McVay also told the audience that "from the Nazi point of view, you should be very proud of all your power. According to them, you control the media, the education system, the courts and the monetary system."

McVay, who believes in countering Holocaust deniers and racists with facts rather than censoring them, urged his listeners to "refuse to tolerate [hatred]... The hatred won't go away until you refuse to tolerate it in your community. No amount of legislation will do it... My belief is that the solution is public education."

McVay challenged the Jewish community to refuse to be apathetic. "It frustrates me that so many people just don't give a damn."

Collection of old Judaica on exhibit

OTTAWA — Many of the same people who were at the launch of the Jacob M. Lowy Collection a quarter century ago attended the recent opening of a new and exciting exhibit of some of its contents at the Library and Archives of Canada.

In Good Company: A Celebration of the Jacob M. Lowy Collection in Its 25th Year, brings together some of the most intriguing and beloved books from the 4,000-volume collection of old and rare Hebraica and Judaica dating from the 15th to the 20th century.

The collection, amassed by the late Jacob M. Lowy over a period of 50 years, was donated to the National Library of Canada in 1977 and has since been added to by a number of donors.

Those attending the opening ceremony for the new exhibit included members of the Lowy Council, an advisory body affiliated with the Friends of the National Library of Canada), Israel's ambassador to Canada, Haim Divon, former deputy prime minister Herb Gray, and Clara Lowy, Lowy's widow, who came from Montreal for the occasion.

"It is a wonderful celebration and I certainly feel grateful to be here in the company of so many people who were also at the [1977] opening of the library," Lowy said.

Following welcoming remarks by Roch Carrier, the national librarian, the exhibit's curator, Cheryl Jaffee, described the exhibit to guests.

"You will see two portraits gazing back at you from the far wall of the exhibition room. Two portraits. Two very different destinies," she said.

"One is the face of a father who was denounced and deported by the authorities in his hometown of Bardejob, in Slovakia. His name was Raphael Lowy, and he perished in Auschwitz.

"The other is the face of the son who survived. His name was Yaakov Elimelekh Levi – Jacob Max Lowy. Over the course of his lifetime, he would assemble a great library of old and rare Hebraica and Judaica. That creative act was his defiant response to those who would destroy the world... Tonight we honour them both."

Norman Barwin, chair of the Lowy Council, said the Lowy Collection is "a national treasure" and that "the warmth, the vibrations that come from every book, every book that touches you as you walk through the Judaica and Hebraica, it is our history."

The exhibit runs until Jan. 5. - D.K.

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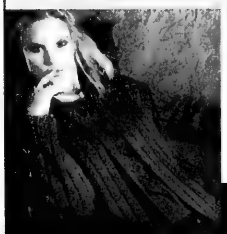

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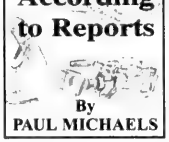
Coast to Coast

Double standards on targeted killings

On Nov. 2, the CIA fired a missile from an unmanned Predator aircraft over Yemen and killed a senior Al Qaeda leader and five colleagues as they were riding in a car near the capital of Sana.

This was the first time the Predator was employed outside Afghanistan, where it was used to kill Muhammed Atef, Al Qaeda's chief of military operations, last year.

According to Reports



By PAUL MICHAELS

Reporting on this operation in the Nov. 5 issue of the *New York Times*, James Risen and Judith Miller explained: "The decision to use military force to attack Al Qaeda leaders in Yemen rather than to try to arrest them fits in with a broader [Bush] administration view that the world is a battlefield in the campaign against terrorism, and that Al Qaeda operatives should be treated as enemy combatants."

In a follow-up story, the *Times* reported that the Yemen strike "was authorized under the same set of classified presidential findings, legal opinions and policy directives... that have set the rules for the administration's campaign to prevent terror."

However, it appears that what applies to the United States in combating terrorism does not apply to Israel.

The day after the Yemen attack, U.S. state department spokesman Richard Boucher reemphasized that America was opposed to Israel's "targeted killings" of Palestinians who are believed to be involved in terrorism. The two cases, Boucher says, were not comparable.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell underscored this assessment during an interview on CNN: "We believe that there are significant differences [between the cases of Israel and the United States]. [The Yemen] operation was a case of clearly somebody engaged in a direct conflict with the United States."

Israel was miffed because it finds itself under attack like the United States, except that Israel must contend with terrorist attacks almost every day, a "relentless campaign" as the CBC's Paul Workman put it in his Nov. 1 report, involving more than 50 suicide bombings since last January. And unlike Israel, the United States had not previously tried to negotiate a political settlement with an enemy sworn for a long time to its destruction.

While the United States chided Israel about its "targeted killings," it expressed near glee at the success of the Yemen operation. One senior U.S. law enforcement official said, "I'm ecstatic. We're at war and we've got to use the means at our disposal to protect the country. You've got to use all your tools, and this is a kind of war which requires us to fight on multiple fronts with all the weapons at our disposal."

And Tom Friedman, the *New York Times*' highly respected foreign affairs analyst, reflected: "I'm glad we did that. Sometimes it's the only way justice gets done" (Nov. 10). Friedman advocates diplomacy in the long run, but not with "hard-core terrorists" who must be dealt with decisively by force, if necessary.

But "hard-core terrorists" are precisely Israel's dilemma.

Is the old double standard at work again?

Paul Michaels is the director of communications of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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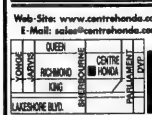

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Coast to Coast

Court stops MPs from speaking at Concordia

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

Concordia University's ban on public events related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will be tested in the Supreme Court, if New Democratic Party MP Svend Robinson has his way.

Robinson, the NDP's foreign affairs spokesperson, took his message to the sidewalk outside the downtown campus last Friday afternoon after he, fellow Vancouver-area NDP MP Libby Davies, and social activist and writer Judy Rebick of Toronto were legally prevented from speaking inside the building.

Robinson said the moratorium shows "utter contempt" for free speech and the injunction is "a travesty of justice" that he says he will challenge to the highest court.

They had been invited by the Concordia Student Union (CSU) to take part in a panel discussion on peace and justice in the Middle East. But less than two hours before the talk was to take place in the main auditorium, Quebec Superior Court granted Concordia an injunction. The court agreed with the administration that the moratorium has legal weight, because it was instituted in accordance with the university's normal legislative process sanctioned under its charter from the Quebec government.

Concordia argued that to allow the invited speakers onto the campus and thereby defy the moratorium in place since Sept. 9 would be a security risk to persons and property.

"Mr. Robinson's previous stand in matters of freedom of speech is commendable, and therefore the university finds itself at a loss to explain why he would choose to oppose measures whose aim is to ensure that people respect the right to dialogue in constructive ways while respecting the rights of others to do the same," Rector Frederick Lowy said at a press conference.

The moratorium was imposed and upheld by the board of governors, Concordia's highest decision-making body chaired by Lillian Vineberg, despite requests from Lowy and the senate to have it lifted, at least gradually.

Lowy said the university resorted to legal means only after the CSU and the MPs refused repeated requests, including a lawyer's letter, to cancel the event.

CSU president Sabine Friesinger said the CSU would return to court in 10 days to try to have the decision quashed.

The CSU publicized the event as a deliberate act to "break" the moratorium.

All three speakers are outspoken supporters of the Palestinian cause. It is questionable whether the CSU actually believed the discussion would go ahead. The hall they said it was to be held in – the same one where Benjamin Netanyahu was to have spoken Sept. 9 – was, in fact, scheduled for a class at that time.

The CSU now has the support of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT). Its vice-president, Bishop's University professor Loretta Czernis, who joined the barred speakers, said the 32,000-member CAUT finds the moratorium "disgusting" and the injunction "outrageous."

Robinson, speaking to several hundred people on the street, charged that Concordia is afraid of losing "corporate money." He chided CanWest Global head Israel Asper for "bullying," citing his Oct. 30 speech in Montreal urging donors to withhold financial support from universities that "fail in their obligation of educational integrity."

Davies, the NDP post-secondary education spokesperson, said the "censorship" at Concordia is a result of the administration's pandering to "the corporate interests" represented on the board.

Rebick, a Ryerson University professor, said she is one of the "hundreds of thousands of Jews around the world" who oppose the occupation and and believe Ariel Sharon is a "catastrophe" for Israel. She denounced B'nai Brith Canada (BBC) executive vice-president Frank Dimant for accusing Robinson of "anti-Jewish hatred."

Before the outside rally, Hillel members and others from the Jewish community staged an unauthorized demonstration in the lobby, waving Israeli and Canadian flags.

Hillel condemned Robinson for "remaining silent while Jews and others were physically and verbally attacked and their rights to freedom of assembly and of speech were violently removed from them and, most importantly, for associating himself with those who condone such activity."

The Hillel demonstrators were rallied by Rabbi Reuben Poupko who blasted the CSU as a "rogue organization" and Robinson for his "extreme anti-Israel views.

"If anybody should be denied free speech, it is those who denied others that right on Sept. 9," he said.

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Jewish Education... on the Move

UJA FEDERATION
Board of Jewish Education

Diversity delivers excellence in Jewish education

by Suzanne Wintrob

In a Jewish community as diverse as Toronto, it's not surprising there are so many Jewish educational choices. There are schools for the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform communities. There are schools with traditional curriculums and those focused on the arts. There are schools for children with learning disabilities and for those with special needs. There's a Jewish Montessori school and a certificate-granting school for adults only.

That's over **70** schools in all, catering to more than **17,000** day school and supplementary school students. Yet while they're certainly diverse, they have one important thing in common: preserving, enriching and promoting Jewish education.

"Toronto has possibly the finest Jewish educational system I've ever seen," said Simon Goulden, chief executive of the Agency for Jewish Education in London, England, on a recent tour of Toronto's Jewish schools. "Not only do you have a community dedicated to the education of its young but you also have a cultural mosaic, not a melting pot. You understand the diversity of cultures and ideas and are accepting and tolerant. Your schools all have the same mission - education as the future of the community - even though you may have different paths to get there. That's very special. It's a model for the rest of the Jewish world."

Associated Hebrew Schools (AHS), with **2,100** Nursery-Grade 8 students on three campuses, and the **Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto,** with 1,430 high school students on two campuses, are perhaps the best examples of Toronto schools that unite students from different backgrounds. AHS Educational Director **Rabbi Abraham Soffer** says the school strives to give students the best Jewish and Torah education possible so they can make informed decisions about how to live their lives as Jews.

"Being Jewish doesn't mean I was born Jewish," he says. "It means I know why I'm Jewish and what it's all about. If you're a Jew and you go to public school and then reach the age of 18 and realize you've learned very little or nothing about Judaism, how can you make choices as to what kind of Jew you want to be?"

The Downtown Jewish Day School caters to Toronto's growing Jewish community in the city centre. Principal **Elysa Cohen** says that, for many families, the arts-based school, with 70 students in Senior Kindergarten to Grade 4, is often their first or only experience with Judaism.

"In everything we do we recognize, understand and celebrate diversity in the ways we think and practice," she says.

The **Toronto Heschel School,** which uses the arts to teach everything from Chumash to science, takes a pluralistic approach. Says principal **Gail Baker:** "There are many expressions of Judaism so we don't promote one particular viewpoint. This is our chance to say Judaism can be a unifying force, not a divisive one."

At the **Florence Melton Adult Mini-School, 65** adult learners gather once a week for two years to learn about Jewish history, lifecycles, concepts and ethics. They graduate with a certificate in Jewish studies from the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Says student **Alan Sandler,** 62: "Other courses just cover a portion of a topic or take a particular point of view. But many of us came out of *cheders* because Jewish day schools didn't exist back then. I was never able to fit everything together. At Melton there's a continuum."

There's much to learn from Chanukah

By:
Marshall Kesten,
Chair,
UJA Federation
Board of Jewish Education

Dr. Seymour Epstein (Epi)
Vice-President for Jewish Education
UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

While it is obvious there are messages in Chanuka for all of us, there are some special aspects of the holiday that speak to our Jewish educational concerns.

The first is the name itself. Chanuka comes from the Hebrew word for dedication, which is also used in Hebrew for education. We have separate words in Hebrew for instruction, *limmud or hora'ah*, but education is *chinuch*. And by education we mean the comprehensive transmission of both facts and values that lead to dedication. Instruction merely informs, while *chinuch* forms whole Jews.

Another aspect of this holiday is the eight-branched Chanukiyah with its shamash. As we all learned, each added flame complements the holiness of the light produced by the Chanukiyah. Each day of the miracle is equally important and necessary to the total victory of spirit over matter - this holiday's key feature.

We at the **UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education** feel that way about each and every school in our community. Day schools and supplementary schools of every persuasion constitute a holy community, united by its desire to educate our young to become dedicated Jews. We think of our role as the Shamash that helps the schools to light their fires of knowledge and passion in the hearts and minds of our youth. *May Chanukah reflect the light of our past into our lives and those of future generations.*

School system nurtures best beginnings

The right preschool education can set a child on the right path for a lifetime of success."The first five years of life are paramount in terms of helping children develop a sense of self-esteem and a love of learning," says **Lorraine Sandler,** a steering committee board member for the new Jewish Early Childhood Initiative at the **Coalition for Advancement in Jewish Education (CAJE).**

"We want to empower children. We want them to be well balanced, well adjusted, happy, problem-solving and useful members of the community."

That's precisely why Toronto's Jewish preschools are doing everything they can to ensure every child gets the best beginning possible. **BJE's** Early Years Principals Council meets once a month to identify best programs and practices for early childhood education. Says **Anne Glickman,** the BJE's Director of Early Childhood and Family Education: "As diverse as the community is, we do have the same concerns. The council ensures we get best practices and research out to all of our schools."

At **Netivot HaTorah Day School,** preschool students are learning entirely in Hebrew. Everything from math and science to *Show and Tell* is conducted in Hebrew, with "quite a bit of body language going on" to help children understand concepts and vocabulary, says Preschool Coordinator **Eilen Goldstein.** Given the school's strong commitment to Israel, the intention is to give children the skills they need to make Hebrew a living language, she adds. **Holy Blossom Temple Preschool** incorporates what principal **Pam Hamovitch** calls an "emergent curriculum" which takes the lead from both the teachers' and the children's interests. The story of Noah and the Ark, for example, was supposed to be the Torah Story of the week but one class was so enthralled, they spent weeks on the topic. They decorated the classroom with boats and animals, baked rainbow cookies, and talked about pairs, animals, things that float, and the meaning of promises.

"The children enacted the story over and over again in so many different ways," says Hamovitch. 'So much learning went on, it didn't matter what the teacher had originally planned."

Campaign funds provide access to Jewish education

Brian Cohen* was just nine when his father passed away. Naturally, it was a tough time for Brian and his two sisters, but perhaps even more so for their young mother Sandra who was thrust into the role of sole supporter for three school-aged children attending Jewish day school. Despite her own grief, Sandra knew she had to focus on her children's happiness and well being during those first few months. Stability was critical, she realized, and, among other things, that meant keeping her children in the school they loved so much and where they were learning how to live a proper Jewish life.

So Sandra did what any other parent would do: she asked for help, turning to the school's tuition committee for financial assistance. The subsidies helped Sandra put all three children through Jewish day school and high school. Her children are thankful for it.

"Having a day school education prepared me well for higher education and for my future, and many of my friends back then are still my good friends today," says Brian, a newlywed who hopes to send his own children to Jewish school one day. "Unfortunately, the cost of Jewish education is such that many families in difficult circumstances think they can't afford to send their children to Jewish schools. Financial assistance gives everyone the same chance at a proper Jewish education, just like my sisters and I had."

Brian's family was assisted by **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto,** which, through its annual campaign, provides nearly **$7** million a year in tuition subsidies for students in affiliated Jewish day schools whose families can't afford to pay full fee. This year's subsidies are being distributed to more than 2,500 assisted students (1,800 families). Additionally, several hundred thousand dollars are provided to affiliated supplementary schools in services and grants.

"The actual total cost of financial assistance is $10 million," says **Bernard Shoub,** Director of Finance at the Board of Jewish Education. "With the community's continued financial support, we are working to ensure that every Jewish child who wants a Jewish education will have access to it."

**Names have been changed to ensure privacy*

Schools aglow for Chanukah

There was Chanukah magic in the air at the recent Jewish Book Fair when students of the **Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim Hebrew Day School - Sara** and **Sam Hennick** Education Centre performed their 10th annual Chanukah play for the community. This year's production, *The Magic Pan,* involved all 90 students in acting, singing, dancing, set design, or helping backstage.

"The experience gives our students a sense of responsibility," says principal **Kathy Manoim.** "It brings out their wonderful talents and really elevates their self-esteem."

Other schools are also basking in the Chanukah glow. The **Toronto Heschel School** will spend Chanukah examining issues relating to *The Challenge of Identity* using an integrated arts teaching model. Through movement, song and drama, students will present the Jewish response to Hellenism, demonstrate the role of Jewish women who used their Jewish identity as a source of courage, investigate the dilemma of how public a Jew should be, examine the plight of Marrano Jews, and discuss issues related to anti-Semitism. **Leo Baeck Day School** will hold a special *Kabbalat Shabbat* for families and teachers led by grade six students, weaving together songs, poetry and stories, while the **United Synagogue Day School's** *Rosh Chodesh Buddying Program* will focus on Chanukah by grouping younger and older grades together for arts and crafts projects related to the holiday. **Toronto Jewish Academy (Ohr Menachem)** will hold its first family Chanukah event with music, bingo, games and treats.

At **Bet Sefer Solel,** students will lead a Shabbat service featuring Chanukah songs from around the world. Meanwhile, **United Congregational Schools'** *Round Robin* event lets families enjoy a host of activities including learning songs, making latkes, playing *Simon Says* with Chanukah-related Hebrew words, and making crafts. The program, held several weeks before Chanukah, gives families unique ideas to use at their own celebrations.

Chabad Lubavitch of Markham will host its annual *Chanukah on Ice* program, November 30th at Thornhill Community Centre - skating fun for the whole family. The evening will include a visit from **Yehuda HaMacabee** on ice, a Menorah lighting ceremony, a Chanukah Carnival and, of course, refreshments.

New initiative embraces innovation

Who says history can't have popular appeal? Just wait until the Canadian Jewish History textbook goes to press. The project, funded by the Max and Beatrice Wolfe Family Foundation will give students in grades seven and eight a personal look at their heritage by exploring events that happened in their own cities. Topics will include the first Jew in Canada, the Jewish response to the rebellions of Upper Canada, the opening of Western Canada to immigration, and much more.

"We're graduating thousands of kids from Jewish schools but they don't know anything about local Jewish history," says co-author **Meir Balofsky.** "Their interest skyrockets when they learn about their own community. It makes history come alive."

ETGAR (Hebrew for "challenge"), a UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education initiative, supported by the Gross and Goodman Family Fund, gives day and supplementary school teachers the opportunity to create innovative Jewish educational programs, curricula and materials. Other **ETGAR** projects in various stages of development include *Sephardic Jewish Heritage, Hebrew Language and Jewish Music* and *Firsts for Jewish Women.*

"These are the kinds of projects where people would otherwise be sitting around saying, 'It's a really good idea but nothing much will come of it,'" says Balofsky. "**ETGAR** offers financial backing and motivation to bring what would otherwise be pipe dreams to fruition." **Debbie Cohen** agrees. She and friend **Felicia Brooker** are working feverishly on the *Firsts for Jewish Women* project, for grades four to six, which uses the Jewish calendar to explore the historical roles of several Jewish women.

"It's one thing to have an idea but another thing to have the opportunity to plan it," says Cohen. "**ETGAR** motivated us to go forward with our idea and make it easy for teachers to incorporate into the curriculum." For more information on **ETGAR** sponsorship opportunities, please contact Shirley Worth at 416-631-5837 or sworth@ujafed.org

For more information about day and supplementary school Jewish education in Toronto, visit our website at www.bjetoronto.org, call us at 416.633.7770 or email to bje@ujafed.org

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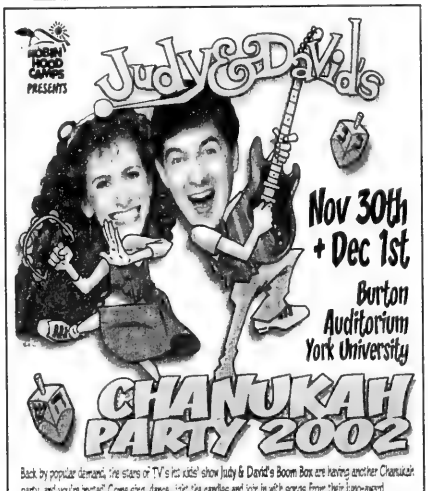
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Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

דער 4טער אַשכּנז פּעסטיוואַל אין טאָראָנטאָ

פֿון שמחה סימכאָוויטש

דער ייִאָריקער פּערטער „אַשכּנז פּעסטיוואַל פֿון דער ניי־ירושלים קולטור" אין טאָראָנטאָ איז אָפּגע־האַלטן געוואָרן אין „לעיבאָר־דעי" סוף־וואָך — אויגוסט 31 ביז סעפּטעמבער 2, אין „הארבאָרפראָנט צענטער" בײַם בראָג פֿון לעק־אָנטעריאָ. אין משך פֿון אָט די דרײַ טעג איז דער שטח אַרום די הארבאָרפראָנט געביידעס, אָן אין די זאַלן אינעווייניק, געווען פּול מיט יונג און אַלט, ייִדן אָן ניט־ייִדן, וואָס זײַנען געקומען הערן די קאָנצערטן אָן קלעזמער־אויפֿטרינען, אָדער זען די פֿילמען אָן טעאַטער־פֿאָרשטעלונגען, וואָס שפּיגלען אָפּ די רײַ־כע קולטור־יידישה פֿון אַשכּנזישן ייִדנטום.

לכבוד דעם פּעסטיוואַל איז דערשינען אַן אילוסט־רירטע בראָשור מיט אינפֿאָרמאַציעס אָן צייט־פּלענער פֿון די פֿאַרשידענע אונטערנעמונגען אָן געסט־אַרטיסטן, וואָס נעמען אָנטייל אין זיי.

דער עצם פּעסטיוואַל האָט זיך אָנגעהויבן שבת־צו־נאַכט, מיט אַן איינדרוקספֿולער הבדלה־צערעמאָניע אונ־טערן פֿרײַען הימל לעבן דעם צענטער. הויכע, ברענע־דיקע שטראָלן האָבן באַלויכטן די ביינע, אָרום וועלכער עס האָבן זיך פֿאָראַמלט הונדערטער מענטשן מיט אָנגעצונדענע ליכט אין זייערע הענט, כּדי צו הערן די תפֿילות אָן געזאַנגען פֿון יונגן ראַבי אַבּרי גליזער, מיט דער מוזיקאַלישער באַגלייטונג פֿון די זינגער דוד וואָל אָן מיטגל סמאָלקין, דירעקטאָר פֿון פּעסטיוואָל.

באַוונדערט רײַך איז געווען דער פּעסטיוואָל מיט אויפֿטרינען פֿון אַ גאַנצער רײַ אָרטיקע אָן אויסלענדישע קלעזמער גרופּעס, צווישן זיי: די ניי קאָפּעליע פֿון בו־דאָפּעשט, די קראָקעווער קלעזמער גרופּע, די קלעזמערס פֿון בוענאָס אײַרעס, די „חברותא" גרופּע פֿון אַמעריקע, וו׳ אויך אַ רײַ אַנסאַמבלעס פֿון טאָראָנטאָ אָן וויניפּעג.

אײַנדרוקספֿול זײַנען געווען צווײ אָרײַסטרינען פֿון דער „חברותא", וואָס איז באַשטאַנען פֿון פּיר זינגער בא־גאַבטע מוזיקאַנטן. זי האָבן אויסגעפֿילט אויף אַ גאָר פּיינעם אופֿן אַ טראַדיציאָנעלע חתונה, מיט דעם פּידלער מיקל אַלפּערט וי דער מאַרשאַלק אָן בדחן.

צוזישן די געלאַדענע מוזיקערס איז אויך געווען דער באַקאַנטער אויסטיטשער פֿון ייִדישער מוזיק, זלמן מלאָטעק פֿון נידיאָרק. ער האָט געגעבן אַ לעקציע־קאָנ־צערט איבער ייִדישער טעאַטער־מוזיק, מיט סאָלאָ־גע־זאַנגען פֿון די פֿאָפולערע טאָראָנטער פֿאָלק־זינגערס דוד וואָל אָן טערעסאַ טאָוואָ. זלמן מלאָטעק האָט אויך ייִדי־גידט אָן אַקאָמפּאַניידט דעם געביידיג־קאָנצערט פֿון טאָראָנטער ייִדיש פֿאָלקס־כאָר אָן די פֿרעמיערע פֿון „דאָס ניע לידּ" פֿון קאָמפּאָזיטאָר מילטאָן באַרנעס, אויסגעפֿירט פֿון פֿאָלקס־כאָר מיט אַ מוזיקאַלישער גרופּע.

וואָס שייך טעאַטער פֿאָרשטעלונגען אָן פֿילמען האָבן די פּעסטיוואָל באַוכער גהאַט אַ פֿאָרשידנאַרטיקן אויסוואָל. גרויס אינטערעס האָט אויסגעוויזן דער שטו־מער סאָוועטישער פֿילם „ייִדיש מל", פֿראַדוצירט אין 1925, מיט שלמה מיכאָעלס אין דער הויפּט־ראָל. אויך דער אַמעריקאַנער פֿילם „דער לעצטער קלעזמער" פֿון יעל סטראַס האָט שטאַרק אויסגעמוטשעט בײַ די צושויער. דער דאָקומענטאַלער פֿילם דערציילט וועגן קראָקעווער ייִדיש קלעזמער לעאָפּאָלד קאָזלאָווסקי, וואָס זעצט פֿאָר די קלעזמער טראַדיציע אין היינטיקן פֿויל.

דער דריי־טאָגיקער אַשכּנז־פּעסטיוואָל האָט אויס־גערופֿן אַ בריוו אָפּקלאַנג אין דער היגער עגלישער פּרעסע, ראַדיאָ אָן טעלעוויזיע. אַ קאָלירטפֿולער אַשכּנ־פֿאַראַד האָט זיך גענומען זונטיק מיטאָגצײַט אויבער אַ רײַ גאַסן אָרום דעם הארבאָרפראָנט צענטער מיט מחיק אָן טערע אָן סצענעס פֿון דעם אַמאָליקן ייִדישן שטיגער. דער פּעסטיוואָל איז געשלאָסן געוואָרן מאָנטיק אָוונט.

דער פֿילוויטקער אָן דערפֿאָלגרייכער אַשכּנז פּעס־טיוואָל איז אַ בלוטער באַווײַז, אַז גרויסע מײַלן פֿון דער ייִדישער יוגנט ווילן זיך באַריכערן אָן גייסטיק אָפּפֿרישן אין די קוואָלן פֿון אַשכּנזישער קולטור אָן טראַדיציע.

Israelis invest billions in Canadian real estate

Continued from page 1

that partners with Israeli firms in the acquisition of property. Feiler, a chartered accountant and consultant, runs the Israeli desk at BDO Dunwoody, a global accounting and consulting firm.

Both are Israelis who have made Toronto their home, the better to advise clients or to participate in the flow of capital investments to Canada.

And flow it has, into residential, commercial and office buildings, scooping up some familiar landmarks in Toronto and Montreal along the way. Israeli companies, both public and privately held, now control more than 100 shopping malls in Toronto and Montreal, Blutrich said.

Among them you'll find Eglinton Square in Scarborough, York Gate and Bridlewood. Israeli-owned office towers in Toronto include 5001 Yonge St. near Sheppard Avenue, whose major tenant is the Royal Bank. It was purchased recently by Israeli conglomerate Delek for $70 million. Malibu Israel, a development and construction company, is developing a high-rise condominium at 18 Yonge St., and is a partner with H&R Developments in the 1,500-unit Water Park City on Toronto's waterfront.

In Montreal, Amot Investments and Qeubec conglomerate Desjardins are partners in a multi-phase e-commerce office project in downtown Montreal. The first phase alone costs $100 million, Feiler said.

Delek recently purchased the $202-million Bell Tower office building in Montreal while Westmount Square, a suite of luxury apartments, offices and shops was acquired by a privately held company for about $80 million. Two office towers, Place Montreal Trust and Place du Parc, were purchased by the Dorban Group and its American partners for $40 million, he said.

While three times as many private companies invest in Canada as public ones, the list of publicly traded Israeli purchasers is extensive: Dorban, Amot Investment, Engel General Developers, Electra (Israel), Liberty, Delek, Isralom Properties, Malibu, Gazit and Shacham Construction and Israel Land Development Corporation. The latter is one of Israel's oldest property development firms, dating back to the earliest days of the Zionist enterprise in Israel. It is, along with Blutrich's privately held company, part owner of Skyline International.

To date, the smallest investment by Israelis in Canada stands at a modest $40 million, but the cumulative effect of all the investments is impressive. Blutrich and Feiler believe the inflow of capital from Israel has probably pushed real estate prices up by 20 per cent.

What's more, that trend shows no sign of levelling off. In fact, said Blutrich, it's likely to accelerate. For Israelis, who are now able to invest throughout the world, Canada is particularly attractive, drawing as much as one-third of the real estate capital Israelis invest abroad.

Though a recent report by Moody's Investor Services concluded that caution was warranted in the Toronto and Montreal markets, with supply currently outstripping demand for office space, for Israeli investors, the Canadian market still has plenty of appeal.

The reasons are many, Blutrich explained. For one, Canada is known for its political stability. For another, "the Canadian market is, we believe, undervalued compared to other western markets" like the United States and Europe, selling "under replacement value," he said.

Couple that with the relative ease of doing business in Canada compared to Israel and eastern Europe, low interest rates, the low Canadian dollar and continued, steady growth of the Canadian economy with its projected surpluses, and Canada offers tremendous opportunities for Israelis, he said.

Feiler, who headed BDO's international tax department in Israel before moving to Toronto, said Canadian investments also offer Israelis a good return. Investors can expect a return on equity of about 15 per cent in Toronto and a slightly higher one in Montreal, and a return on capital, which includes equity and loans, of 10 to 11 per cent in Toronto and 10 to 12 per cent in Montreal.

Blutrich said in its four years in Canada, Skyline has invested more than $130 million in nine different projects in downtown Toronto. The company has carved out a unique place for itself, offering fully furnished suites to short-term tenants. "Today we're the second largest in the city and in mid-2003, we will become the leader in this niche in Toronto," he predicted. "We feel the market still has lots of room to grow, and in our budget for the next year, we plan to invest $320 million."

Israeli investors are not fly-by-nighters, looking to flip properties and make a quick buck, he continued. On the contrary, "all the Israeli investors I know have a long-term view."

As Blutrich explains it, once the currency doors were flung open in 1998, Israelis began searching for lucrative investments abroad, "to diversify their portfolios, exercise their unused resources and put capital to use."

The early 1990s had been a lucrative period for real estate developers and construction companies in Israel, Blutrich said. Following the construction boom that followed the influx of one million Russian immigrants, they had plenty of surplus capital to invest.

For risk-taking Israelis, whose perspective is global, Canada looked very inviting, Feiler said.

Even in Canada, Israelis are starting to look farther afield, she added. They're beginning to show interest in other urban centres such as Ottawa, Saskatchewan, Vancouver, Calgary and Prince Edward Island.

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CMDA says it has deal on tax dispute

Continued from page 1

Caplan's office, however, denied that the minister intervened. Spokesperson Derik Hodgson told *The CJN*'s Ron Csillag that "the minister would never intervene. There's been no special treatment here. That's not the way it works. The minister is aware and there have been representations made to her, but [there have been] no interventions."

What is certain is that the revocation notice was never published in Parliament's Canada Gazette. On the same day Bitton announced the agreement with the charities directorate – Nov. 12 – CMDA filed for leave to appeal the Federal Court of Appeal's ruling to the Supreme Court of Canada.

Bitton said that request would be withdrawn once the agreement has been received in writing.

The agreement followed a meeting between Bitton, CMDA immediate past-president Arnold Rosner and the organizations' accountant Donald Hersh and officials from the charities directorate, including director-general Maureen Kidd.

CCRA would not confirm or deny that an agreement exists, verbal or written, or even that a meeting took place.

"That would be violating confidentiality," CCRA spokesperson Colette Gentis-Hawn said. She said the revocation notice was not published because the matter is before the courts and thus not enforceable.

Bitton said CMDA representatives and charities directorate representatives discussed ways CMDA can ensure the ambulances and other equipment it donates to Israel's Magen David Adom (MDA) are used for medical purposes only. To comply with the Income Tax Act, CMDA must retain ownership of the ambulances it sends to Israel, something it did not previously do.

Bitton said CMDA presented documents supporting its contention that MDA, even when working beyond Israel's pre-1967 borders, is a strictly humanitarian emergency service working on a non-sectarian basis.

He said CMDA will "definitely keep more control" over the ambulances it donates.

"We are going to ask the chairman of the executive committee of MDA in Israel for a list of our ambulances and their location at any time," he said. "We will also have Canadian agents in Israel to check how things are being done. Before MDA disposes of old ambulances, it will consult us on what to do with them."

He said CMDA will work closely with the tax officials from now on. "The rules are so complex; it's difficult not to make an error."

CMDA lost its case in the Federal Court of Appeal in September. By a majority of 2 to 1, the court upheld CCRA's intention to revoke CMDA's registration as a charitable organization based on the absence of evidence that CMDA maintained control over the use of ambulance and other equipment it provided to MDA.

The CCRA mentioned that an old ambulance was given by MDA to the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) on June 14, 1999. The issuing of bullet-proof vests to MDA personnel was also raised as evidence that MDA was working in cooperation with the IDF.

CMDA says the vests were strictly for safety, not an indication MDA workers are engaged in any type of defence capacity, Bitton said.

The court, however, did not agree with CCRA that MDA's work in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem contravened Canadian "public policy." It ruled that using CMDA-donated ambulances in these disputed territories does not violate any Canadian public policy, because such a policy does not exist.

All three judges agreed "there is no Canadian public policy expressed in an Act of Parliament or in any publicly available government document that a Canadian charitable organization cannot operate in the Occupied Territories."

The ruling is significant for all Jewish charities in Canada that raise money for Israel, who for many years have been led by the tax department to believe that such a policy did exist.

CMDA's lawyer, prominent tax specialist Arthur Drache of Ottawa, said he was not directly involved with the latest talks with the charities directorate, but said he understands the deal is a kind of contingency plan. "It would kick in if the Supreme Court chooses not to hear the case or, if it is heard, rules against CMDA."

He said the Supreme Court has 30 days to respond to CMDA's request to appeal.

Drache thinks it is important that this case be taken to the highest court because bureaucrats "have got the law all wrong; there are big principles that must be established," that affect Jewish and non-Jewish charities.

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL

Lawrence S. Bloomberg

Mount Sinai Hospital is pleased to announce the election of Lawrence S. Bloomberg as Chairman of the Board.

Mr. Bloomberg brings to the position a distinguished record as a businessman and strong supporter of the community. He is a Director of the National Bank of Canada, advisor to National Bank Financial and was formerly its Co-Chairman and Co CEO. Mr. Bloomberg is the founder of First Marathon Inc.

Most recently, Mr. Bloomberg served as a Vice-Chairman of the Board and has dedicated more than 18 years to Mount Sinai Hospital. He is also Chairman of *The Best Medicine* campaign, which to-date has raised $186 million.

Mr. Bloomberg's business activities have included: Member of Canadian Council of Chief Executives; Director and Vice-Chairman of the Investment Dealers Association of Canada; Member of the Board of Governors of the Toronto Stock Exchange; Member of Chief Executives Organization. His many community activities have included: Director of MARS (Medical and Related Sciences Discovery District); Director of the Royal Ontario Museum; Chair of the United Jewish Appeal of Toronto; Board of Governors of the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care; Board Member of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre. He is a recipient of an Honorary Doctor of Laws from Concordia University.

Founded in 1923, Mount Sinai Hospital is internationally recognized for its patient care, teaching and research. A University of Toronto affiliated hospital, its key priority programs are Women's and Infants' Health, Surgical Subspecialties and Oncology, Internal Medicine and Subspecialties and the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute. Mount Sinai Hospital is dedicated to discovering and delivering the best patient care, with the heart and values true to our heritage.

Michael Bregman

Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation of Toronto is pleased to announce the election of Michael Bregman as Chairman of the Foundation Board.

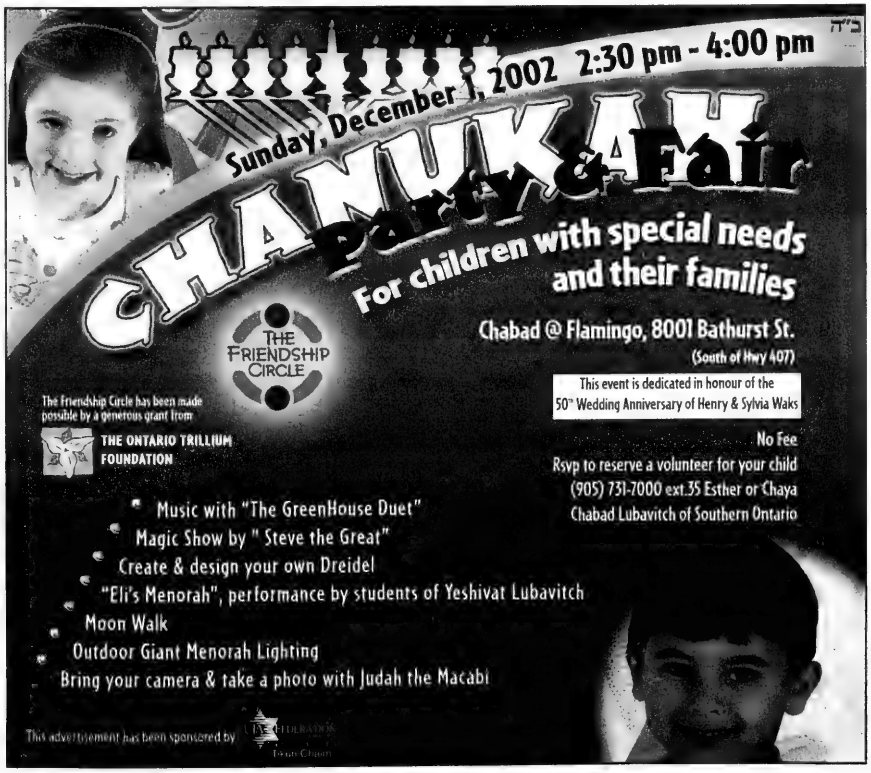
Michael Bregman brings to the position more than 20 years of business experience as an entrepreneur, investor and community leader. He is the former CEO of The Second Cup Ltd., Canada's largest specialty coffee retailer. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Clairvest Group Inc., and Vincor International Inc.

Mr. Bregman has been a member of the Mount Sinai Hospital Board of Directors for 15 years and Treasurer of the Hospital for the past eight years. He has served as Vice Chair of the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation as well as Major Gifts Co-Chair for *The Best Medicine* campaign in support of the Hospital. Mr. Bregman has served in several leadership roles in the community including Co-Chair of the 2002 United Jewish Appeal Campaign.

He has a B.Sc. in Economics from The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania and his MBA from Harvard Business School.

Established in 1987, the Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation of Toronto is recognized for *The Best Medicine* campaign, one of the most successful healthcare fundraising campaigns in Canada. The Foundation welcomes donations of all sizes to support patient care, teaching and research initiatives of both the Hospital and its Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute.

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL | THE BEST MEDICINE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Shuls on 'hit list' respond

Continued from page 1

Publication of the list came only days after an audio tape purported to be recorded by bin Laden threatened death to Canada and five other Western allies of the United States.

The list, which the *Post* said was part of a report on State Department letterhead compiled by U.S. intelligence in September, includes two synagogues in Toronto, the Beth Sholom and Temple Sinai, as well as one in Montreal, Temple Emanuel, and one in Winnipeg, Beth Israel HSBA.

"It is disturbing, but not surprising, that synagogues are mentioned," said Keith Landy, national president of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC).

How these four places of worship were selected out of the hundreds in Canada is unclear, said Len Rudner, director of community relations for CJC's Ontario region. What's even odder, he said, is that the Winnipeg synagogue no longer exists as an independent entity but was part of a three-synagogue merger that took place earlier this year.

Publication of the list prompted calls by Congress to local and national law enforcement officials. "Congress has spoken to the various intelligence sources in law enforcement agencies and asked if there are any developments that would warrant including these four synagogues on a list, and what I'm hearing is 'no,'" Rudner said. "We should take comfort in that."

The community remains on a high state of alert, which was first implemented when the second Palestinian intifadah erupted more than two years ago. Rudner refused to describe some of the procedures in place to enhance security.

Manuel Prutschi, Congress' national director of community relations, said he has been in contact with his colleagues in Montreal and Winnipeg and "everyone is puzzled as to what led to this [list]... There may be specific reasons that led them to mention the synagogues, but they're not totally accurate. So I'd keep that in mind," he said.

"We should certainly be cognizant of the list and be on the level of alert that we are, but we should not be especially alarmed by it."

In Winnipeg, community spokesperson Ian Goldstine called the *Post* report "disturbing."

"We in the Jewish community are at a heightened state of awareness."

In the wake of the terrorist attacks in Bali and Moscow, the world has learned that "terrorism is easily exportable," he said.

As to the inclusion of the Beth Israel Synagogue, Goldstine said "I don't know why the name is there." Beth Israel is now part of a new synagogue, Eitz Chaim and the building formerly inhabited by the synagogue is currently home to a day-care centre, he said.

Goldstine, who is president of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/Combined Jewish Appeal, said he has consulted with local police and RCMP officials.

The community continues to remain at "a heightened state of alert," pursuant to a protocol that was implemented following the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, he said.

In Montreal, meanwhile, Rabbi Leigh Lerner of Temple Emanuel said "this congregation has led Montreal Jewry in trying to create amity and understanding among all peoples. Being on Osama bin Laden's list is a confirmation of the fact that we are directly opposed to what he is trying to do. We are proud of our record. We call on synagogues, mosques and churches to condemn terror and stand with us in friendship."

Barbara Berke, associate executive director of Toronto's Beth Sholom, said "we're taking [the list] seriously. We're taking measures to protect the synagogue and our members." Berke declined to elaborate on those measures.

In the last two years, several Canadian synagogues or memorial chapels have been hit by arson, including buildings in Toronto, Quebec City, Montreal, two in Edmonton, Saskatoon and Ottawa.

Yousef Sandouga, a Palestinian who acted alone in one of the Edmonton attacks, is currently serving a 2½ year sentence for arson. No arrests have been made in any of the other attacks. And last June, police in Ottawa warned the Jewish community they had information of a possible attack on a synagogue, but no attack happened at that time.

With files from Ron Csillag.

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Cookbook traces the history of Jewish life in the Maghreb

By JUDY BART KANCIGOR
Special to The CJN

Celebrated cookbook author and chef Joyce Goldstein can trace her bloodline to a Russian shtetl, but her heart and soul lie in the Mediterranean.

In *Cucina Ebraica* and *Sephardic Flavors* she explored Italian – and Spanish – Jewish cuisine, and now, to round out the trilogy, in *Saffron Shores* she continues her Mediterranean culinary journey with the exotic cuisine of the Maghreb: Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya, even including related Judeo-Arabic countries like Syria, Lebanon, Iraq and Iran.

"I have been cooking this food for I cannot tell you how many years," says the former chef/owner of the renowned Mediterranean restaurant Square One in San Francisco.

"When I was doing research for *Sephardic Flavors*, I realized the subject was so huge I couldn't do it all in one book, so I covered the northern Mediterranean in *Sephardic Flavors* and the southern Mediterranean in *Saffron Shores*. Here the style of cooking changes, with a lot more spices and herbs and additional uses of fruit, but of course there is some overlap."

Notable for its absence is Israeli cuisine.

"I left it out because it's a hodgepodge," she explains. "The last time I was in Israel, I was served sashimi and Thai-flavoured something or other, and I thought, sorry, I didn't come here for that. Israeli cuisine is a melting pot, a lot like America. Whoever is there is cooking Romanian food, Italian food, Yemenite food. Is there Israeli cuisine? I think it's fusion, so I didn't give it much attention. It's not pure. I'd rather go back to the sources."

Indeed, each recipe reflects Goldstein's impeccable research and attention to detail, and regional differences are carefully noted. For example, for the cumin flavoured meatballs, Goldstein offers Moroccan and Syrian variations. But she never sacrifices flavour for authenticity, adding a touch of orange to the Sfenj (Moroccan Chanukah donuts), for example, and adjusting the spices in various dishes.

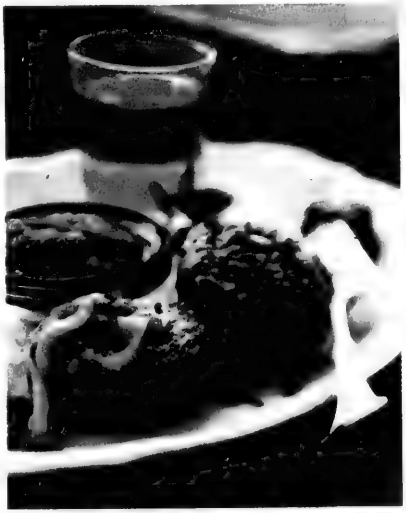
"The spices of North Africa are really vibrant, just incredible, much fresher and more intense than those we can buy here," she observes. "To make these recipes taste right, I often had to double them."

More than just a recipe collection, *Saffron Shores* traces the history of Jewish life in these exotic lands and its impact on the cuisine. Unlike the Ashkenazim, who preserved their Judaism by isolating themselves, we learn, the Sephardim were more involved in the communities in which they lived.

"They shared recipes and culinary traditions with their non-Jewish neighbours," she writes. "Their food reflected the cuisine of their homeland but adapted to follow the kosher laws."

Because the Sephardim were more active in the community, in trades, in business, there was a greater exchange of ideas between Jews and Muslims, and the similarity in recipes between Jews and their non-Jewish neighbours is striking, she notes.

Continued on page 45



Saffron is the spice for meats in North Africa.

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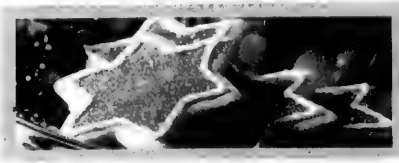
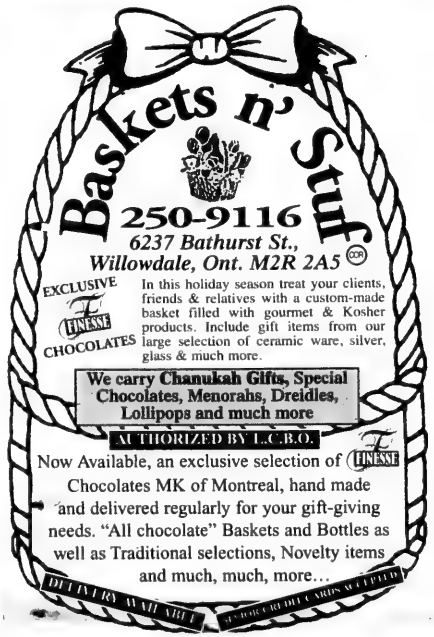


Chanukah Foods

No fail latkes from *Jewish Cooking for Dummies* IDG Books Worldwide Inc.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A recipe for the latke-challenged

By RIVKA TAL

Chanukah without the crispy fried potato pancakes known as latkes would be like Purim without hamantaschen – unthinkable!

Fried foods commemorate the Chanukah miracle of the oil that lasted eight days, and the Hasmoneans' victory over the Greeks.

Confession time? I am latke-challenged. Try as I may, year after year, my traditional recipe for homemade from scratch grate-the-potatoes latkes has always been a dismal failure. They come out either burnt on the outside or raw on the inside or both. They fall apart, too, and are invariably greasy!

It must be genetic – my mother has always been daunted by the prospect of things frying in hot oil. I salute those talented individuals who successfully make their own latkes from scratch, while I truly understand those who buy the frozen, ready-made kind.

But for those of you who, like me, are latke-challenged, yet long for that indescribable Chanukah fragrance of fresh, homemade latkes, here is an alternative. Sort of halfway between store-bought and homemade. Don't tell, and no one will know your secret.

NO-FAIL LATKES

2 cups boiling water
3 cups instant potato flakes
3 tbsp. instant fried onions
1/2 tsp. salt
1 egg, beaten
oil for frying

Stir boiling water into potato flakes. Stir in onions, salt and beaten egg, mix until thoroughly combined.

Cover mixture and place in refrigerator for 15 minutes or more.

Heat about 1/4 inch of oil in a large, heavy frying pan. Using your hands, form somewhat flattish patties about 2 1/2 inches in diameter. Gently place in frying pan with a spatula, making sure not to crowd them. Fry over medium-high heat until golden brown on both sides. Drain both sides well on a few thicknesses of paper towels.

Makes about 1 1/2 dozen latkes. Serve warm with applesauce or sour cream or both.

Chanukah Foods

Cookbook traces the history of Jewish life in the Maghreb

Continued from page 42

"On the other hand, certain [eastern European] dishes… you know they are Jewish. I have many Russian cookbooks, but I don't see too many recipes in there for brisket or tsimmes. There's not as much overlap between the Jewish and non-Jewish dishes. Some of the ingredients are the same, like cabbage and potatoes, but the recipes don't track the same way that the Sephardic ones do."

A tireless researcher, Goldstein combed cookbooks from the area, written in French, to capture the authentic tastes and aromatic flavors of such dishes as Iraqi Chicken and Chickpea Pastries, Lamb Tagine with Prunes and Honey and Moroccan Chicken and Almond Pie. The latter, known as B'Stilla, Goldstein calls "a masterpiece of Moroccan cuisine."

And while most of the recipes are easy to prepare, favouring the use of fresh, local ingredients over labour intensive method, the savoury pastries that Goldstein calls "labours of love" are worth the extra effort, she says. Teams of women would prepare them together for special occasions, a tradition that is sadly dying out.

Goldstein suggests families create their own traditions by preparing these *bistels*, *briks* or *buraks* together. "Anything that is fried is appropriate for Chanukah. The Tunisian *briks* are rounder in shape and contain egg, as compared to the *bistels* from Morocco and buraks from Algeria," she explains, "but they all can be fried."

For those who can't think of Chanukah without potatoes, we've selected potato filled *briks* from Tunisia, but Goldstein offers a variety of fillings for these pastries from beef or lamb to feta cheese to chicken with chickpea to spinach with pine nuts. Depending on the region, the dough may be filo, yeast raised, short crust or semolina, and the pastries may be baked as well as fried.

These spice infused pastries make an alluring addition to any Chanukah table. And for Ashkenazi Jews, what an exotic change from latkes.

Chanukah doughnuts from *Saffron Shores*

TUNISIAN FRIED PASTRIES WITH EGG WITH POTATO FILLING

Egg-filled *briks* must be eaten very carefully if you don't want to drip egg yolk on your shirt.

2 large potatoes, cubed
1 onion, finely chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 tbsp. olive oil
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
¼ cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
2 tbsp. chopped fresh coriander (cilantro)
1 beaten egg (optional)
2 tbsp. capers, rinsed and chopped (optional)
8 sheets square egg roll wrappers or filo dough
8 small eggs
1 egg white, lightly beaten

Continued on page 48

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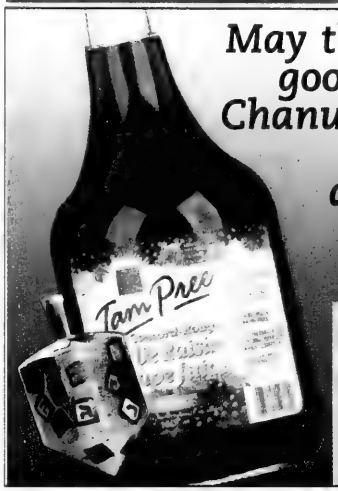

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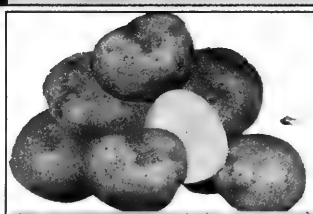

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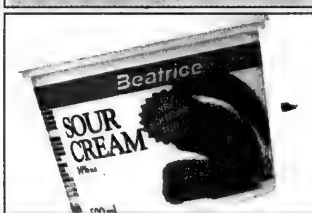

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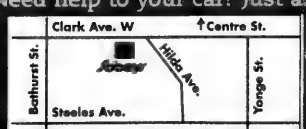

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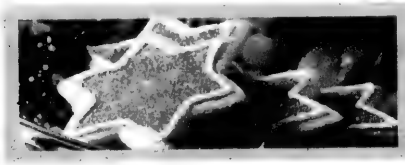


Chanukah Foods

Bubbie's special dishes for the holiday

BY BEVERLY LEVITT
Special to The CJN

I can still see my granny, an apron protecting her good dress, her clunky laceups (the original Granny shoes) planted firmly on her linoleum floor, grating potatoes and onions, and crying.

"I'm not crying 'cause I'm sad," she'd sniff, waving the onion fumes from her face. "We're going to eat latkes. We're going to light the candles. And the presents – wait till you see what I got you!"

She was gleeful, giving us the best part of her, as we gathered in her kitchen on the first day of the joyous holiday of Chanukah.

My mother Celia, my Aunt Dorothy, and cousins of all ages, would crowd into Granny's cozy kitchen to watch the Chanukah ritual and listen to her annual instruction.

Granny, being the matriarch of our family, was a self-appointed teacher and doled out her common sense, Yiddish philosophy about latkes – and about life.

She would set each of us up with our own clunky graters, give us a potato, and in her trademark Latvian-Lithuanian-untouched-by-the-king's-English accent, ask, "So, vel, isn't it the same thing?"

To Granny, love and latkes were synonymous. Mama Celia has inherited Granny's role; she's even got the speech down pat.

"I use a combination of russets and new potatoes. Never just russets – too rough! It's like the brawn without the brains. Like comparing a dancer to a doctor. So, after they're grated, we drain off the liquid – don't want potato starch going straight to our hips."

Then Granny would pour peanut oil into a heated, cast iron pan.

"We'll wait until the oil gets blazing hot, that way the oil won't penetrate our latkes. Grease on Chanukah – your whole year is clogged!" Granny would roar at that line.

"But the most important thing, 'Make your latkes with love,' even if you don't love everyone who's gonna eat 'em". Uncontrollable giggling.

Granny Fanny's tips for the perfect latke: Hand grate the potatoes, celery and onions on a coarse grater. (You really can taste the difference.) Otherwise, use the grating attachment on the food processor. Grate the onion next to a running cold water faucet. It helps reduce the tears.

Shape the latkes with a rounded tablespoon or wooden spoon. Be sure to flatten them with your hands before putting them into the pan. Big fat latkes may look appealing, but chances are when they're golden brown on the outside, they won't be cooked enough inside. A Granny conundrum: although it's important to shape the latkes with your hands, don't handle them any more than necessary. The less they're handled, the lighter they'll be.

Use peanut or vegetable oil. Sorry folks, no olive oil – it doesn't heat hot enough. Make sure your oil is blazing hot. It really does help keep the oil outside the latke.

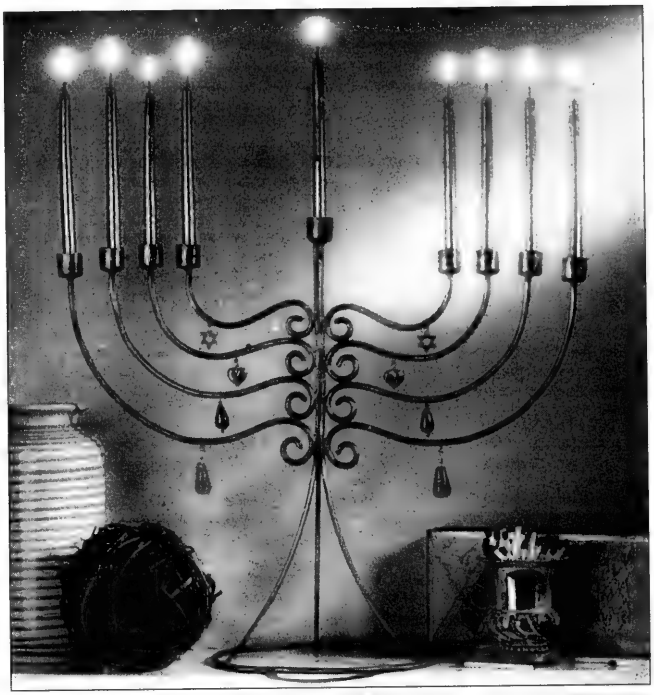
Make the latkes as close to serving time as possible. Keep the first batches warm in a low oven (200 degrees) while cooking the remaining batter.

Remove the latkes carefully from the frying pan, so they don't fall apart, then put them on layers of paper towels to drain. If necessary, pat the excess oil off the top.

Always taste the first few of the batch, then adjust the seasonings. Latkes tend to be bland, but salt, pepper, paprika, cayenne and various herbs will spice them up.

Since we are all concerned about our health, most of us don't do much frying anymore. On Chanukah, we eat fried foods to commemorate the miracle of the Temple oil. My mother is very health conscious but she taught me that moderation is key in all things. So Chanukah is one of the few times of the year I give myself the present of a juicy, delicious latke.

Another traditional item is sour cream; it is delicious on potatoes in general, and especially on latkes. On Chanukah, I eat sour cream on my latkes, but you can substitute yogurt or a combination of yogurt and sour cream, or even low-fat sour cream. Or simply use the traditional applesauce, or my favourite, caramelized apples.



Chanukah menorah from the cover of *Jewish Holiday Style*, Simon & Schuster publishers.

GRANNY FANNY'S POTATO LATKES

Granny emphasizes that the first batch might not turn out, so consider these few fledgling latkes "one or two for the pot."

3 new potatoes, peeled and grated
3 russet potatoes, peeled and grated
1 large onion, grated
2 cloves garlic
2 stalks celery, minced
lemon juice as needed
4 eggs, beaten
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1/2 cup matzah meal
1-2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. paprika
peanut or vegetable oil as needed

Continued on page 47

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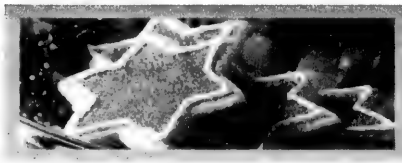

Chanukah Foods

Bubbie's special dishes for the holiday

Continued from page 46

Place potato mixture in large colander; rinse them with cold water and drain to remove excess starch and moisture. Sprinkle with lemon juice to prevent discoloration. Transfer mixture to clean bowl. Stir in remaining ingredients. Heat oil in a skillet over high heat. Using a mounded tablespoon, shape latkes into 4-inch circles, pat them thin, and drop into the hot oil. Flatten the latkes with the back of the spoon. Cook for 4 minutes on each side, or until golden brown. Drain on paper towels and serve immediately, or put into moderate oven, (250) until ready to serve.

SWEET POTATO LATKES

5 sweet potatoes or yams, peeled and grated
1 russet potato, peeled, grated and squeezed through cheesecloth
1 onion, diced
1 red bell pepper, diced
½ cup chives, chopped
1 tbsp. parsley, chopped
3 eggs, beaten
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1 tbsp. lemon juice
3 tbsp. flour
peanut or vegetable oil as needed

Since sweet potatoes don't have the watery consistency of their paler cousins, you won't have to squeeze them through cheesecloth. But the rest of the directions are the same.

CAULIFLOWER OR BROCCOLI LATKES

1 head cauliflower or broccoli, par boiled, then mashed
2 new potatoes, grated fine
1 sweet onion, grated fine
2 garlic cloves, pressed
½ cup fresh Italian or curly parsley, chopped fine
½ cup chives, chopped fine
½ cup bread crumbs
1 well beaten egg
½-1 tsp. salt
pinch of cayenne pepper
½ tsp. dried thyme
1 cup peanut oil or vegetable oil

Combine cauliflower or broccoli, potato, onion, garlic, parsley, chives, breadcrumbs, egg, salt, cayenne pepper and thyme. Mix ingredients thoroughly; pile mixture into a rounded tablespoon. Flatten with your hands, form into 4-inch circles, and drop into very hot oil. Fry on one side until golden brown, then flip onto the other side. Serves 4-6.

WALNUT LATKES

1 cup chopped walnuts
2 cups mashed potatoes
2 eggs, well beaten
1 tsp. salt
⅛ tsp. pepper
⅛ tsp. cinnamon
peanut oil for frying
parsley for garnish

Combine all ingredients and mix well. Fry as above. Garnish with parsley.

APPLE-TATO LATKES

3 medium russet potatoes, coarsely grated
1 large green apple, coarsely grated
½ cup onion, coarsely grated
3 tbsp. flour
2 eggs, beaten
1 tbsp. lemon juice
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
¼ tsp. cinnamon
¼ tsp. ground nutmeg

Prepare as above.

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Chanukah Foods

Cookbook traces the history of Jewish life in the Maghreb

Continued from page 45

Boil potatoes until soft and mash them. Add onion and garlic that have been sauteed in olive oil until tender. Season with salt, pepper, parsley and cilantro. Stir in egg and capers, if using.

If using egg roll wrappers, place equal parts of filling on each one, spoon a depression into the filling, and break an egg into each depression. Brush the edges of the wrapper with egg white and fold over to make a ½-inch rim. If using filo, brush each sheet with oil, place the filling in the middle, then fold in half, leaving 1 inch on either side. Brush the edges with egg white. Fold in the left side, then the right, then fold up the bottom third to cover.

In a deep saucepan or a wok, heat 3 inches of oil to 365 degrees. Deep fry the briks in batches until crisp and golden, Using a slotted spoon or wire skimmer, transfer to paper towels to drain. Serve hot and eat carefully. Serves 8.

CUMIN-FLAVORED MEATBALLS WITH ONION JAM AND SPICY TOMATO SAUCE

1 lb. ground beef
2 to 3 tbsp. olive oil
3 cloves garlic, minced
2 tbsp. chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
2 tbsp. chopped fresh coriander (cilantro)
1 tbsp. ground cumin
¼ tsp. cayenne pepper
1½ tsp. salt
½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
confiture d'oignons (recipe below)
spicy tomato sauce (recipe below)

Light a fire in a charcoal grill. (You may also use a skillet heated over medium-high heat.)

In a medium bowl, combine all the ingredients except the jam and sauce. Mix well. Form into 16 oval meatballs wrapped around skewers, or into 8 oval patties. Grill or cook in oil on a hot pan until browned on all sides. Serve with onion jam and tomato sauce. Serves 4.

CONFITURE D'OIGNONS (ONION JAM)

3 tbsp. olive oil
3 lb. onions, cut into half-round slices or chopped
1 tbsp. ground cinnamon
¼ cup sugar or honey
1 tsp. salt

In a large sauté pan or skillet, heat the oil over medium heat. Add the onions and cook, stirring often until very soft and golden, about 15 minutes. Add the remaining ingredients, reduce heat to low, and cook and stir until the onions are dark brown, aromatic and the consistency of jam, 35 to 45 minutes. Serve warm. Keeps in the refrigerator for about 1 week. Makes 2½ to 3 cups.

SAUCE AUX TOMATES (SPICY TOMATO SAUCE)

¼ cup raisins, plumped in hot water to cover for 15 minutes, not drained
1½ cups tomato puree
1 to 2 cloves garlic
1 tbsp. olive oil
1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
½ tsp. cayenne pepper
pinch of ground cinnamon

In a blender or food processor, combine all the ingredients and puree. Transfer to a small saucepan and simmer for 20 minutes until thickened. Serve warm or at room temperature. Store, covered in the refrigerator for up to 5 days. Makes about 1¼ cups.

MOROCCAN CHANUKAH DONUTS

2 envelopes active dry yeast
¼ cup sugar
½ cup warm water
4 cups all-purpose flour
½ tsp. salt
2 eggs, lightly beaten (optional)
grated zest of 1 orange
¼ cup canola oil, melted margarine or melted unsalted butter (optional)
1½ to 2 cups warm water or part water, part orange juice
peanut or canola oil for deep-frying
granulated sugar for sprinkling or warm honey for dipping

Dissolve the yeast and sugar in the water. Let sit until foamy, about 10 minutes. Pour into a large bowl and gradually stir in the flour and salt.

Stir in the eggs, zest, and ¼ cup oil, margarine, or butter, if using. Stir in just enough water or water and juice to make a soft and elastic dough.

Knead well, with a dough hook or by hand on a lightly floured surface, until dough is elastic, smooth and shiny. Roll the dough into a ball, place in an oiled bowl, and turn to coat.

Cover with a damp towel or plastic wrap and let rise in a warm place until doubled, 1½ to 2 hours.

Oil your hands. Divide the dough into 20 balls about 2 inches in diameter. In a deep saucepan or wok, heat 3 inches of oil to 365. Take a ball of dough, make a hole in the centre, and pull it out to make a donut shape. Deep-fry a few at a time until the donuts are puffed and golden. Using a slotted spoon or skimmer, transfer to paper towels to drain. While still hot, sprinkle with granulated sugar or dip into warm honey. Serve warm. Makes about 20 donuts.

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Life's an adventure for octogenarian

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Octogenarian Rupert Shriar describes his life as "a table of hors d'oeuvre."

"I just have to try everything. Life is an adventure," says Shriar, who retired in 1988 after a 19-year tenure as director of social planning for Toronto Jewish Congress, the predecessor of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

About six months ago, he heard about Shaolin Kempo Karate, which is basically about self-defence and discipline. "So I just wanted to try something new," he says.

He attends Fred Valeri's School of Self Defence at Bathurst Street and Sheppard Avenue, where he is the oldest member of his karate class. He says the owner, Greg Tal, who served in the Israeli Defence Forces, "has taught me a lot.

"I'm not just the oldest in my class, but the oldest in the affiliated schools across Metro. Two other schools have invited me to attend their classes. I think they'd like to show me off to their younger students – to show how you can continue working out."

Rupert Shriar blocks a punch during a karate class.

Karate disciplines his body and mind, Shriar says. "You learn how to keep your emotions in check."

His 80 years have been filled with diverse activities in his professional life, his hobbies and his voluntary activities.

Shriar was born in Montreal, and his family moved to Lac St. Jean when he was an infant. His father was an itinerant pedlar and young Shriar attended a French Catholic School where French was his first language.

He moved to Montreal in 1937 and studied at McGill University, where he received a master's degree in social work. He later earned a PhD in sociology at St. Andrews University College in London, England. He served in the RCAF from 1942 to 1946.

He began his working career at Montreal's YMHA in 1946. After working in Newhaven, Winnipeg and Thunder Bay, he moved to Toronto.

Shriar has been associated with a number of Jewish organizations including Co-ordinated Services to the Elderly, the Jewish Information Service, the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, the Tel-Aide/Jewish Distress Line and the United Jewish Appeal Women's Division (Jewish Women's Federation).

"I guess I just can't keep a job," he says jokingly, adding that so many things interest him that when an opportunity or challenge appears, he grasps it and moves on.

He has been described by his colleagues as the "professional's professional who passionately believes in the welfare of his community," says Alyse, his wife of 55 years.

"He stimulates people around him with his energy," she adds.

He is studying Spanish "only because it is a lovely language," she says, "and we love to go to Mexico, where we also take Spanish lessons."

Shriar stressed the importance of keeping active – particularly in the face of adversity. He says that during the war he thought he would die. More recently, he has had major back surgery and angina, "but that's not going to stop me."

The Shriars had two sons. Their elder son Kael, a homosexual, died of AIDS in 1995.

"My son taught us a great deal about life – the acceptance of differences," says Shriar. "He was active at Holy Blossom Temple, and was generous and non-judgmental – always ready to help. A wonderful son and we have wonderful memories."

He says his son's death taught them to live every moment of life "for it is precious. We want to do many things and live it all. I've tried TV, radio, worked as an electrician, wellness teacher, editor, consultant, name it."

He says he hopes new things will continue to come along to present him with opportunities for even more growth and strength "and the ability to cope with what comes my way."

When asked what he would like to be, he answers, "Six-foot-two, blue-eyed and have a big crop of hair. But I don't think I'll make it."

He says he believes his energy and drive come from being deprived during the Depression years.

"I had to fight for every buck – for everything. So I learned to appreciate things and I learned to live."

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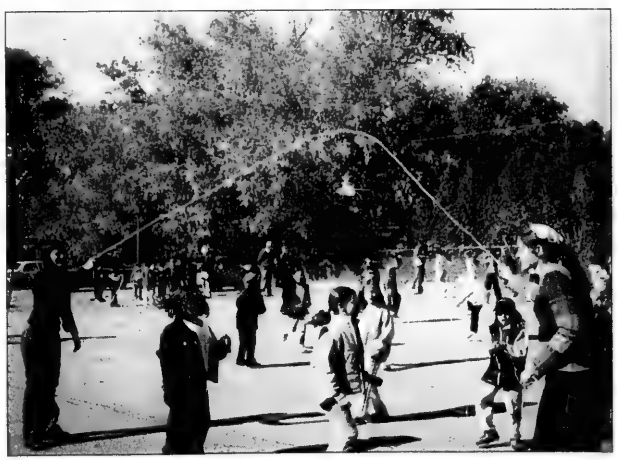

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART: Students and staff of The Toronto Heschel School participated in a Jump Rope for Heart on Oct. 24. The school raised over $18,000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

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PM says quickness needed in Hebron for Jewish safety

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Sunday that a window of opportunity existed in the coming 48 hours to establish a "compact" zone of Jewish territorial contiguity between Kiryat Arba and the Jewish enclave in the heart of Hebron, including the Tomb of the Patriarchs.

Touring the scene of last Friday night's battle in which nine Israeli soldiers and three security officers from Kiryat Arba were killed in an Islamic Jihad ambush, Sharon told leaders of the defence establishment, including Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz and army chief of staff Moshe Ya'alon, that it should reassess his 1996 proposal for "territorial contiguity" encompassing Kiryat Arba and the Jewish enclave.

Sharon originally presented his plan during 1996 negotiations led by then-prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the Hebron redeployment. "When I proposed it then, they threw me down the stairs," he said at a Sunday Cabinet meeting. But now he believes that the army must create a situation that will ensure the safety of the Jews living in the divided city.

According to Sharon's proposal, the Jewish zone would extend from Kiryat Arba to Tel Rumeida and Beit Hadassah, and would include the ancient Karaite and Sephardi cemeteries. That would create contiguity between Kiryat Arba and the Tomb of the Patriarchs, through the eastern Casbah. Prayer arrangements under which Jews and Muslims share the Tomb would not be affected. The Jewish area would be surrounded by a wall.

Under the plan, the number of Palestinians under Israeli military control would decrease from 20,000, on the basis of the January 1997 Wye River Plantation accord, to 2,000. Those Palestinians remaining in the Jewish sector would be able to enter and leave through gates in the walls, but there would be no Arab commercial ventures inside the walled Jewish area.

In last Friday's attack, three Palestinian snipers opened fire and tossed grenades at security forces escorting Jewish worshippers from the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron to nearby Kiryat Arba following Sabbath prayers.

Sharon pushed for his territorial contiguity plan, saying that for 'operational and political' reasons, Israel must move quickly

Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the attack, which came several weeks after Israeli soldiers pulled out of most Palestinian areas of the city.

Mofaz told the Cabinet on Sunday that the cell believed responsible for the ambush was Hebron-based and had returned to the city following the recent Israeli troops redeployment.

Twelve Israelis were killed and 14 others wounded in the attack before Israeli troops killed the three terrorists during a lengthy gun battle.

Of the Israeli dead, four were soldiers and five were border police. Three members of Kiryat Arba's security response team who rushed to the site when the shooting began were also killed.

The dead included the commander of Israeli forces in Hebron, a colonel, who is the highest-ranking officer to be killed since the Israeli-Palestinian conflict erupted more than two years ago.

Funerals were held Sunday for most of victims.

They were identified as the brigade commander in Hebron, Col. Dror Weinberg, 38, of Jerusalem; border police Chief Superintendent Samih Sweidan, 31, of Al-Aramshe; Sgt. Tomer Nov, 19, of Ashdod; Sgt. Gad Rahamim, 19, of Kiryat Malachi; Staff Sgt. Netanel Machluf, 19, of Hadera; Staff Sgt. Yeshayahu Davidov, 20, of Netanya; Sgt. Igor Drobitsky, 20, of Nahariya; Cpl. David Marcus, 20, of Ma'aleh Adumim; and Lt. Dan Cohen, 22, of Jerusalem.

Also killed were three civilian members of the Kiryat Arba emergency response team: Yitzhak Buanish, 46; Alexander Zwitman, 26; and Alexander Dohan, 33.

Following what has been called the "Sabbath Massacre," Israeli leaders approved an anti-terror operation in Hebron.

As part of the operation, the army imposed a curfew and renewed patrols in Palestinian parts of the city. The army has arrested at least 40 Palestinian terror suspects since Saturday, said Mofaz at Sunday's Cabinet meeting.

"The IDF is in full control of Hebron," Mofaz said, adding, "We also spoke to the American administration asking they pressure Syria, which is harbouring the Palestinian terror command centres."

The weekend operation was seen as a prelude to a broader campaign against the terrorist infrastructure in Hebron.

The operation – while in line with previous army responses to terrorist attacks – seemed to dash hopes for gradually transferring areas in the southern West Bank back to Palestinian control, an initiative championed by former defence minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer.

At Sunday's meeting, Sharon pushed for his territorial contiguity plan, saying that for "operational and political" reasons, Israel must move quickly. An opportunity has been created and facts have to be created in the coming 48 hours, he said.

In response to a proposal by Housing Minster Natan Sharansky to annul the Hebron agreement, Sharon said, "It's now clear that the Hebron agreement is null and void. In any case it is not being kept, and has no significance."

Sharansky called for thickening the settlement presence between Kiryat Arba and the Jewish Quarter in Hebron. He said his ministry is working on a detailed plan that would include expropriating properties from Palestinians, who would be fully compensated.

Meanwhile, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat voiced alarm on Monday over Sharon's plan.

Speaking to reporters at his battered West Bank compound in Ramallah, Arafat said, "This is a big crime," and added that Israel was out to "Judaise" Hebron.

With files from JTA.

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Obituary Abba Eban, the voice of Israel, dies at 87

By Ha'aretz Staff

JERUSALEM — Abba Eban, the Cambridge-educated Oriental languages scholar who for decades used his fluency in 10 languages, extraordinary wit and deep knowledge of diplomacy to represent Israel as the country's leading spokesperson, died Sunday at the Rabin Medical Center in Petach Tikva at the age of 87.

Never a politician, always a statesman, Eban was born Aubrey Eban in South Africa, but was taken to England as an infant. He was in the midst of an outstanding academic career in Oriental languages at Cambridge when World War II broke out and he enlisted. Rising to the rank of major, he served in Egypt and British Mandate Palestine, becoming the liaison officer to the Jewish Agency.

But at the end of the war, rather than returning to England to resume either his scholarly activities or run for parliament – both opportunities were offered to him – he chose to remain in British Mandate Palestine, joining the Jewish Agency and becoming a member of its delegation to the United Nations.

He rose to international prominence in 1948, leading the struggle for Israel's entry to the organization and became its first ambassador to the United Nations. From 1950 to 1959, he served simultaneously as ambassador to the UN and to Washington.

He returned to Israel in early 1959, winning a seat in the Knesset on the Mapai ticket and serving in the successive Labor Party cabinets of David Ben-Gurion, Levi Eshkol and Golda Meir, as education minister, deputy prime minister and eventually foreign minister, a post he held from 1966 to 1974.

In 1967, he played a critical role in the formulation of Security Council Resolution 242, and later, after the Yom Kippur War in 1973, he played an equally critical role in Security Council Resolution 338. Together, those two Security Council resolutions have been the cornerstone of all political peace agreements since, including the original Camp David Accords signed by Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat and the Oslo accords.

Eban remained in the Knesset from 1974 to 1988, serving for many years as chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee. But in 1988, realizing that his dovish views put him in the minority even in his own party, he left politics to devote himself full time to writing, lecturing, and the production of these television documentary series: *Heritage: Civilization and the Jews*, about the history of the Jewish people; *Personal Witness: A Nation is Born*, his eyewitness account of the birth of the State of Israel, and *Brink of Peace*, an overview of the history of the peace process between Israel and the Arab world.

Eban's rhetorical skills won him membership in the Hall of Fame of the International Platform Association, including him in its list of the modern era's 10 greatest orators, alongside such figures as Winston Churchill, Martin Luther King Jr. and Franklin Roosevelt.

Over the years, he was awarded 20 honorary doctorates, membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Israel Prize (in 2001), and he wrote many books, including an autobiography, histories of Judaism and Israel and political essays on diplomacy.

He is survived by his wife, Suzy, a son, Eli, and a daughter, Gila. He is to be buried Monday in Kfar Shmaryahu.

More coverage of Eban's life in next week's CJN.

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Nov. 11
• Haim Ramon said he will stay in the race for Labor Party leader, despite lagging behind Amram Mitzna and Benjamin Ben-Eliezer in the polls.

Nov. 12
• Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said if he is elected prime minister, he will expel Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Nov. 13
• Speaking before the Knesset, Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said the army had dismantled 23 illegal outposts in the past month. Three are currently being evacuated and the High Court of Justice will soon decide the fate of six others.

Nov. 14
• Dozens of Palestinians, mostly Hamas members, were arrested in Nablus in what the army said would be a long-lasting operation with the main goal being a direct hit at the Hamas and Tanzim terror networks in the city. Mohammed Naife, a senior member of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade in Tulkarm and the man Israel says sent the man who killed five people at Kibbutz Metzer, surrendered to Israeli forces.
• The army moved briefly into Gaza City in what was called the deepest incursion into the city in more than two years. Four brothers were arrested on suspicion they had made and distributed mortar shells used in attacks on Jewish settlements.

Nov. 15
• The army arrested 18-year-old Tanzim activist Mohammed Shushtani in the old city of Nablus on suspicion of planning a suicide attack inside Israel. He was arrested along with seven other wanted terror suspects detained the previous night and during the morning throughout the West Bank.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Israeli college is geared to new millennium

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Back in 1994, Israel under then-prime minister Yitzhak Rabin was in the midst of an internal revolution. The country's constitutional system and the way it elects its leaders were being re-evaluated, while on the economic front, its high-tech industries were developing the technologies that were a big part of the global computer boom.

That same year, the Interdisciplinary Centre (IDC) was founded in Herzliyah, very much part of the "feeling of optimism" transforming Israeli society but also an answer to a perceived shortfall in the country's educational establishment, said Prof. Bernard Avishai, director of the school's entrepreneurship program.

When Prof. Uriel Reichman conceived of the IDC, he conceptualized a "small, elite college modeled on the America college system" that differed from other Israeli institutes of higher learning by being privately funded and organized as a non-profit corporate entity, Avishai said. It would be a college that would create a new generation of Israeli leaders able to prosper in the new international environment.

Dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in research and education, the IDC styles itself as an Israeli university for the new millennium, one "where personal achievement goes hand in hand with social responsibility." It firmly embraced "entrepreneurship – recognizing the value of market forces, private initiative and innovation," states the school's promotional material.

Social responsibility recognized

Though the school began with only a program in law, it expanded to include a business school and it encouraged contact between the two, so that lawyers would understand business issues and businessmen would have a grasp of legal matters.

The IDC has continued to expand and it now offers an educational program entirely in English through the Raphael Recanati International School (RRIS). The school is named for the late banker and shipping magnate who died in 1999.

For the 2003-2004 academic year, the RRIS will offer programs in law, business, computer technology and will introduce a new program in government, diplomacy and strategy.

Avishai, who also serves as dean of the RRIS, said the school is attempting to increase its profile and attract foreign students to its three-year degree programs.

The school's selling points are many and varied, he continued: a first-rate faculty, drawn in large part from U.S. campuses; an interdisciplinary approach to learning, where the worlds of business, high tech and government overlap; proximity to the business talent of Israel's "Silicon Wadi," home to familiar high tech names like Intel and Microsoft; and being "on the cutting edge of Western democratic life," where issues of security, diplomacy, conflict resolution, entrepreneurship and information technology are front and centre.

The course load is heavy but the rewards are extensive, Avishai said. Students can expect to graduate with the skills that are very much in demand in the new millennium. The school of government, for one, is modelled on the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, he added.

Business students will benefit from studying in a country that is a world leader in high tech development, where eight of 22 "critical technologies" related to the new information age were developed. "Israel is an incubator for the kind of team-based problem-solving that defines the post-modern international business world," Avishai said.

RRIS officials are hoping to attract some 50 international students to its class of 150 next year. Tuition is set at $6,200 (US) per year. Housing and health insurance amount to an additional $3,600 (US) . Compared to the fees charged by U.S. colleges, "it's a fabulous deal," Avishai said.

"Israel is too often depicted as part of the family that is in need," said Avishai, a native of Montreal. "Too often we think of Israel as an object of philanthropy and not as a world class competitor.

"This school is part of the good news, that Israel competes in some of the most important areas in the world. This is the part of Israel that works, that really connects to the rest of the world and competes successfully. We all want to be part of it. It's exciting."

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Orthodox feminists hold conference in New York

By REBECCA NADLER
Special to The CJN

NEW YORK — "Orthodox Jewish women who challenge the status quo do not pose a threat to Judaism," says the president of the Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA).

"[R]ather, [they] have an honest desire to engage in a dialogue that challenges ourselves and others to deal with things that cause difficulty for them in their Orthodox communities," said Blu Greenberg at the opening of JOFA's fourth annual international conference on feminism and Orthodoxy.

"We strive for a thoughtful blend of the best of Torah and Halachah with the best of the society around us."

The two-day event, held Nov. 9-11 at the Grand Hyatt in New York City, drew more than 1,000 women and men from around the world. Participants came from Israel, Canada, France, Australia, Holland, Spain, England and across the United States.

The conference, called Discovering/Uncovering/Recovering Women in Judaism, aimed to explore the ritual, spiritual, intellectual and political opportunities for women within the framework of Jewish law.

While workshops covered a wide variety of topics, the buzz at this year's conference was a new concept in Orthodox Judaism, female Torah readers.

Though female Torah readers are standard in non-Orthodox congregations, and most in the Orthodox community have long accepted that women can read from the Torah in women-only prayer groups, women now have opportunities to receive aliyot and read from the Torah in a few Orthodox, mixed services in Israel and New York.

These congregations and services – the Israeli synagogue Shira Chadasha; the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, a women's centre of Jewish learning in New York; Darchei Noam in Manhattan; and a minyan that recently began in Yonkers – allow this new model of Orthodoxy on the basis of a number of recent halachic publications, most notably one by Rabbi Mendel Shapiro of Jerusalem that was published in the journal *Edah* in the spring of 2001.

In his article, Rabbi Shapiro argued the Talmud is clear that "all are eligible for receiving one of the seven aliyot," including women. The traditional Orthodox position is that a woman reading from the Torah is seen as diminishing the *kavod hatzibur*, the dignity of the community.

But today, Rabbi Shapiro argued, women are educated and work side by side with men in both religious and secular settings, so women reading from the Torah does not undermine the community's dignity.

While most of the conference's attendees and presenters felt their were no halachic barriers to this new practice, some argued that the Orthodox community was not ready to embrace this move and it would only create divisions.

Changing established norms will be difficult, said Rabbi Adam Mintz of Manhattan's Lincoln Square Synagogue, who spoke at the conference of the competing congregational needs that rabbis must balance.

Rabbi Mintz said he respects the new movement, but added that "the only way these services will in any way be accepted is" with the approval and support of at least a segment of the rabbinic community.

Rabbi Steven Dworken, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Council of America, said he is "not aware of any acceptable halachic authority who has granted permission" for women to read from the Torah during a mixed service.

Since those behind the movement "do not represent a significant proportion of the mainstream Orthodox community," Rabbi Dworken said, he doesn't expect the issue to make much headway.

"I don't believe it's going to be universal, but I hope it won't separate communities that do and communities that don't," Greenberg said.

A number of workshops at the conference dealt with women's dress and behaviour. Presenters shied away from using the term tzniut to denote physical modesty, using it instead to refer to all behaviours and attitudes of both men and women.

Greenberg noted that over the past decade, women have made great strides in the Orthodox community. One area that remains a concern is the continuing struggle to discover a halachic solution to free *agunot*, women whose husbands refuse to grant them a *get*, or Jewish divorce.

Atara Grysman, a university student from Toronto, was impressed with her first JOFA event.

"I am returning to Toronto recharged," Grysman said. "I was very impressed by the strict adherence to Halachah and the seriousness evident at each workshop and discussion. It wasn't just ideas, everyone talked about texts. I walked away from the conference with sources and information."

The conference offered participants a choice between a morning of discussion about *agunot*, a morning of text and *chevruta* – study groups – at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education, or a tour of the new Yeshiva University Museum, with a discussion of the works of Andrea Kalinowski.

With files from JTA.

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El Al hijacking foiled

By AMOS HAREL, ALUF BENN and ZOHAR BLUMENKRANTZ
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

An apparent hijacking attempt on an El Al flight to Istanbul was thwarted Sunday night when airline security guards overpowered an Israeli Arab passenger who tried to burst into the cockpit of Flight 581 from Ben-Gurion International Airport to Istanbul, an El Al spokesperson said.

None of the 170 passengers on board was harmed in the incident and the plane landed safely in Istanbul.

According to some reports, the suspected hijacker was armed with a pocketknife, but Israel Radio reported that he was not carrying a weapon.

About 15 minutes after take-off, the suspect reportedly threatened a flight attendant with a knife and tried to approach the cockpit, but was overpowered by two security guards, one posing as a passenger, CNN-Turk television said. However, the circumstances of the incident are not yet fully clear.

The man was seized and handcuffed and the plane continued on its flight. Security guards "threw him to the floor with his legs spread and his face to the floor. The passengers were hysterical, but the flight attendants were very cool; they calmed us down," said a passenger identified as Menachem.

The director general of the Israel Airports Authority, Gabi Ophir, opened an inquiry to determine how the man managed to smuggle a pocketknife past the ground security guards.

An Istanbul airport official said one "terrorist" was being held in custody and would be handed over to Israeli security personnel.

German treaty with its Jews triples funding

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

BERLIN — The German government last week signed what it termed a "state treaty" to upgrade ties and boost financial support with the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

A statement said under the accord, Berlin will triple the amount of money it pays to the Central Council to $3 million (US) a year.

Germany's Jewish community now numbers about 100,000, said the council's president Paul Spiegel. Germany's overall population is 82 million, about three million of whom are Muslims.

Thousands of Jews arrive in Germany each year from the former Soviet Union under a 1990 deal by former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl that granted Soviet Jews the right to immigrate to Germany. The only other group that has such a right is ethnic Germans from central and eastern Europe.

The Central Council of Jews in Germany was founded with 15,000 members in 1950, just after the Nazis murdered six million Jews during the Holocaust. Before the Holocaust, Germany's Jewish population had been about 600,000.

Spiegel said the extra state funds would be used to train and hire more rabbis in order to increase religious services for Jews arriving from the former Soviet Union, where they had often faced persecution and been unable to practice their faith.

But Spiegel admitted that due to terror threats by radical Islamic groups, some people in the Jewish community refuse to go to synagogue unless police guards are posted outside.

Of Rocket Richard and thief lords: Gift book ideas

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Books as Chanukah gifts. Makes sense for the People of the Book – and their children.

Consider two recent volumes for the younger set.

Jewish brothers-in-law Avi Slodovnick, a Toronto lawyer, and Jack Siemiatycki, a Montreal epidemiologist, have breathed life into a misty memory for any man (and probably some women) of a certain age – especially if they're from Montreal.

The Hockey Card (Lobster Press, 32 pages, $21.95), richly illustrated by Doris Barrette, doubtless will be compared to Roch Carrier's classic *The Hockey Sweater*. But the newer volume rings truer, for it involves the timeless art of flipping hockey cards for keeps. *The Hockey Sweater* was a wonderful story for certain, but after all, how many of us have ordered a glorious Canadiens jersey (with a 9 on the back, of course) from an Eaton's catalogue, only to receive a dreaded Maple Leafs shirt *(quelle horreur!)* by mistake?

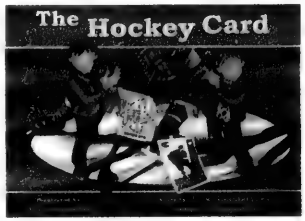
On the other hand, there are plenty of guys who can recall winning and losing precious hockey cards with those flipping and tossing games (whether playing odds or evens, or shooting them closest to the school wall).

This is a heartwarming tale told as a bedtime story by Uncle Jack to his nephew. While tucking the lad in one night after watching a hockey game on TV, Uncle Jack recounts the long-ago story of losing all but one of his hockey cards to "the biggest hockey card shark in the whole school." Forced to play his priceless last card – the one featuring number 9, the immortal Maurice "Rocket" Richard – young Jack begins a miraculous winning streak, thanks to the talisman-like qualities of the Richard card.

The story ends back in the present, with Uncle Jack presenting the Habs-mad boy with the dog-eared card as a birthday gift.

The CJN has the inside scoop on the narrative: it's a true story.

Seems "Uncle Jack," the co-author, really did have a magical experience while nearly losing his own vintage Rocket Richard card in the pre-1967 days of hockey (before expansion, when the game meant something), and he really did present it years later to his own nephew, Slodovnick's son Paul, now nine. The 1960 card, probably worth a pretty penny, is now safely sealed in a plastic sleeve at the Slodovnick homestead.



The Hockey Card combines nostalgia, romance, even suspense, and is properly respectful of a pasttime kids used to (do they still?) take seriously. As for the Rocket, well, he is paid rightful deference by being described as "the greatest hockey player who ever lived."

The first-time children's authors say a French version is due presently.

* * *

For older teens who are fans of fantasy but are beyond the Harry Potter books, consider *The Thief Lord* (The Chicken House/Scholastic Inc., 349 pages, $23.99) by Cornelia Funke. A huge hit in the author's native Germany, the book has sold over 130,000 copies in North America and reached number one on the prestigious *New York Times'* bestseller list – an amazing feat considering it was released here just last month.

This is no J.K. Rowling clone. The story is set in modern-day Venice, where two young boys, 12-year-old Prospero and Boniface, age five, are hiding out from a cruel aunt and uncle. They encounter the spunky leader of a gang of street urchins, who proclaims himself to be the "Thief Lord." He sets the boys up in an abandoned movie theatre and helps support them through his (supposed) crimes.

But the Thief Lord has secrets. He isn't what he appears.

Add to the mix an idiosyncratic detective, a mysterious count, the exotic canals of Venice and a carousel with magical powers, and it's little wonder *The Thief Lord* is a hit with nine to 12-year-olds.

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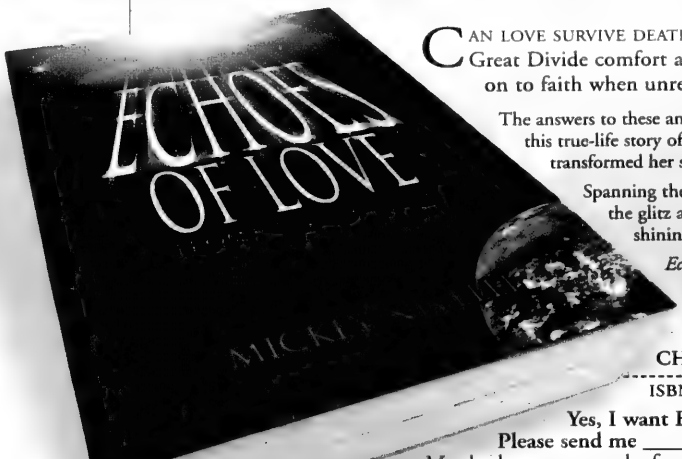

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Chanukah Gifts

Anthology examines Disraeli's self-image

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

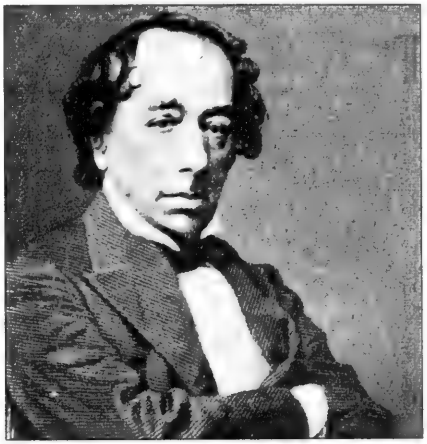
Although he was baptized at the age of 12, Benjamin Disraeli – the first British prime minister of Jewish origin – was acutely aware of his background.

Disraeli's consciousness of being Jewish, which changed over time, drew on a wellspring of sources: Sephardi pride, family traditions, racial notions and Christian doctrine.

Todd Endelman, an American scholar, examines this facet of Disraeli's development in an essay in *The Self-Fashioning of Disraeli, 1818-1851* (Cambridge University Press), a useful collection of essays about his life edited by Charles Richmond and Paul Smith.

One of Disraeli's earliest biographers, James Anthony Froude, maintained that he was "a Hebrew to the end." Endelman, a professor of Jewish history at the University of Michigan, brings a more nuanced approach to the subject.

Disraeli's baptism made possible his illustrious political career, since professing Jews were not allowed to sit in parliament until 1858. But in the short run, Endelman theorizes, his baptism was not necessarily advantageous.



Benjamin Disraeli

Newly-minted Christians, particularly those with marked Jewish features, often fared worse than unconverted Jews.

Endelman claims that a trip to the Middle East, combined with a plunge into electoral politics, forced his Jewishness to the fore.

A visit to Jerusalem left an indelible impression of his ancestry, while canvassing for votes gave him a better appreciation of crass street-level anti-Semitism.

Disraeli's ascent to national prominence, as well as the publication of his novels, *The Wondrous Tales of Alroy* and *Conigsby*, attracted yet more attention to his Jewish antecedents.

But strangely enough, as a novice member of parliament, he voted with the majority against bills to remove anti-Jewish restrictions.

Endelman believes that Disraeli's "racial chauvinism," his early tendency to underline his Jewishness, was a "compensatory counter-myth" designed to combat feelings of social inferiority.

Identifying himself with Spanish and Portuguese Jews, Disraeli inflated his Jewish birth into a claim of noble birth.

Once he reached the top of the greasy pole, he ceased harping on Jewish themes, as he had for his first two decades as a politician.

Having gained the Tory leadership, he no longer felt the need to state his claims to nobility.

An interesting theory.

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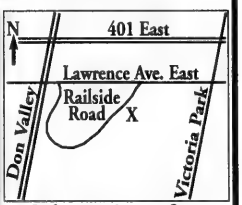

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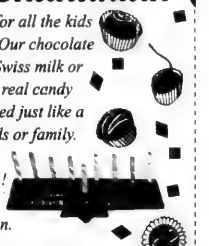

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Jewish reference and history works great for book lovers

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Publishers unveil some of their finest books in the autumn.

This year's crop includes Jewish-niche reference works on Judaism, Jewish history, Israel and the Holocaust and books of general interest about Canada.

All are well worth adding to a library.

The New Encyclopedia of Judaism, edited by the late Geoffrey Wigoder, is published by New York University Press.

Covering every conceivable aspect of Judaism and representing current thinking about Judaism in Reform, Conservative and Orthodox circles, this is a magnificent volume, running to 900 pages.

Alphabetically, the lucid entries range from "Aaron" and "burial" to "pilpul" and "Leopold Zunz" (a pioneer in the scientific study of Jewish literature, liturgy and religious poetry).

This well illustrated compendium contains an excellent index and an annotated bibliography. In its genre, *The New Encyclopedia of Judaism* is a work to behold, admire and, above all, to read.

Culture of the Jews, edited by David Biale, a professor of Jewish history at the University of California, is an equally impressive tome. Published by Schocken Books and distributed in Canada by Random House, it contains a selection of literate essays.

The first section, entitled Mediterranean Origins, deals with the Israelites and with Jewish culture in the Greco-Roman world, Palestine in the Byzantine period and Babylonia and Arabia during the formative years of Islam.

Part two illuminates Judeo-Arabic culture and Sephardi culture in the Iberian Peninsula, Amsterdam, Ashkenazi Europe and Italy during the Renaissance.

The third section, which examines communities, ways of life and high and folk culture around the world, offers an eclectic mix of essays on subjects from Jews in the Arab world and Central Asia to Ethiopian Jewry.

The latest estimate of the Jewish population in the United States is 5.2 million, making it the world's largest Jewish community. Jews from every conceivable corner of the universe have converged on the United States, as a reading of *The Golden Land: The Story of Jewish Immigration to America* confirms.

Written by Joseph Telushkin and published by Harmony Books, this intriguing volume will be of interest to readers of all ages.

What is unique about *The Golden Land*, distributed in Canada by Random House, are its pullout documents and artifacts, ranging from George Washington's 1790 letter to the Jewish community of Newport, Rhode Island, to Irving Berlin's original, hand-written lyrics for his iconic song, *God Bless America*.

And, I should add, the black and white photographs of famous American Jews and of street scenes are most striking.

In 1998, Daniel Gordis and his family left Los Angeles for a one-year sabbatical in Israel. From virtually the moment he arrived, he began bombarding friends and family abroad with a torrent of e-mails about life in his new home.

These articulate missives, published in *If A Place Can Make You Cry* (Random House), transport you from the optimism of the Olso peace process to the gloom and doom of the post-Oslo era.

Readers will learn much from his penetrating observations

Elie Wiesel, in *After the Darkness* (Random House), distills a lifetime of knowledge about the Holocaust in a mere 44 pages. Mixing personal reminiscences with historical facts, he produces an impressionistic survey of a tragedy that shook the Jewish world to its very foundations.

This beautifully-crafted book is lavishly illustrated with graphic black-and-white photographs of pre-war Jewish communities, Nazi Germany and the concentration camps, both before and after their liberation.

Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths (HarperCollins), by Bruce Feiler, takes the form of a quest by an American journalist to better understand that great patriarch.

Feiler spent more than six months travelling through the Middle East on a 10,000-mile journey retracing the five books of Moses. It is a fascinating trip that readers are likely to enjoy.

Jacob Lawrence Cohen, known as J.L. to Canadian trade unionists, was one of Canada's first specialists in labour law and an architect of its industrial relations system.

Laurel Sefton MacDowell's biography, *Renegade: The Life of J.L. Cohen* (University of Toronto Press), is a comprehensive and empathetic account of a top-notch, though controversial, lawyer who died suddenly in 1950 at the age of 53. The *Globe and Mail*, in its obituary of Cohen, may have put it best: "He championed all the wrong people in all the right things."

Martin Friedland's magnum opus, *The University of Toronto* (University of Toronto Press), covers a lot of ground as it chronicles the history and development of Canada's leading institution of higher learning, including its once-hostile attitude to Jews.

Friedland, the former dean of U of T's faculty of law, has a knack for bringing ideas, events and personalities into a coherent and readable synthesis.

Firefly Books has published two handsome coffee-table books you can feast your eyes on.

Toronto showcases an evolving city through the prism of Tim Peters' exquisite colour photographs. His streetscapes brim with vitality and his closeups of ordinary people going about their everyday business are vivid and evocative.

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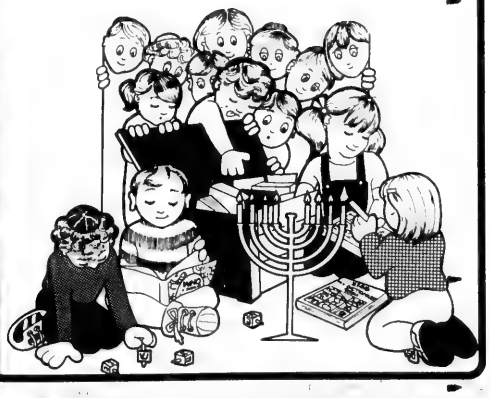

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Chanukah Gifts

Former minister reflects on politics in *Not Bad for a Sergeant*

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Barney Danson, who served as the Member of Parliament for York North from 1968 to 1979, has published a book of memoirs, *Not Bad For A Sergeant*, that is must reading for anyone interested in Canadian politics and the legacy of former prime minister Pierre Trudeau in particular. Jewish readers will find the book especially illuminating because of the light it throws on diverse matters regarding Middle Eastern politics and the Jewish world.

Born in Toronto in 1921, Danson quit school at age 16. A year later he joined the Queen's Own Rifles, an army regiment that was mobilized to fight in the war in Europe in 1940. Danson was severely wounded in Normandy in August 1944 and lost the sight in one eye, but he writes that he considers himself fortunate since four of his close friends were killed in battle.

After the war, Danson ventured into industrial plastics and established the Danson Corporation, which blossomed into a multi-million-dollar concern. Holding the belief that "if you fought for your country you had a right to play a part in shaping its future," he joined the Liberal party in the closing days of the Lester Pearson administration and made a failed bid for a parliamentary seat in October 1967.

Fortunately, he tried again in 1968: "With the campaign on, and Trudeaumania sweeping the country, we could smell victory in the air right from the start." The day he took his seat in the Commons, he "looked around at the elegant carvings and stained glass windows" and felt a sense of awe and respect.

In 1970, Danson became parliamentary secretary to Trudeau, and though he had not yet penetrated the former prime minister's innermost circle, he observed how fully the October Crisis preoccupied Trudeau. Danson describes subsequent travels around the globe with Turdeau and his entourage, and meetings with former Indian prime minister Indira Gandhi, the Shah of Iran, Soviet premier Alexei Kosygin and other world leaders.

Since the trip to Russia occurred at the height of the global Jewish campaign to free Soviet Jewry, Trudeau raised the issue with his Soviet counterparts. He was quite persistent, Danson recalls, and linked it with matters of genuine interest to the Russians. Danson credits Trudeau, along with former U.S. president Richard Nixon, for helping to open the floodgates of Jewish immigration from the monolithic communist state.

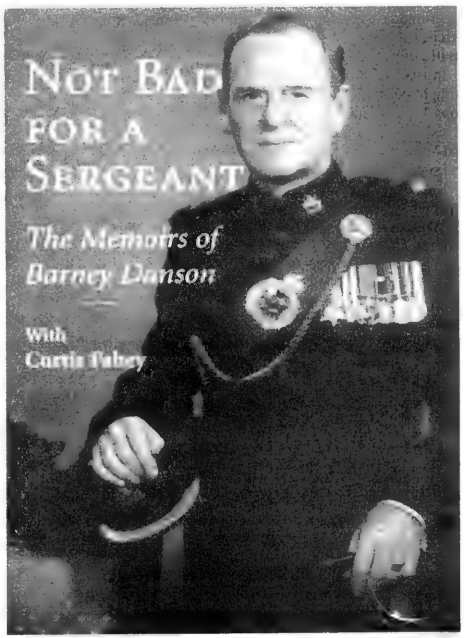
Danson, who subsequently held the high-profile cabinet portfolios of urban affairs and then defence, was rarely idle. He chaired Habitat, a UN forum on human settlements that was marred when the Arab delegates walked out as the Israeli delegate rose to speak. Much later, he helped to establish Katimavik, an innovative and much-lauded program for Canadian youth.

Visiting the Middle East in his role as defence minister, Danson endured "what was probably the most difficult official visit of my life" with Syrian defense minister Mustafa Tlass. Days earlier, Tlass had apparently declared publicly that Syria intended to kill every Israeli and that he was personally prepared to "rip out their throats" with his teeth.

"A sweet guy," Danson observes of the man who likely knew full well that Danson was Jewish. Tlass still heads Syria's defence ministry.

Egyptian president Anwar Sadat gave Danson a decidedly brighter message: "If the Israelis want to talk peace, we are ready." Danson duly relayed those words to Israeli officials, and Sadat's famous visit to Jerusalem occurred a few months later. "I like to think that, in my capacity as a courier, I may well have contributed to this historic development," he writes.

Danson also gives readers his impressions of a spectrum of Israeli prime ministers from Golda Meir to Ehud Barak. He is most critical of Benjamin Netanyahu and most complimentary to Shimon Peres.



Not Bad For A Sergeant touches upon many aspects of a full life. It's well written, perhaps surprisingly so for someone who has been legally blind for the last five of his 80 years. Danson credits his writing partner, Chris Fahey, for the book's even flow and readability.

My only disappointment was that Danson glosses over his family history in only a couple of paragraphs. Certainly, more could have been made of a grandfather – also named Barney Danson – who came to Toronto in the 1870s and left an estate that in 1919 was valued at about a quarter of a million dollars.

Not Bad For A Sergeant is published by Dundurn Press and costs $39.99 in Canada.

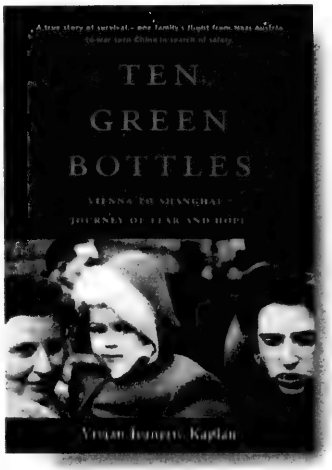
Chanukah Gifts

Account of wartime refugees in Shanghai

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

A new book out just in time for the Chanukah gift-giving season recounts a Toronto resident's story of her mother's escape from Vienna to Shanghai.

Approximately 20,000 European Jews found refuge from Nazi Germany in Shanghai, China. Although most of them spent the war years in severe poverty amongst the worst of diseases, it wasn't until after the war they realized, in retrospect, how "good" they had it, compared to the millions left behind in Europe.



What makes *Ten Green Bottles*, by Vivian Jeanette Kaplan (Robin Brass Studio, 2002), stand out from other similar books is the author's style. Kaplan writes from the first-person viewpoint of her mother; "a creative non-fiction," as she says. The author was born in Shanghai just after the war.

Kaplan's mother, Nini Karpel, was one of four children growing up in pre-war Vienna. They lived a comfortable existence, assimilated into upper-middle class Austrian life. They skied, took holidays and lived an idyllic lifestyle.

In 1938, after the Anschluss, which brought with it Kristallnacht, restrictions, humilation and hardship for all Jewish residents, the Karpels realized that Vienna would never be the same and sought to escape.

Kaplan's prose is simply stunning, especially for a first-time novelist.

"We are Jews, and the gaiety of Vienna is no longer available to us," she writes. "The treachery that has befallen our city forces us to hide from anything of joy or beauty. Even a casual stroll is a danger that we do not attempt. We leave only for the most crucial of necessities and then hurry back like frightened rodents to seek shelter again in the hot, darkened rooms, curtains pulled to hide from the eyes of our enemies, who are lurking everywhere."

With this danger "lurking everywhere," news travels fast about sanctuary in Shanghia, and Nini, now in her 20s, decides it's time for her family to leave.

She boldly walks into a gentile lawyer's office – a stranger – and through one of those twists of fate that many survivors encountered, finds that he feels sorry for her and gets them the necessary exit visas.

One can imagine the absolute culture shock a Viennese family like hers would experience in China. Kaplan's descriptions bring wartime Shanghai, its people and smells, to life.

"We dissolve into the flooding humanity, a population of four and a half million that throngs in the streets, so dense with people that walking through them is like wading in living quicksand... Dead bodies litter the sidewalks, having perished from hunger and heat exhaustion or the ravages of leprosy, malaria, cholera, dysentry or typhoid. Others have succumbed to the numbing opium that has permeated their veins and gnawed at their brains with its poison."

Life in the filth of Shanghai was hard. The only good news was that her lover from home, Poldi, was able to join her there. They married in 1940.

The family survived by operating a bar that catered to sailors. But after Pearl Harbour, the Japanese seized Shanghai, and to appease their Nazi allies, they deported all Jewish refugees to a ghetto in Hongkew, the poorest part of the city.

The Karpels managed to survive despite meagre diets, plagues, thyphoons and later, the Allied bombing. It was only after the war, when they heard about the tragedy of the Holocaust, that they realized that they were some of the lucky ones.

"Only then do we comprehend our own good fortune, despite the hardships, having survived as we have done. Suddenly we feel guilty to have complained of our circumstances, ashamed of our comparative ease."

The Karpels left Shanghai in 1948 with their two-year-old daughter, the author, and settled in Canada.

Although non-fiction, *Ten Green Bottles* reads like a novel. Kaplan captures the mood and feelings of her mother's experiences as if they were her own. The combination of descriptive writing and its unique setting makes this book well worth reading.

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Arts & Travel

Reminiscences in time for Chanukah

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

A new book about a mother's kind deeds is a perfect Chanukah gift for book-lovers.

Mama and Her Mitzvahs: Stories and Reminiscences, by Sophie Stransman, provides a loving, anecdotal portrait of a golden-spirited woman who, with her husband, operated a small dry-goods store in the heart of Toronto's Cabbagetown during the Depression.

Rachel and Elia Siegel were the proprietors of Siegel's Groceteria, an authentic mom-and-pop operation that stood on the corner of Oak and Sumach streets. The store occupied the ground floor of a small house and the family lived upstairs. The store windows were crammed with canned goods and its front was decorated with signs for Coca-Cola, Orange Crush, Salada Tea and Winchester Cigarettes.

Rachel Siegel was an industrious businesswoman who snapped up bargains at Eaton's and offered them for sale in her store. She had her own way with the English language and comically fractured many a fine English phrase: "Just between me, you and the barbershop pole," she would say when addressing someone in confidence.

Above all, she was renowned for her kindness and charity. She extended credit to many families with hungry children at home, dispatched chicken broth (by way of her daughter Sophie) to sick neighbours, and directed friends, customers and deliverymen upstairs to help themselves to the pot of coffee that was always brewing on her stove.

As the author nostalgically relates, Mama revelled in doing mitzvahs. She did so much on behalf of others that it took her years to attain her own simple dream, the purchase of a fashionable but used dress-suit.

Along with her kindness, she was the dispenser of much homespun advice and Yiddishkeit to those around her. "Never fight over children," she once cautioned adults quarreling over their youngsters. "In an hour, the children will be friends again, but the parents will remain enemies forever."

Because of her warmth and wisdom, people were drawn to her "like nails to a magnet," the author relates. "The way she holds an audience in the palm of her hand, she should be on the stage," a neighbour once remarked.

Stransman relates that her mother "felt a strong sense of kinship" with another immigrant storekeeper, Timothy Eaton, and would gaze at his bronze statue in admiration on her weekly visits to Eaton's.

Although we may draw comparisons between this real-life character and the fictitious storekeepers in stories by Bernard Malamud and other Jewish-American writers, we are always keenly aware that Mama is a uniquely Canadian figure, a Torontonian through and through.

For example, the author relates an incident that could only have happened in Toronto. A policeman once observed a girl leaving Siegel's Groceteria on a Sunday with a bag of charcoal under her arm, and ticketed Mama for violating the Lord's Day Act. She plied the officer with sour cream cake and explanations: was the girl's family supposed to freeze until Monday, she asked?

Further, she had taken the charcoal on credit and "we should make in a week what her father owes us." Recognizing defeat, the officer retrieved the ticket and tore it up.

Stransman shows impressive skill for a novice storyteller. While some of her anecdotes seem lightweight, each has a certain *avoirdupois*, like a quantity of butter, sugar or flour wrapped in paper. Only when you hold the collective weight of all these stories in a single grocery bag, as it were, do you appreciate their substantiveness.

Several of the reminiscences are extensive enough to be almost considered as short stories. My favourite, "A Cousin from Germany," falls into this category. It tells the story of a sullen young visitor from Germany during the war era who finally breaks his silence and tearfully relates the fate of his family.

Taken as a whole, *Mama and her Mitzvahs* is as tasty and heimish as a pot of chicken soup warming on a stove.

Mama and Her Mitzvahs is available for $20; phone 416-482-4334, email sophiestransman@hotmail.com

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 71.

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Book confronts German-Americans' shame about Holocaust

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Ursula Hegi's *Tearing the Silence* (Distican) is a meditation on a dimension of the Holocaust not heard before – the legacy of shame borne by some German-born Americans about Germany's ugly past.

The core of *Tearing the Silence* consists of 15 interviews with such hyphenated Americans, and Hegi's introductory remarks set the tone of this frank, thoughtful book.

Hegi, who was 18 when she settled in the United States, writes that neither her parents nor her teachers ever discussed the Holocaust during her formative years.

It was simply a taboo topic.

"We grew up with that silence," observes Hegi, a 55-year-old novelist who lives in the Pacific Northwest.

"As a young woman," she adds, "I tried to shed my German heritage, to make myself nationless." Only later did she come to terms with her background.

Like Hegi, her interviewees are sensitive souls.

Ulrich, 55, recalls that his parents disapproved of Nazi crimes, but claimed that the number of Holocaust victims has been exaggerated.

Anneliese, 59, is torn between her German heritage and her revulsion of the Nazi era.

Joachim, 54, whose father was in an SS division, criticizes Germany's postwar schools for their "maddening silence" about the Holocaust.

Marika, 60, says she has worked very hard to overcome the " blatant anti-Semitism" of her childhood.

A skillful interviewer, Hegi succeeds in drawing out her subject's deepest feelings, and in doing so, she makes *Tearing the Silence* a useful exercise in history, sociology and, perhaps, psychoanalysis.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

PLAYWRIGHT TELLS GREAT-AUNT'S TRUE STORY

Toronto playwright **Sonja Mills** has written a play about her great-aunt, **Agnete Ottosen**, a heroine of the Danish resistance who helped to smuggle hundreds of Jews to Sweden during World War II. Mills, who translated Ottosen's diaries after inheriting them from her mother, travelled to Denmark and interviewed other resistance fighters to learn more about Ottosen's life.

Nightwood Theatre presents the world premiere of *The Danish Play – A True Story of Resistance*, at Tarragon Theatre's Extra Space, 30 Bridgman Ave. Previews Nov. 19 and 20, runs Nov. 21 to Dec. 15. $16 to $30; Sunday PWYC. 416-531-1827.

* * *

Calgary Mezzo-Soprano: Inspired by the courage of her grandmother who survived the Holocaust singing for the commanding officers in Auschwitz, **Tsepora** performs uplifting Yiddish and Hebrew classics. For the past three years, she has sung on the High Holy Days at Temple B'nai Tikvah in Calgary, and last year released a CD and began performing across the country.

Timeless Journey Through Jewish Song is an evening of Yiddish and Hebrew melodies. Vaughan City Playhouse, 1000 New Westminster Dr., Thornhill. Adults $20, children and seniors $15. Sunday, Dec. 22, 7 p.m. 905-709-4057.

* * *

Klezmer Concert: Their name may seem strange but **Hu Tsa Tsa's** music is familiar enough: authentic klezmer characterized by elegant arrangements and passionate improvisation. Hu Tsa Tsa consists of **Jonno Lightstone** (clarinet, flute), **Eric Stein** (mandolin, cimbalom, piano) and **Rona Goldensher** (violin).

Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Ave. Adults $15, students and seniors $10, children $5. Saturday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m. 416-461-6681; e-mail empmusic@interlog.com.

* * *

Chanukah Celebrations

• The Winchevsky Centres's secular community Chanukah celebration features holiday music, storytelling, menorah lighting, gelt, dreidels, latkes and a potluck lunch. Members $5 per person with a $20 maximum for families; non-members $8/$25. Please bring a potluck contribution. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Sunday, Dec. 1, 10:30 a.m.

• Friends of Yiddish presents its annual *Khanike Hulianke*, featuring "Yiddishe lider, geshmake latkes, gute fraynt" and Yiddish singer **Janie Respitz** of Montreal. Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave. Members $5, guests $15. Saturday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m. RSVP by Dec. 4 to Bess, 416-630-7222.

* * *

Evening of Israeli Song: Mickey Lewin and **Reuven Zemer** lead An Israeli Sing-Along, featuring Chanukah and other popular Israeli songs, a complimentary sing-along booklet and refreshments. $10 at the door. 1111 Finch Ave. W., main entrance. Saturday, Nov. 23, 8:30 p.m. 905-881-7972.

* * *

NFB Open House: The National Film Board of Canada inaugurates a new public facility, the NFB Mediatheque ONF, with 44 continuous hours of cinematic events. The facility offers 14 personal viewing stations that provide instant access to an extensive menu of NFB animated, documentary, short and feature films. A small theatre is used for private screenings and other events. The facility is expected to attract more than 100,000 visitors annually.

The launch weekend includes free public screenings, events for school groups, panel discussions, an animation festival and more. Runs Friday, Nov. 22, 10 p.m. through Sunday, Nov. 24, 6 p.m. 150 John St. 416-973-3012; www.nfb.ca

* * *

Arts Briefs

• *Going For Groceries*, by **Alison Lawrence**, is "a touching, funny and moving" glimpse into the life of a mother and her 10-year-old daughter. Miles Nadal JCC presents a public reading as part of its Between Stages series; PWYC, suggested donation $5. 750 Spadina Ave. Thursday, Nov. 21, 8 p.m.

• Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People presents the **Brothers Grimm** fairy tale *The Seven Ravens*. 165 Front St. E. $18. Nov. 22 to Dec. 1. 416-862-2222.

• **Rabbi Craig Allen**, a composer-performer from Detroit, entertains and presents a discussion of the Jewish contribution to jazz based on his book and CD, *Four-legged Robin*. Israel's Judaica, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. Free admission, refreshments. Sunday, Nov. 24, 8 p.m.

• Argentine-born pianist **Daniel Barenboim**, who was raised in Israel from the age of nine, marks his first performance in Toronto in 35 years with a program of **Beethoven**, **Mozart** and **Liszt**. Roy Thomson Hall. $35 to $85. Nov. 29, 8 p.m. 416-872-4255.

• Alumnae Theatre Co. presents *Collected Stories*, by Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Donald Margulies. 70 Berkeley St. $15 or less. Until Dec. 7. 416-364-4170.

• Eye On Arts has received late word that *A Red Carpet For The Sun*, a new documentary on Montreal poet **Irving Layton**, airs on CBC's *Life and Times*, Tuesday, Nov. 19, 7 p.m. The producers are **Ari A. Cohen** and **Evan Beloff** of Montreal's Diversus Productions, whose *Elvis Schmelvis* opened the Toronto Jewish Film Festival last spring.

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Cogan sings traditional Israeli songs

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Lovers of traditional Israeli songs will enjoy their contemporary folk treatment by veteran Canadian-Israeli singer Susan Cogan.

Cogan, who's been performing for over 30 years, was a huge star in Israel in the early '70s.

A singer/songwriter in her own right, Cogan decided on her latest release *Mayim* (*Water*) to showcase old Israeli favourites.

The CD begins with *Hatizkor (Remember)*, first heard on Israeli radio on Independence Day in 1948.

Other songs include the Middle Eastern Sabbath prayer song *Dror Yikara*, a Hebrew version of the Yiddish song *Dona Dona*, the horah *Sovi*, David Zahari's *Desert Song* and seven more songs.

Cogan's voice shines throughout this CD, lending the songs a breath of fresh air. Overall, it is a wonderful compilation of early Israeli folk tunes.

Mayim is released by Nomad Music. You can order it at www.saltspring.com/Susan.

* * *

Jazz pianist/composer Steve Holt has decided to switch genres on his new release, a pop/rock CD called *The Dream*.

Holt is no stranger to change. He was a consumer-product analyst for 15 years before becoming a full-time musician. He recorded four CDs in the jazz milieu, and his debut, *The Lion's Eyes*, was nominated for a Juno Award for best jazz album.

Holt calls *The Dream* the album he always wanted to make, and you can definitely feel the passion and soul on these songs. He felt brave enough to tackle The Beatles' classic *Let It Be* with a passionate, almost a cappella first verse, and he delivers a soulful rendition of Blind Faith's *Can't Find My Way Home*. Liz Tansey's backup vocals on this and other tracks really help round out his sound.

The other 11 songs are all Holt originals – very tightly arranged, structured songs. He co-produced the album with Darius Szczepaniak, who has worked with Barenaked Ladies and Jann Arden.

The Dream is released by Trilogy Records and Inner Music. Order at www.steve-holt.com

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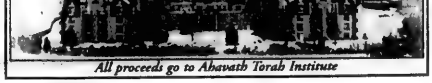


All proceeds go to Ahavath Torah Institute

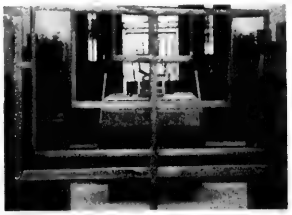
Photographer explores Orthodox Judaism as it relates to women

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

To meet and talk with Carrie Bacher is uplifting. The 25-year-old Montreal-born photographer whose exhibition, Perspectives: Explorations of Jewish Ritual, is at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery until Dec. 12, possesses a spirituality tempered with questioning that adds distinction to her works.

After earning a bachelor of fine arts degree at Toronto's York University where she won the Kodak Canada Scholarship in Photography, she returned to Montreal to pursue a master of fine arts degree at Concordia University. There, within her work, she began to explore Orthodox Judaism as it related to women. She is currently preparing her MFA exhibition thesis for Concordia and is simultaneously enrolled in the bachelor of education program at the University of Ottawa.

In the Justina M. Barnicke exhibition, Bacher features two aspects of Judaism in two different series. The first is a collection of small inventive digital photographs examining the place of Orthodox women behind a mechitzah or divider in a synagogue.



A mechitzah in the shape of a menorah overlooks a bimah in this photo, part of Carrie Bacher's exhibition.

To achieve this effect she explains, "I layer images on top of each other, partially obscuring certain elements from view as they are obscured from where the women sit."

The second series, large gum bichromate photographic prints, shows individual women lighting Shabbat candles.

"Women are typically released from time-bound rituals [such as putting on tefillin in the morning]," she notes, "with the exception of this one, which women are obliged to perform and men do not if there is a woman present. I took this as an empowerment — showing these women welcoming the day of rest."

Each series makes a statement. The first involving the mechitzah indicates a kind of withdrawal, the second grants a privilege.

Both series are exacting. Creating them demands time, precision and an extraordinary understanding of colour.

Outstanding is the empathy that Bacher feels for each of her candlelighting subjects, among them her grandmother, regal in hues of purple, and her mother, surrounded by earth tones, her hands cupped over her eyes. The artist has caught moments of awe, pleasure, contemplation.

In reflecting on her own growing affinity with Orthodoxy, Carrie Bacher cites a sense of serenity on the Sabbath, happiness in the beauty of belief and security in the warm welcome of community.

The Justina M. Barnicke Gallery is located in Hart House, University of Toronto. For hours and more information, call 416-978-8398.

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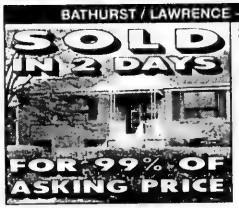

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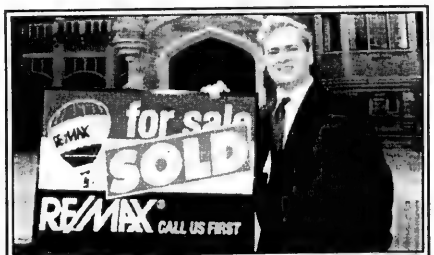

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2 bedroom condo, walk-out to balcony, eat-in kitchen, immediate possession. *Helen Gould

• • •

BATHURST-DREWRY $179,900
Fabulous 2 bedroom with ensuite laundry/storage. Steps to 1 bus to subway, walk to shul! *Helen Winer

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Real Estate Inc. Realtor

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Masterpiece one of a kind. 4 bedrooms - incl. huge master/ensuite/pool. Cheryl Sniderman** 416-488-2875

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$1.8M! Incredible local! Secluded 5+1 bedroom, 4 bath! Vendor says sell! Must be seen! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

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New house to be built by Greenmount Home. Spring completion date. Fur further details call Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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Prime location, 4 bedroom, centre hall. Gracious home ready as is renovate/build. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

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Gracious centre hall. 5 bedrooms, 3 baths. Main floor den+family. Finished basement. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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Move into this house & gardens 1.5 storey home on great lot. 2 bedrooms+den+fin lower level. Cheryl Sniderman** 416-488-2875

BATHURST & LAWRENCE - MOVE IN
Great 2 storey 3 bedroom, 3 baths. Finished lower level. Updated. Cheryl Sniderman** 416-488-2875

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BLOOR WEST AT OLD MILL SUBWAY
Luxury high rise 2 bedroom, 2 baths. View of the Humber Valley. Allen Tobe** 416-488-2875

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$259,900. 2 bedroom, 2 bath, 2 parking. Includes luxurious upgrades!! West view overlooks pool. Lillian Cooper* 416-488-2875

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Stunning 1 bedroom, 1 bath. French doors, extra kitchen cabinets. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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• • •

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BATHURST / ELGIN MILLS. Exceptional 4 bdrm. custom built, home, backs onto conservation area! Approx. 3400 sq. ft. with finished basement. $449,000.

HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR

BRIDLE PATH/GLENORCHY $1,329,000
Connoisseur's choice for those who appreciate perfection plus timeless traditional elegance w/updated kitchen & baths. Private south lot with perennial gardens. Cheryl Graff*

DELORAINE/AVENUE RD & LAWRENCE
$530,000. Well maintained & updated 2 storey home. Private drive and attached garage. See it in my website: www.cherylleejoseph.com – Cheryl Joseph* Ext. 235

BATHURST/HEATH ST. CONDO
$459,000. 2 bdrm + sol. SW exposure, filled with sunshine, upgraded with eat-in kitchen, open living/dining room, shutters, built-in closets, 1 parking and 2nd available. Cheryl Graff*

BATHURST/WILSON - NEW LISTING!
$439K. 5+1 bdrms, backsplit, 4 baths, family room + fireplace & w/out. Reno'd kitchen, b/in appliances, separate entry, fin'd basement & more. Great location! Ellie Parker* Ext. 355

BATHURST - LAWRENCE $389,900
$389,900. Stunning home, new custom kit, 3 reno'd baths, new income bsmnt, new roof, gleaming hardwood flrs, garage+++. Just move in & enjoy. Early Poss. Maxine Povering** Ext. 308

HOT NEW LISTING - $229,000 CONDO
Yonge/Eglinton new building. 1 bedroom, hardwood floors, separate living/dining room, maple kitchen, granite counters, shows like a model, 9 ft. ceilings. Samantha Graff*

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$1,279,000. 7,300 sq. ft. plus finished lower. All the "Bells and Whistles", 6 bedrooms with ensuites, triple garage. **Judi Gottlieb***

FOREST HILL CONDOMINIUM!
$699,000. Rare and beautiful 2 bedroom + den corner suite with balcony. Large choice floor plan! **Dorann Gottlieb***

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$449,000. Superb 4 bedroom home. Renovated with quality and style. Separate entry to finished lower level. **Dorann Gottlieb***

BATHURST MANOR 1ST AD
$399,000. Estate sale, spacious sidesplit on large lot, quiet street, double garage, separate entrance to basement apt. **Bev Burstein***

SUPERB YORK MILLS CONDO!
$329,000. Just move in, 2 split bedrooms, 2 baths, gourmet kitchen, granite, wood floors, concierge, 2 car pkg. **Sue Feldman***

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$2,800 - $4,800 per mo. Just move your clothing, 2 newer homes to choose from 3-5 bedrooms plus! **Judi Gottlieb***

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Live and have your own business in this 4,000 sq. ft. 5 bedroom home set on 5 forested acres. 401/407. **Helga Goldberg***

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14,300 sq. ft. land, 2 brick detached bungalows, great development location, Don't Miss!

WILSON BATHURST
2 storey, 3 bdrm + den, L-shaped liv & din combined, fin bsmnt, garage, Steps to All!

WILMINGTON OVERBROOK
3 bedroom bungalow, good size living & dining, 2 baths, 2 kitchens, finished basement, Large lot.

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YONGE / OLD COLONY RD.
Stunning 3 bdrms. Eat-in kitchen, walk-out to deck. Main floor laundry. Sitting area on 2nd floor. Fully landscaped w/large deck. Double attached garage. ***Christina Palaley/*Steven Keshen.**
SOLD

• • •

ST. CLAIR / BATHURST - $339,000.
Beautiful 3 bdrm. + loft. Main floor den, walk-out to deck. Finished lower level. 2 car parking. Walk to schools, TTC. ***Richard Sherman.**
SOLD

• • •

BATHURST / LAWRENCE - $384,900.
Great bungalow in desirable location. 3 bdrms. Modern, eat-in kitchen. Finished lower level. Private drive & attached garage. ***Shawnee Sian.**
SOLD

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MIDTOWN CONDO - $419,000.
Executive penthouse in the heart of the city. Roof top garden & bbq., indoor pool & sauna. Fabulous, intimate building. 70 ft. of windows - panoramic views. Parking. ***Veronica Key.**

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NORTH TORONTO - $539,000.
Stunning 3 bdrm. home. Main fl. breakfast rm./den + walk-out to newly landscaped patio & yard. Gorgeous l/vl. family rm. & office. Reno'd to perfection. Front pad parking. ***Carol Cotton.**

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YONGE / EGLINTON - $579,000.
Lovely detached 3 bdrm. home. Reno'd kitchen w/granite countertop. CAC. Finished lower level. Walk to shops, restaurants. ***Bobby Simpson.**

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YONGE / ST. CLAIR - $639,000.
Midtown townhouse. Vaulted ceiling. Skylights. Fireplace. Finished lower level. Maintenance free rear patio & garden w/dog run. Built-in garage. Steps to shops & TTC. ***Don Wagman.**

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CEDARVALE GEM - $659,000.
Tastefully renovated home in prime neighbourhood. Main floor family rm. & powder rm. Master w/ensuite bath. CAC. Private drive. Shows to perfection. ***Richard Sherman.**

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MT. PLEASANT / DAVISVILLE - $675,000.
Custom designed home. 3+ bdrms. Gourmet kitchen & appliances. Sunken main fl. family rm. w/walk-out. Master w/gorgeous 5 pce. ensuite. Multi skylights. Fin. lower level. ***Don Wagman.**

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LOADS OF POTENTIAL - $679,000.
Wonderful corner property on Kingston Rd. near Birchmount. Presently used as residential property. Many other possibilities. For details call, ***Tracy Selver/*Craig Laine.**

• • •

BAYVIEW / CUMMER - $929,000.
Approx. 1 acre of country living in the city. 5 bdrm., 5 bath home. Finished lower level w/walk-out to pool & tennis court. A rare find. ***Steven Keshen.**

• • •

RESIDENCES AT WINDSOR ARMS - $998,000.
Unique suite in prestige residence. Master bdrm. w/sitting area & bath ensuite. Den area off living rm.; fireplace. Building amenities include pool, spa & beauty salon; room and/or maid service, 24 hour conc., valet parking. ***Linda Rose.**

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$318,900 - GREAT BUY
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Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr.
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

Patricia/Bathurst, bsmnt apt, 2 bdrm, kitch, fireplace, $800/mo. Call 905-771-9406/not on Sat.

Sheppard/Allen Rd./401, 1 bdrm. ren'd, subway parking, $750/mo inclusive. 905-731-0180.

Bathurst Manor, furn. bsmnt. 1 bed., a/c, separate entr. walk to shuls, TTC, smoke & pet free. 416-633-5994.

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

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Clark/Yonge - Skyrise lux. 1815 sq. ft. 2⅛ bth., 2 bdr. + den. Move-in cond. Prkg., locker $389K, 905-731-1043. Private.

333 Clark, priv. sale, 2 bdrms. split, lrge. sol., in mint cond., fully upgr., 2 car gar. & locker, no agents please. 905-764-9500.

3000 BATHURST ST.
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$295,000 Fab. 3 bedroom corner unit in pristine mint condition, upgraded broadloom, 2 baths., 5 appliances.
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35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bath./Shepp./Canyon, lrge. 2 bdr. + sol., 2 bths., furn./unfurn., pool, sauna, 416-924-7944.

Skymark I, corner unit, 2 br. + den + Florida rm., 6 appl. 1 pkrg. from Dec. 1. 416-481-6543.

GLENCAIRN–WEST–SUBWAY
155 Marlee–$1,250 inc., 2 bdrm, Shabbat elev., parking, balcony. **Denise Abraham, 416-485-2299.** C.B. Pinnacle R.E.

40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/RENT

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78 SHORT TERM RENTAL AVAILABLE

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Bathurst/Sheppard, 5 bdrm, 4 baths, furnish., garage. January-June. 416-636-8788.

82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Bath./Wilson, room for rent in kosher home (female). NS & refs. 416-633-3268.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

MIAMI BEACH OCEANFRONT, beautiful brand new, furnished studios, fully equipped, luxury bldg., pool, spa, tennis, kosher restaurant, Shabbos elevator. $500/wk US. 305-895-3000.

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130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Aquarius-Hollywood, lux. 2 br. 2 bth, excellent condition furn. condo on ocean, excellent views. Avail. Jan. 8, 3 mo. min. $2500/mo US. 416-661-1389 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.).

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Palm Aire, 2 bdrms., king size, Dec. & Jan. $1500/mo US. Call 416-224-0028.

Ft. Laud./Miami, on beautiful beach, new lux. condo, 2/2, oceanview, tiles/granite, tennis courts, sauna, gym. $3300/mo US. 954-455-3638.

W. Palm Bch, The Lands of the President, on golf course, tennis, pool, 2 bdrm., furn., lux. gated comm., $2400/mo US, min. 4 mos., 5 mo. FREE. 416-324-8237, fax: 416-324-8709.

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Hallandale, on the ocean, fully furn. 2 bdrms., 2 full bths., liv. rm., din. rm., kit. Min. 4 mos. $2500/mo US. Day: 514-934-5030, evngs. 514-486-6988.

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SEARCH for HEAD OF SCHOOL
Greenfield Hebrew Academy - Atlanta, Georgia

The Katherine and Jacob Greenfield Hebrew Academy, a 50-year-old, PK-8, Jewish community day school in north Atlanta, seeks a head of school to begin work July 1, 2003. The head of school reports to the board of trustees and oversees the work of some 100 faculty and staff and the education of 550 students.

As Atlanta's first day school, it has a long tradition of educational excellence and of service to Atlanta's entire Jewish community. Within recent years, GHA has been awarded the Jerusalem Prize by the World Zionist Organization and also twice named a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

GHA's mission is to provide Jewish students an outstanding Jewish day school education, integrating Judaic and general studies in a traditional curriculum that is both challenging and stimulating.

GHA's handsome and secure 18-acre campus in north Atlanta includes athletic fields, terraces, playgrounds, and 118,000 square feet under roof, all dramatically built into and around a series of ravines. Facilities are outstanding.

Currently, GHA is poised to move to its next level, at which the school's many strengths can be consolidated into a focused, highly effective, and well-established institution of education (both general and Judaic). The school's next head will have the pleasure and privilege of working the transformation, in the context of the school's rich traditions.

The Academy requests both applications and nominations, which may be sent to:

Eliot Arnovitz and Shelley Cooper
GHA Search Committee Co-chairs
c/o Fitzgerald + CO.
3060 Peachtree Road
Atlanta, GA 30305

Applications consist of a resume and a letter of interest explaining how the individual's experience, skills and interests correspond to the leadership statement (available in response to e-mail request). Applications received after December 18, 2002, when the search committee begins its candidate review, cannot be guaranteed full attention. The search is confidential.

Nominations may be sent by e-mail to eliot@arnovitz.com or rscooper@attbi.com

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Chef for strictly kosher meat & deli store, $19/hour. Mail your resume to: President, Toronto Kosher, 3459 Bathurst Street, Toronto, ON. M6A 2C5.

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Female, late 50s, fun loving, enjoys travel, music, dancing & outdoors, very romantic & has a positive outlook on life. Seeks complimentary man for long lasting romantic relationship. Lives in New England. Mail to: P.O. Box 719, Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, USA 03844-0719, photo appreciated.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS

THE BACHELORETTE. Very attractive, prof. Jewish female 35, fit, blonde hair, captivating green eyes, loves travel, dining, comedy, family. Looking for an attractive, fit, prof. male 35-45 who is outgoing, family oriented, down to earth. If you would normally not answser a personal ad then answer this one. Just think of the great stories we can tell our grandchildren about how we met! E-mail reponse AND photo to sprint@hotmail.com or write to CJN Box #4550.

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MELTZ, Albert – on Oct. 27, 2002, late of 4 Mascott Place.
SZYMKOWICZ, Ester – on Oct. 29, 2002, late of 343 Clark Ave. W.
SALB, Mildred – on Oct. 30, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
RUBINSTEIN, Nancy – on Oct. 31, 2002.
SOTTO, Solange – on Nov. 1, 2002, late of 3 Mill Arbour Lane.
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Chanukah Gifts

More Precious than Gold

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

We hear a lot about anti-Semitism these days. Many people, for no particular reason, just don't like Jews.

This is not something new. In fact, hundreds of years ago, a terrible institution was created, called the Inquisition. It was especially powerful in Spain and Portugal.

The Inquisition gave Jews two choices: either become Christian, or leave the country. Those who stayed had a very hard time, as the priests and other people didn't really trust that they had truly become Christians.

Indeed, many kept their Jewish religion secretly, lighting Shabbat candles in the cellar, and trying not to eat pork. They were called Marranos.

More Precious than Gold, by Evelyn Mizrahi Blatt with Eve-Lynn Gardner, illustrated by Eli Toron (Hachai Publishers, 2002) is about the other Jews – the ones who chose to leave.

Sarita Mizrahi lived a very pleasant life in Seville, Spain, with her parents and her younger brother Yosef. They had lots of beautiful things in their house, and servants to look after them.

Her mother, Mazal, was determined that her family should practise Judaism openly, and she convinced her husband that they should leave Spain for the Ottoman Empire, what we now call Turkey. There, Jews were welcomed.

The Spanish didn't make it easy for the Jews to leave. They made them sell nearly all their goods and property. Because they had to leave very quickly, they couldn't get very much for what they sold.

Sarita was just learning how to make challah. Her mother promised her that when she did learn, the family's beautiful silver challah plate would be hers.

Just before their last Shabbat in Spain, soldiers broke into the house to take the last few treasures remaining.

Sarita grabbed the challah plate, and ran into the backyard. Trying frantically to find a safe place to hide it, she found a young girl in the yard who offered to keep it for her.

Although she didn't know the girl, Sarita felt there was no choice and gave it to her.

The girl, Devorah, later came to return the plate and told the family that she was an orphan who lived with a Jewish family that had decided to stay in Spain. But Devorah desperately wanted to be able to live as a Jew and begged Sarita's father to take her with them.

When her father couldn't get permission to take Devorah, Sarita decided to help her. She hid Devorah in one of her trunks, which was loaded into the cargo hold of the ship. During the voyage, she snuck food and water to her friend.

To her joy, Devorah told Sarita that she had hidden the precious challah plate in the trunk with her.

When they finally landed in Smyrna, in Turkey, they were met by members of the Turkish Jewish community who helped them settle in. Finally, Sarita could tell her parents about Devorah and the challah plate.

More Precious Than Gold is not just a good story, although you will enjoy it very much, especially seeing how Sarita becomes so capable. You will learn about how the Spanish Jews, called Sephardim, lived, the kinds of food they ate, and some of their language.

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women seeking men

ATTRACTIVE & OUTGOING

I am an attractive outgoing jewish lady 5' 7", medium build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, with a great smile who enjoys singing, and dancing. I am seeking a tall attractive jewish male with a full head of hair, in good shape, outgoing with similar interests **AD#1373**

GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR

I am single, 50'ish, non-smoker, conservative, classy, kind, who enjoys dining out, dancing, travel and the beach. I have a good sense of humor who is seeking a male 50-65 yrs of age, non-smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured with similar interests **AD#1261**

HARD WORKING FEMALE

I am 40 years old, slim, attractive, hard-working female who enjoys dancing, dining out and sports. I'm seeking a male between the ages of 40-50 with similar interests for a long term relationship **AD#1011**

ATTN: WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

I would like to start a small social group for 50-60 yrs old only. No divorcees Thank you **AD#1273**

MY BABY JUST CARES FOR ME

HI, I'm a separated 43 yrs old, mother of 2 teenagers. very pretty, intelligent, loves to laugh I enjoy jazz, dancing, theatre, outdoor walking, and I'm looking for an accomplished, intelligent, fun loving, warm, cuddly gentleman who can be a great partner to enjoy life with **AD#1155**

MATCH MADE IN EDEN

I'm a stable, sensible & optimistic Jewish female in my early 30's searching for my match made in Eden. I am a serene individual who enjoys movies, reading & spending time with friends and family If you are a Jewish male in mid-late 30's with the same traits & interests, please call **AD#1309**

ZEST FOR LIFE

Single Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, fit, 5' 5" and good natured Seeks single Jewish traditional male between 45-55 yrs young with 6', handsome, established, exciting, caring, non smoker and one who loves life **AD#1414**

A RARE GEM

Unique, attractive Jewish female, 5' 5" tall, brown hair/eyes, kind, sincere, creative & lots of fun to be with Seeks traditional a Jewish gentleman under 55 yrs young w/ handsome over 6" genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoker, financially stable & humorous. **AD#1476**

OPTIMIST

Single Jewish professional woman, would like to meet Jewish male, 45-55 yrs, non smoker I'm looking forward to hearing from you **AD#1172**

LOOKING FOR YOU

Hi I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs. I'm a warm person, honest, very open and out going. I'm a good listener and good to communicate with. I'm friendly, and I enjoy people. I'm looking for a widow 54-62 yrs for friendship first **AD#1403**

GIVE ME A CALL

This 65 yr old female is a radiant shapely beauty. She's independent, educated, articulate and with a zest for life. She is seeking an easy going witty man to dance, hike and attend the theatre with **AD#1275**

ARE YOU MY MATCH?

Hi there, I am a feisty, fun, focused, funky, sometimes foolish, flirtatious and fabulous 50's plus fussy female, who has yet to find her match I am a successful & accomplished 35 yr old Jewish gal who is looking for an equally successful & accomplished 35-40 Jewish guy **AD#1056**

PASSION & ZEST

Do you have a passion and zest for life & adventure? Hi, I'm a mysterious, European female. I'm 5' 2", 43 yrs mother of 2, with an adventurist spirit & wide range of interests and a very easy going nature I'm looking man between 38-55 yrs, 5' 10" who's up for friendship leading to marriage **AD#1113**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

HI, I'm a single female in late my 30's. I'm slim & attractive I have brown hair,light blue eyes Some of my interests include swing dancing, biking, hiking, tanning on the beach & nature walks I'm interested in meeting a single man that is family oriented & attractive, 35-55 yrs. **AD#1160**

LET'S MEET

Hi I am a youthful, 58 yrs old, warm, kind compassionate female. I don't smoke, I'm financially secure and would like to meet someone to share my interests. I enjoy going to movies, theatre, and taking romantic walks. I'm looking for loving partner for enjoying life with **AD#1032**

DOWN TO EARTH

I'm a Jewish widow and I would like to meet a widower, 55-63. I like music and old movies. I'm a caring, sharing, romantic and warm person I'm down to earth and like to smile a lot. I have no baggage, and would like to meet someone with similar interests **AD#1191**

ROMANCE & LOVE

I am a widow in my 50's, and I'm starting over. I'm a non smoker, who's friendly, down to earth, loves cooking and baking, enjoys people, romantic quiet times listening to music and sitting in front of a fire. I would to like to meet a widower, 55-60 yrs **AD#1344**

CALL ME

Hi, I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs old I'm a warm person, honest, very open, out going, good listener and good to communicate with I also friendly, and I enjoy people Looking for a widow 54-62 for friendship first. **AD#1403**

MAKE YOU LAUGH

I am a professional woman in my mid 50's I have been a widow over a year and would like to meet someone This person must be someone who's single and professional, with whom I can share my interests with, Preferably someone who lives in metro-toronto a fun outgoing, funny to be with and easy to talk to **AD#1461**

QUIET TIMES

I am widow in my 50's and I'm starting over I'm a non smoker, friendly, down to earth, love cooking and baking, I enjoy romantic, quiet times listening to music and sitting in front of a fire I would like to meet a widower 55-60 **AD#1344**

WARM SMILE

I am a Jewish widow, and would like to meet a widower 55-63, likes music, old movies. I'm a caring and sharing, romantic, warm person, who's down to earth and likes to smile a lot **AD#1191**

YOUNG AT HEART

I'm a youthful, 58 yr old single female who's warm, kind and compassionate, I don't smoke and I'm financially secure. I would like to meet someone to share interests with like going to movies, the theatre, walking and other interests. Looking for loving partner to enjoy life with. **AD#1032**

WIDOWS ONLY

Would like to start a widows group social, 50-60 yrs only, no divorcees. **AD#1040**

A REAL FIND

I'm a smart, kind hearted, loyal, very very funny female who's cute, youthful, physically fit, & professionally successful with no strings, I'm looking to meet a wonderful Jewish man 50-60 yrs of age to share, enjoy & enrich our life experiences **AD#1156**

A MENSCH FOR ALL SEASONS

Michelle is an engaging, fun-loving, energetic, fanatically-fit widow with a zest for life & a passion for work & family Friends say she is attractive & fun to be with She is looking for a mensch (by definition a life loving man of integrity) **AD#1012**

LET'S MEET

Hi, I'm a sincere lady with a warm smile I'm kind, caring & compassionate I'm also honest & have a good sense of humour. I love animals & seek a gentleman for companionship between 60-65 yrs I also enjoy long walks, dancing, theatre & music **AD#1447**

FINER THINGS

Hi, I'm an attractive professional woman in my early 50's. I'm 5' 6", red hair and have 2 grown wonderful children I'm sincere, respectful, caring, romantic and fun loving I enjoy cooking, fine dining, dancing, theatre, opera, travel, walks in the park, and I love to sing **AD#1402**

NEW LIFE WITH YOU

I'm a widow who would like to rebuild a new life with a widower or a single male 54-60 yrs I'm active, outgoing and down to earth I enjoy life, non smoker I like art, adventure & travel Seeking a mature relationship. **AD#1383**

LET'S MEET FOR COFFEE

Hi, I'm 39 yr old single female. I'm seeking a male 39-49 yrs, who's attractive, hard working like myself, and easy going. Looking for friendship, hopefully leading to a relationship. I like dancing, going out to eat & movies **AD#1269**

START'S OVER

I'm a widow in my 50's, who would like to start over. I'm a caring & sharing individual, a good listener, non smoker, positive person w/ a smile. I enjoy life & people and humour Would like to meet a single man in his 50's w/ similar interests **AD#1236**

EUROPEAN WIDOW

European, retired widow, is looking for a loving relationship w/ widower or divorced man, loves music, art , swimming, walking & tennis **AD#1182**

SPEND TIME TOGETHER

I'm a widow looking for a widower between 50-60 yrs. I enjoy music and reading. I'm very open, caring, romantic, enjoy country drives and holding hands Looking for a warm person with a great smile, and sense of humour with similar interests. **AD#1380**

STREETCAR NAMED...

Hello my name is Stella, looking for a serious relationship w/ a honest man who is intelligent & has a sense of humour who likes the outdoors, music, travel & many other things I enjoy outdoor activities, I'm sincere, outspoken person. Seeks quality time w/ someone **AD#1460**

PLAY GAMES WITH YOU

HI, I'm a tall, attractive, Jewish woman, 39 yrs, independent, honest, down to earth, love to read, do crossword puzzles, play scrabble, dance, long walks, I'm looking for a tall Jewish, warm, intelligent & kind man who knows what he wants out of life. **AD#1182**

SIMPLE THINGS

I'm a slim, shapely, very attractive, 50'ish, single Jewish female who's 5' 4" tall, dark hair & eyes, a great smile, warm & affectionate As far as interests are concerned, the simple pleasures of life are the very best For me it's laughter, good conversation, sipping wine at a cafe **AD#1029**

SOULMATE SEARCHING

33 yr old female, with long brown hair & eyes, very good looking, out going, charming, loves to have fun. Looking for a down to earth attractive male between 30-40 yrs, non smoker, who shares same interests as I. I'm looking for my soul mate, if your interested please respond **AD#1406**

DESTINATION: LOVE

Hi, if your interested in meeting a special single Jewish female, baggage free, has air miles & loves to travel you've answered the right ad. I'm a very attractive, slim, shapely, fun loving, 50'ish, single Jewish female with a warm smile, integrity & many interests **AD1061**

HIGH CLASS

Larissa is attractive, Jewish, 55 yrs, 5' 3" tall and seek an interesting accomplished, classy gentleman between 55-65 yrs for companionship & more **AD#1443**

CALL ME

Cindy is a petit, brown eyed brunette, 5' 2", very friendly, intelligent, loving, compassionate looking for a professional gentleman, between 50-60 yrs, who shares similar qualities with whom I can enjoy companionship & happy times. Some interests include movies, theatre & music **AD#1185**

LIFE PARTNER

Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, petite, cute, attractive, pretty and slim. She enjoys music, dancing, nature, hiking, quiet beach walks, non smoker, non drinker, looking for a life partner, preferably an easy going, single jewish male between 35-55 yrs with similar interests **AD#1200**

I AM FOR YOU

Unique, Jewish female, attractive, 5' 5", intelligent, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks a single Jewish, established, male 45 yrs young, family oriented, kind, honest, responsible, respectable and over 6 feet tall **AD#1240**

SERIOUS RELATIONSHIP

Attractive, 40 yrs, single Jewish female, seeks male 40-52 yrs who's attractive, hard working like myself I like to go out to eat, dance, movies & a bit of sports, If you have similar interests, leave me your name & number I'm looking for a serious relationship **AD#1037**

SHARE WITH YOU

Marianna is 5' 4", with hazel eyes and dark hair She enjoys sports, concerts, walks and dancing, and is seeking a male to share those interests She describes herself as outgoing, friendly, straight forward & easy to talk to **AD#1382**

KILLER SMILE!

Hi, my name is Debbie. I'm 47 yrs almost, a Virgo—Sept 6th is my birthday, divorced for 8 yrs and very comfortable with that I'm 5' 3" with short brown hair & brown eyes, and a smile that will knock you dead Little bit overweight but working on it diligently. I love the outdoors **AD#1038**

LOVE CONNECTION?

Jewish female, pretty, creative professional, young lady, 5'5ft, slender, enjoys travel,theatre & fine dining Seeks an established & fit male, between 43-53 yrs, complimented by sincerity & spontaneity to share in the zest of life **AD#1151**

SHARE WITH YOU

Marianna is 5' 4", with hazel eyes and dark hair She enjoys sports, concerts, walks and dancing, and is seeking a male to share those interests. She describes herself as outgoing, friendly, straight forward & easy to talk to **AD#1382**

RESPECT & SINCERITY

40 yr old honest caring, sensitive female writer, looking for compatible male in his 40's to share meaningful moments. I enjoy long walks, talks, cafes, movies, art, poetry, nature, animals, I'm open minded. I value respect & sincerity, friendships & genuine relationships **AD#1401**

men seeking women

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP

I am a 37 yr old male. I have brown hair, blue eyes and like nature and the outdoors. I am seeking a Jewish lady 25-39 years of age for a long term relationship **AD#1064**

LAUGHTER AND MUSIC

I am in my early 60's, 5' 5", 135 lbs who enjoys walks, laughter, classical music. Some of my paintings are in exhibits. I am seeking a caring, warm, compassionate lady for companionship. **AD#1474**

JOIN THE WAR ON LONELINESS!

33 yr old professional male, seeks recruit 25-35 for Operation ROMANCE Must be university educated & preferably spiritual not religious. Let's be all we can be. For security reasons, all baggage must be left at the door. **AD#1469**

THE WASTED WARRIOR

Seeking a free spirited female, 40-45. No commitments. Take the challenge if you dare. **AD#1475**

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP

Hello my name is Michael. I'm a 41 yr accountant, and have been working for many years. In my spare time during the summer I enjoy playing baseball, bike riding and hiking. I also enjoy getting together with friends. I'm looking to meet a young lady with similar goals, which hopefully leads to long term relationship. **AD#1370**

INCURABLE ROMANTIC

Jewish male, non smoker, in his 70's going on 50. A university graduate, 5' 5", 145 lbs, I have many varied interests including theatre, music, dancing, the arts, tennis, golf, dining, travelling. I'm also an incurable romantic & social drinker with a great zest for life. **AD#1235**

PROFESSIONAL MALE

Hi I'm a single 40 yr old male, professional, physically fit easy going, who enjoys meeting people and have a joy for life. I'm looking for a female 30-40 yrs, who meets my common interests. **AD#1286**

ROMANTIC MAN

Hi, I'm a Jewish male, late 50's, who's looking for a sharing & caring woman, non smoking, 45-58yrs. I'm a romantic who likes long walks & enjoys nature, quiet evenings cuddling together at fireside **AD#1478**

DIAGNOSIS: LOVE

I'm 51 yrs and work as a medical doctor. I have 2 daughters that live with me and I'm a devoted father I'm slim, fit, energetic, and intense. My interests range from art, philosophy to foreign languages & ballroom dancing. I'm looking for a younger female of intelligence, energy and beauty **AD#1469**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

I'm a man in my 50's w/ blue eyes, dark brown hair, who would like to meet a woman, also in her 50's. She should enjoy travel, museums, the arts & musical theatre. Looking for someone who can share lots of laughs w/ a good sense of humour Home cooked meals would be a definite bonus. **AD#1234**

HEALTHY WEALTHY

HI my name is Arnon, I'm a white executive living in Thornhill. I look in the mirror & I see a healthy young 1939 model w/ no deficiencies, I'm told that I'm not bad to look at either. I've got salt & pepper hair, beautiful blue eyes, slim,. 5' 10" and I have good teeth too. My passions are the sun & sea. **AD#1005**

UNEMPLOYED BUM

Are you looking for a ugly, short, fat, bald, unemployed bum? Well keep looking because I'm none of the above. I'm honest, successful, good looking with no dependents. I love gourmet foods, wine tasting, movies & I'm a very good cook. Seeking a woman between 38-48 yrs. **AD#1227**

LET'S MEET

Hi my name is Marvin, I'm a warm & thoughtful person, single, 60 yrs old and I live in GTA, I'm a romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who loves to travel, watch movies, take long walks, relax in the country I also enjoy great conversation, nice quiet times at homes, and I love to read. **AD#1074**

DO YOU JUBU?

Physically & spiritually active male, 33 yrs old. Seeks non materialistic female with insight, aged between 25-35 yr old for mindful & compassionate relationship **AD#1315**

FRIENDSHIP & LOVE

Single Jewish male of Indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest. Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family. **AD#1459**

FUN GUY

Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things. Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading. Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands. **AD#1368**

LET'S TALK

I want to enjoy all the things in life like any normal person. I'm not interested in marriage, but would like a steady relationship. If you're slim, good looking, with a nice personality & would like to meet a nice, funny, good looking, 70 yr old, 5' 6", slim guy, let's talk. **AD#1055**

PICTURE THIS

I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more. If you find this brief introduction interesting, leave a message. **AD#1442**

EASY GOING

Steve is an easy going Jewish male, fun loving, enjoys walks and good conversation Seeks attractive female up to age of 38 yrs who's easy going, enjoys the simple things in life, such as going out for dinners and other things. **AD#1390**

LET'S GET TOGETHER

Chaim, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs, 5' 8", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family in a wonderful atmosphere. Please call and leave a message **AD#1239**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED

Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous, interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1178**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'

Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook. He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate. **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET

Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female (Jewish preferably), around the same age, who's honest sincere female and shares the same interests, If interested please leave a voice mail. **AD#1070**

MUSIC & WINE

Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-65yrs. He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports **AD#1280**

AM I ASKING TOO MUCH?

Divorced Jewish male, 47 yrs with 2 teenaged children, seek women 25-40 yrs, thin, good looking, who likes rock n roll, sports, 3 stooges, Howard Stern, partying & swimming because I have a pool. Am I asking too much? Give me a call. **AD#1318**

KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN

Bob is 48 yrs, professional, seeking to meet female who's into cycling and would like to explore the city/country. If you're interested in meeting a very nice guy to have fun with and get a little exercise. **AD#1236**

LOOKING FOR YOU

37 yr old male, 6' 3", 230 lbs, with black hair, brown eyes & goatee. He enjoys spending time with family & friends, likes playing golf and surfing the net, and seeks a nice lady who has similar interests. **AD#1063**

LET'S TALK

Dave is 37 yrs old, slim and handsome, with brown hair, blue/grey eyes, and has a BA. He enjoys the outdoors, travelling, dining, and baseball. He's a good conversationalist, and seeks a Jewish female between 32-38 yrs who is tall & attractive. If you like what your reading **AD#1158**

WILLING TO SETTLE

Alan is 42 yrs, 5' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes. He's very active, enjoys exercise, boating and camping. He seeks an honest, generous, romantic, female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down. He is honest & straight to the point **AD#1439**

NEW IN TOWN

Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love. **AD#1051**

A GENTLEMAN

A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

FRIENDLY FELLA

Martin, 48 yrs, is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets. He seeks a friendly good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well Kids are okay **AD#1206**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST

Jewish male, 46 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling. **AD#1438**

HONEST AND CARING

Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

COFFEE TALK

Hi, there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you. I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice and good looking - but the the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me. Let's talk over a cup of coffee. **AD#1224**

SHARING AND CARING

Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship **AD#1340**

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Shell shines at McGill; Toronto boy enters senior year

By ADAM GRACHNIK
Special to The CJN

OTTAWA — There are only a handful of Jews playing university-level hockey, but one of them – a grizzled veteran of the hockey wars – will again suit up for one of the top schools in the country.

Thornhill native Adam Shell patrols the blue line for the McGill Redmen of Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) and this season he is in his final year with the historic school.

The experience, he says, "has been amazing."

"[There are] so many good positive aspects. You learn a lot," says the 5-foot-10, 205-lb. defenceman. "The experience was fantastic."

In his first year with the team, Shell played with 11 other rookies. The Redmen finished 26-5, good enough for fifth in the country. While he managed to score six goals that first year, he admits the transition wasn't easy.

After a strong junior career on defence, Shell was suddenly given some shifts at forward.

"I came from two places where I was the first defenceman," says Shell, who idolizes retired rearguard Ray Bourque. "Going back and forth between forward and defence is tough. It takes your confidence away."

Adam Shell

Another adjustment Shell was forced to make was getting used to the amount of French spoken in the dressing room.

"It's the first time I have ever played on a team where another language was used," he says.

Balancing his academic and sports involvements – being on the ice every day and travelling on weekends – became another major demand.

"It's tough if you have an exam Monday morning but you're in Toronto for the weekend," says Shell. "Practising every day takes its toll. You have to be diligent in what you do. You can't sit and watch TV. You have work to do. The coaches know we're students first. [They] above all, care more about us as individuals, than as hockey players."

As a youngster in the Metro Toronto Hockey League (now the Greater Toronto Hockey League), Shell played with many Triple-A teams, but he started his Junior A career with the Shelbourne Wolves, a team that was "giving young kids a chance."

In one off-season, the Thornhill Rattlers bought his playing rights.

"[Playing for] Thornhill was the best thing that could have happened to me. My confidence started happening," says Shell about the season that saw him score seven goals and and 43 assists as part of the Rattlers' top defensive pairing.

In his last year at Thornlea Secondary School, Shell graduated with an 82 average, even though he spent a lot of time visiting U.S. schools to plan the next step in his career.

"I could have gone to other programs," he says. "[I was] recruited heavily… I knew I wasn't going to be a pro and education was a definite must. I wasn't interested in playing out my junior eligibility and getting a big-time scholarship," he said, referring to the increased odds of going to a U.S. college if he spent another year in Junior A.

He decided instead to enroll at McGill and study management. "I wanted to go to school with my friends and graduate with them," he adds.

Having chosen McGill for its academic program, Shell took the initiative and phoned the coach, who arranged for Shell to be scouted.

In 1999-2000, Shell was signed and he suited up for his parents' alma mater.

Even though he had injury problems in his sophomore year and was still being shifted around to forward in his third, Shell doesn't regret his decision for a second.

"I never stopped enjoying it. I have a passion for the game," he says. "We're treated with a lot of respect. Travelling is good… It's all been great."

While Shell maintains a tight bond with the friends he grew up with, his friends on the Redmen are very important to him now.

"My teammates are my best and closest friends," he says. "There is nothing like walking into the room and seeing the guys. That's what I like the most."

Adam Shell (foreground) patrols the blue line for the McGill Redmen.

And for many of his teammates, Shell is the first Jew they have ever met.

"Most guys on the team have never come across a Jew," he says, explaining that some of his teammates hail from small towns like Weyburn, Sask. or Crystal City, Man. "I enjoy educating them about it."

For the last few seasons, though, Shell wasn't the only Jew on the team. His defence partner at times was Matthew Singermann, now a McGill law student and assistant coach.

"We're probably the only all-Jewish defence pairing in the league," he says with a broad grin.

Though Shell loves the game of hockey, he'll have to decide whether to "hang 'em up" after this season concludes.

"After this year, depending on how good a season I have, I might have some pro aspirations," says Shell. "I really enjoy coaching and really love teaching. [I've] always been a student of the game."

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Goodbye Champions Cup, hello UEFA Cup for Haifa

JERUSALEM — Maccabi Haifa's fabulous European soccer adventure shifted from Champions Cup play to the third round of the UEFA Cup following a 3-3 draw against Olympiakos in Athens.

In a performance bristling with self-confidence and what can only be describe as bare-faced impudence, Haifa effectively ensured itself third place in the group and continued European soccer competition with two goals in the first 10 minutes of the game.

In the ninth minute, Giovanni Rosso sprang the Olympiakos offside trap with a perfect through ball to Walid Badir, who calmly put the ball past goalkeeper Dimitrios Eleftheropoulos.

If that stunned the home supporters, Yakubu Ayegbeni provided the killer blow just a minute later, also in a rapier-like counter-attack. His finish was as cool as Badir's, leaving Olympiakos needing to score five goals to steal the UEFA Cup place.

Alexandris managed to cut the home team's deficit to just one goal in the 37th minute, finishing from close range, before Yaniv Katan scored Haifa's third goal in its third attack – on another counterattack, this time orchestrated by Alon Harazi, who found Katan in a good position.

In a one-on-one with Eleftheropoulos, Katan gently knocked the ball in to give Haifa a 3-1 lead at halftime.

Haifa took its foot off the gas in the second half, allowing first Andreas Niniadis and then defender Paraskevas Antzas to score. Antzas evened the score by heading in a Djordjevic corner from the left.

The 200 Maccabi Haifa fans who ventured to Greece were treated by the Olympiakios supporters to a colourful barrage of abuse throughout the game. But they were able to leave safely because of the draw and still celebrate Haifa's continued presence in European competition.

Haifa entered the match with Olympiakos – its final game of the first group stage of the Champions Cup – with no chance of advancing to the second stage. A win, however, assured Haifa of a place in the UEFA Cup as the third place team in Group F. Manchester United, which Haifa defeated 3-0 in a monumental upset recently, and Bayern Leverkusen finished first and second in Group F.

Haifa won the "home" leg of its contest with Olympiakos 3-0 in a game played in Nicosia, Cyprus on Sept. 24. Haifa, along with other Israeli teams, have had to play their home games in neutral locations because of the security situation in Israel. Haifa entered the Olympiakos game in a position where it could afford to lose 2-0 and still finish third in Group F.

The career dilemma

By JODI KOVITZ

As we develop our identities in our 20s, we make some very significant decisions about our education, careers, spiritual and political beliefs and relationships. From my experience, I've learned these types of decisions can be agonizing.

I have been thinking a lot about my career lately, probably because I am in school and working toward my professional goal. But before I choose an area of law to pursue, I have to figure out where and how my career will fit in with my values.

I find this process very difficult because, I think, of my need to find a balance between happiness and financial stability. It is not that these goals are necessarily mutually exclusive; nonetheless, prioritizing them seems to create a lot of tension. Through talking to many of my peers, I have learned that I am not alone in dealing with this conflict.

How should we deal with the pressure? It's pretty hard when it's embedded in our culture.

Our grandparents worked very hard to provide better opportunities for their children. It seems that our parents, in turn, were compelled to do the same for us. Regardless of what we actually had or did not have, we were also taught to work hard and to provide for our own children. Jewish education, summer camp, life in a Jewish community, lessons and travel experiences have all helped to shape my identity. It is impossible for me to imagine not being able to provide these things for my children. The question becomes, at what price?

Sometimes when I contemplate pursuing a career in law, I shiver. Don't get me wrong – so far, I'm really enjoying studying law. It's just that I dread eating take-out meals at the office every night, and giving up my community involvement and personal interests and time for relationships even if I absolutely love the work.

Then I wonder, wouldn't it be nice to open a small flower shop, raise children without a nanny, read some law journals, enjoy my relationships and family, develop my spirituality and play a role in my community? It would be nice. But could I really do it? If I love what I do, both at work and at home, would that be enough? And if it weren't, would I be okay with that? What if it were at the expense of certain educational opportunities and experiences for my future family?

Being fulfilled in life is just as important to me as developing professionally. But being financially secure enough to provide opportunities (that tend to be quite expensive) for my children is also very important to me. Given that both of my desires stem in part from my Jewish culture and values, how do I know which is more important?

I am sure that I will eventually find a satisfying middle ground. Yet, the conflict that I experience in working through this process is very real.

Can you relate? I welcome you to share your insights with me. I plan to write a follow-up column next month to share your experiences and suggestions on this issue. Please send your thoughts to jlkovitz@hotmail.com.

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nonstick vegetable oil cooking spray

Preheat oven to 375°F.

Finely grate potatoes and onions. Place the potatoes mixture, dried cranberries, egg whites, seasonings, flour and oil in a large bowl and stir well to combine. Set aside.

Spray muffin cups generously with nonstick cooking spray. Divide potatoes among cups (filling to the top); bake for 40-50 minutes, or until potatoes are cooked through and tender. Serve warm with applesauce if desired.

Makes 18 muffins.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

What do we mean by pluralism when we apply it to Jewish education? Clearly, different Jews use it in different ways. Each individual school has its own working definition that either admits it as part of its philosophy or considers it treif.

Without prejudice, one can identify schools that see themselves as serving a broad spectrum of Jewish beliefs and practices, with a form of pluralism becoming part of the school's method. Some of those schools define a level of Jewish observance that they stand for and teach, even while children from homes that do not maintain that level of observance are welcome. Others not only welcome children from diverse backgrounds, but alter the curriculum to teach to a variety of Jewish beliefs.

One can also find schools that limit themselves to one interpretation of Judaism and wish to create a particular homogeneous environment. Even among these schools, there are varying levels of tolerance and respect for other systems based on the host ideology.

Of course, it falls on the organized community and its institutions (for example, the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education) to develop the broadest interpretation of pluralism. We try to go way beyond mere tolerance to deep respect for each and every school in the city (even those not yet affiliated with the BJE). Our approach is one that allows for individuals, families and groups to hold fast to the core beliefs and practices that they consider essential to Jewish life.

More than that, we at the BJE believe that the more passionate schools are about teaching their own curriculum, the more effective they will be. We recognize that every institution has ideals and knows where it falls short of its own goals. Our job is to help that school get from where it is to where it wants to be within its own ideological framework. We at the BJE are an interesting mix of pareve, passionate pluralism!

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The Canadian Jewish news

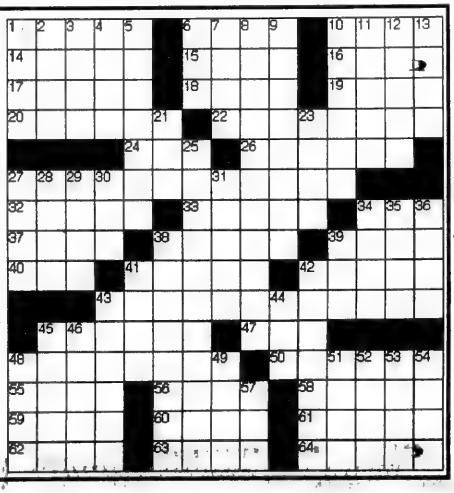
(Answers to the crossword are on page 60.)

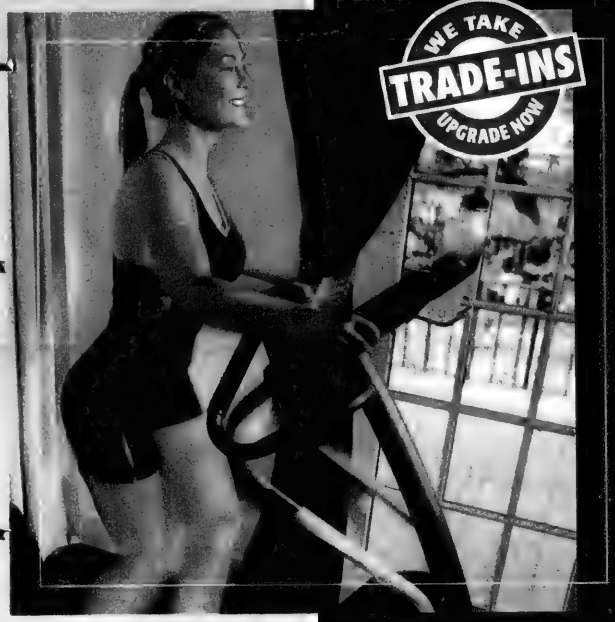
Hold the Mayo! – a tribute to Jewish eating out, nu!

© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Ringo
6. Weapon, in Roma
10. Antony, of ancient Rome
14. Word form for airs, in ancient Rome
15. College subj.
16. Mishmash
17. Austin's New York styled deli ("Never Kloses!") Hint: family's descendants of priests
18. Hindu mythical prince
19. Author Jaffe, The Best of Everything
20. Slumbers
22. Holds up the street light
24. Atom form
26. It takes guts to eat this
27. Often a freebie on way out
32. Sailor's word of warning
33. "Hotsi-____!"
34. ___ Sault-Marie
37. Evening, newspeak-short
38. Wilson's The ____ of Recognition
39. Strategem
40. McMahon and Mr.
41. Instruct
42. Scottish knight of olde
43. Chef's order re: next move on roasters in oven
45. Famed Manhattan grocery
47. Katie Couric's outfit
48. Great summer deli drink
50. Film actor Brian of 30's, 40's
55. Very dark black
56. Fill-in worker
58. Leading
69. Irish language
60. Charles Lamb
61. Sale, in St. Tropez
62. Darn!
63. Some Morse Code sounds
64. San Jose Sharks defenseman Gary

Down
1. 5th Avenue store
2. Blue hue
3. Painting, or whatever, in Paris
4. Tear down
5. Dumped milk again, poetically
6. Farming, ranching, etc., for short
7. Not dreamt
8. (Not Jewish) It prepares food for the cafe of this great N.Y.C. museum
9. Deli menu: "In the style of a certain White Russian city"?
10. Changes into
11. "Boy, did he give me _____!"
12. Washing machine cycle
13. Paint or trench
21. Hurok
23. California time - one in the a.m.?
25. Ya oughta eat there! (E.g., in N.Y.C., Detroit, Charleston, SC)
27. Windmill part
28. Fired up
29. Burmese deities
30. Expert follower
31. Feline star of Mutts comic strip
34. Croat or Serb
35. Sound, note
36. Ogler
38. Having a saw-like edge
39. Netic preceder
41. ____ of the screw
42. Cream of sorrel soups, Jewish style
43. Beefy entrees
44. Bird organization
45. Last ruminant in the alphabet
46. "We had _____ enjoyable time!"
48. Look lasciviously
49. Give off
51. Alas!, in Latin
52. Broadway musical
53. 42 Down's Archibald
54. Flock, in Hebrew
57. ___ de deux





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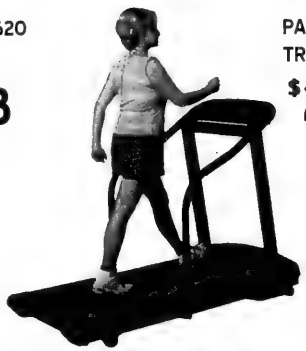

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ZAKA

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Biological and Chemical Warfare

It's a scenario no one wants to think about...
Fortunately, someone in Israel is preparing for it.

ZAKA

ZAKA Biological Warfare Preparedness Campaign

With the world community now extending its war on terror to Iraq, the threat of biological and chemical warfare is becoming increasingly real. This is especially true for Israel's residents, who remain Iraq's prime target in the case of a U.S.-led attack.

There is no telling when Iraq may strike, but Israel, no stranger to armed conflict, must be ready. Fortunately, ZAKA, its premier rescue and recovery organization, is already preparing for the worst-case scenario.

ZAKA is a humanitarian voluntary organization whose 600 volunteers work with police, military and emergency medical personnel to assist in search and rescue efforts, provide first aid through its rapid-response moped unit, and recover and identify victims of unnatural deaths. What motivates these volunteers? The belief that every Jewish life is precious – even in death.

Since the start of the intifada two years ago, Zaka volunteers have been working around the clock to help victims of terror. Now, with the threat of war with Iraq looming near, these same volunteers have undergone extensive training to prepare for biological and chemical warfare, and have already been inoculated against biological diseases.

In the event of a war, ZAKA will work alongside Israel's emergency and rescue forces. Its responsibilities will include distributing food and water, providing shelter to those who have been displaced from their homes, and creating special centers for blood distribution. In addition, ZAKA, working in conjunction with police and forensic agencies, will be responsible for recovering and identifying victims.

Though the situation seems almost too bleak to consider, Zaka understands that it needs to be prepared for every eventuality. In particular, the organization must ensure that, in the event of biological or chemical warfare, its volunteers can protect themselves so they can assist and protect others.

ZAKA needs to purchase protective suits and panoramic masks that will enable its volunteers to do their work when war strikes. Each suit costs $400 and each mask costs $250. ZAKA needs to raise $240,000 to purchase suits for all of its 600 volunteers, and $150,000 to purchase the masks.

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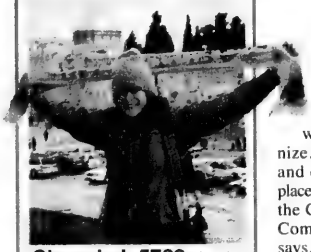
This Week

GTA

Israeli lawyer sues PA on victims' behalf. *Page 3*

Rabin memorial service recalls years of hope. *Page 14*

Chanukah



Chanukah 5763: See inside for our special supplement. *Section B*

On Campus

JSA encourages Ottawa students to get political. *Page 26*

Health & Lifestyles

Max Haines: Canada's murder maven. *Pages 48*

Key musicians leaving Philharmonia. *Pages 50*

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CIC says Canada subsidizes purchase of anti-Israel books

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Canadian taxpayers are helping subsidize the purchase of school textbooks used in Palestinian refugee camps, which "demonize, delegitimize and deny Israel's place in the region," the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) says.

$10-$12 million per year to UNRWA

Canada contributes $10-$12 million per year to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), which in turn purchases school textbooks and operates schools in Palestinian refugee camps, said Joseph Wilder, CIC's national chair. The textbooks are acquired from the Palestinian Authority (PA) and they depict "Jews as pigs, greedy, not to be trusted," Wilder said.

In a telephone interview from the General Assembly in Philadelphia, Wilder said he and a number of other CIC officials visited Israel and the Palestinian territories recently. They were briefed by David Bedein of the Israel Resource News Agency, whom they had asked to investigate the use of school texts in refugee camps, and they met with UNRWA officials and with Steve Hibert, the Canadian government representative in Ramallah.

UNRWA officials confirmed that the agency operates 256 schools in refugee camps, whose curricula is set by the PA education authority, and UNRWA provides the school books.

UNRWA operates on a $300-million US budget (Wilder called that sum "absolutely astounding"), which is funded by voluntary contributions from UN member states and not from the United Nations itself. It employs 24,000 people, the vast majority of them Palestinians.

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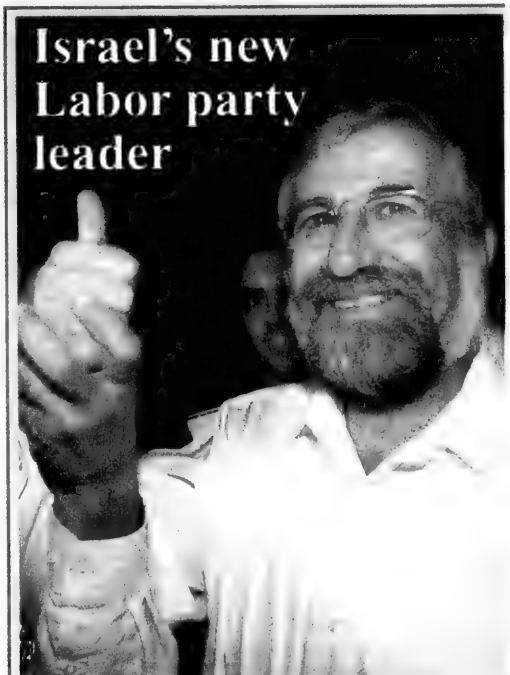

Haifa mayor Amram Mitzna was elected last week as the leader of Israel's Labor party, defeating incumbent Benjamin Ben-Eliezer and challenger Haim Ramon. *For full story, please see page 43.*
[Israel photo]

Canada condemns Egypt's *Protocols*

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Canada says it is "appalled" by reports that a 41-part television series based on the notorious anti-Semitic forgery *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* is now airing on Egyptian television.

Employing unusually strong language, a spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs told *The CJN* the government is "appalled that a major new television series being watched in Egypt and around the Arab world contains strongly anti-Semitic undertones. Such messages are simply unacceptable."

Marie-Christine Lilkoff added that Canada's ambassador to Egypt, Michel de Salaberry, "has been actively pursuing the issue" with Egyptian authorities since last month and that Canadian diplomats in the region "continue to monitor the series" and "speak out against anti-Semitism at every opportunity."

Controversy continues to swirl around the series, known as *Knight* (or *Horseman*) *Without a Horse*, which began airing earlier this month on Egypt's state-run channel and two other domestic stations. The series is timed to coincide with the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, when families tend to stay home in the evening.

Continued on page 7

Shabbat Chanukah: Vayeshev
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Havdallah: 5:30
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6 today

UJC GA focuses on Israel-Diaspora relations — please see page 42

The News in Brief

CANADA

Shapiro Appointed

MONTREAL — McGill University principal Bernard Shapiro has been named by United Jewish Communities, the umbrella group of U.S. Jewish federations, to head a task force examining problems with the National Jewish Population Survey 2000-01. Its release, slated for last week's UJC General Assembly in Philadelphia, was postponed after the research firm that conducted it lost some data. Parts of the study, showing a five per cent decline in the number of U.S. Jews since 1990, were released earlier.

WJC Knocks Leftists

OTTAWA — Canadian leftists and liberals are aligning themselves with Islamic extremists to delegitimize Israel and promote an atmosphere of anti-Semitism, a leader of the World Jewish Congress said here last week. "What is really shocking is that you have here today an unholy alliance between liberals, intellectuals from the left and the most extremist forces of Islam," Secretary-General Avi Beker was quoted as saying at a WJC board meeting held in Ottawa.

ISRAEL

Artifacts Discovered

JERUSALEM — Papyrus scrolls dating to the second-century Jewish rebellion against the Romans have been discovered in a Judean desert cave. Rappelling into the cave in the Ein Gedi reserve, researchers from Hebrew University, Bar Ilan University and Stanford University discovered the scrolls. They also found crude arrowheads and coins bearing the Hebrew name "Shimon," a reference to the leader of the rebellion against the Romans, Shimon Bar Kochba. A researcher said the items probably belonged to Jews from the Ein Gedi region who hid in the remote cave to escape the Romans.

Kibbutz Dismantled

JERUSALEM — The Israeli government decided last week to dismantle a cash-strapped kibbutz. Located on the eastern shores of the Sea of Galilee, Kibbutz Ha'on was established in the early 1950s. The government took action after the kibbutz became engulfed in financial difficulties. The kibbutz's assets will be used to pay outstanding debts and to insure pension plans and provide lodging for kibbutz members. Eighty per cent of the kibbutz's members supported the decision.

Sadat Visit Recalled

JERUSALEM — Israel last week marked the 25th anniversary of the late Egyptian president Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem. Israel's Foreign Ministry said the visit, and the peace treaty it led to, show how former enemies can make peace.

Civil Marriages Jump

JERUSALEM — The number of Israelis marrying in civil ceremonies in Cyprus has increased sharply in the past decade. Some 1,400 Israelis couples were married in Cyprus in 2000, compared to less than 200 in 1990, the Central Bureau of Statistics reports. The phenomenon has been linked to the influx of immigrants from the former Soviet Union. Many claim no religious affiliation, and only religious weddings are conducted in Israel.

WORLD

Duke in Bahrain

MANAMA, Bahrain — Ex-Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke was to speak in Bahrain earlier this month, where he was to repeat his belief that Israel was behind the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington, D.C. During his stay, he was to deliver two lectures, titled "Global Struggle against Zionism" and "Israeli Involvement in Sept. 11." Muhammad Zuhair, Duke's host, was quoted by the *Gulf Daily News* as saying: "We are aware of his background. We focused on the Zionist issue. Not many people are prepared to speak out against Zionism."

Scholarship Deadline

RIVER EDGE, N.J. — Funds are now available from the Alisa Flatow Memorial Scholarship Fund for those studying Judaism at an Israeli post-secondary institution. The fund is dedicated to Flatow, a 20-year-old student who was killed in a 1995 terror attack in Kfar Darom in the Gaza Strip. Deadline is Feb 10. For applications, visit www.alisafund.org, or call 201-488-6800.

Killer Sentenced

PITTSBURGH — A man who killed a Canadian rabbi because he looked Jewish was sentenced Nov. 13 in Pittsburgh to 10 to 20 years in prison. Steven Tielsch received the maximum sentence for third-degree murder under guidelines in effect in April 1986, when Rabbi Neal Rosenblum was shot five times after leaving a synagogue, Associated Press reported. Prosecutors had sought a first-degree murder conviction at Tielsch's fourth trial for the slaying. Three earlier juries were unable to reach a unanimous verdict.

Rabbi Convicted

FREEHOLD, N.J. — A New Jersey rabbi was convicted last week for arranging the murder of his wife. Rabbi Fred Neulander, 61, could receive the death penalty for hiring two hitmen to kill his wife, Carol, in 1994 so he could carry on an affair. The verdict came nearly a year after his first trial ended in a hung jury.

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Call For New Israeli Arab Lawmakers

JERUSALEM — A group of Israeli Arabs criticized their political representatives last week, saying their radical stances are ruining relations with Israel's Jewish majority.

Incitement by Arab Israeli legislators "seriously damaged the interests and reputation of the Arab community," poet Rifat Assadi said at a rally last Monday in the Galilee village of Deir al-Assad, the *Jerusalem Post* reported.

Addressing mostly young academics, Assadi said Israeli Arab leaders were partially to blame for October 2000 riots with Israeli police in which "13 of our best men were killed."

According to the paper, many Israeli Arabs believe Arab legislators' actions and statements in recent years have hampered the community's efforts to achieve full equality in Israel. Some participants at the rally criticized the Arab legislators for identifying with Syria, the Palestinian Authority, Hamas, Osama bin Laden and Hezbollah, instead of looking after their constituents' interests.

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Israeli lawyer sues PA on victims' behalf

'If you can cut funding, you can cut terrorism'

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Nitsana Darshan-Leitner is hitting Arab terrorists where it hurts – their pocketbooks.

Since an Israeli army reservist was murdered by a mob in the West Bank town of Ramallah two years ago, she has launched about two dozen lawsuits against the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Muslim states that funnel funds to groups such as Hamas and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.

She has also sued the European Union, charging that its PA economic assistance program has inadvertently aided and abetted terrorism.

Darshan-Leitner, a petite, dynamic 28-year-old Israeli lawyer who represents more than 100 victims of terrorism through her Israel Law Center, was at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation recently to explain her work.

The talk, Taking Terror to Court, was sponsored by Israel's consulate general and the Toronto Zionist Council.

Edward Greenspan, the Toronto lawyer who introduced her, described Darshan-Leitner as "a voice for the victims of terrorism." He suggested that her "extraordinary pursuit for justice" has paid dividends.

Several weeks ago, Darshan-Leitner won a historic victory against the PA – a 64 million shekel ($13 million US) lien on its assets.

The money, minus her fee, will go to the family of Vadim Nordizh, a Russian-born reservist who was fatally beaten by Palestinians on Oct. 12, 2000 in a PA police station in Ramallah.

"There was almost nothing left of his body after he was killed and mutilated," she said angrily. "The PA was responsible for his murder, and had to pay."

Nitsana Darshan-Leitner

She believes that the case, filed in a Jerusalem district court, will benefit other Israeli families who have sued, or plan to sue, the PA.

It was a serious defeat for the PA. "Each bullet costs Palestinian terrorists one dollar. The lien we have placed on the PA's assets will deprive terrorists of 13 million bullets."

Darshan-Leitner explained that the lien was placed on $500 million (US) worth of PA funds that Israel froze after the outbreak of the Palestinian uprising in September 2000.

Since then, she claimed, the majority of Palestinian terrorist attacks have been mounted by the Tanzim and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, both of which are supported financially by the PA.

"If you can cut this funding, you can cut terrorism."

When the Israeli army stormed the West Bank last spring in Operation Defensive Shield, it found documents and bank cheques that Israel said proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the PA had channelled funds to terrorists, including Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti.

He was subsequently captured, and now faces terrorist charges.

Continued on page 19

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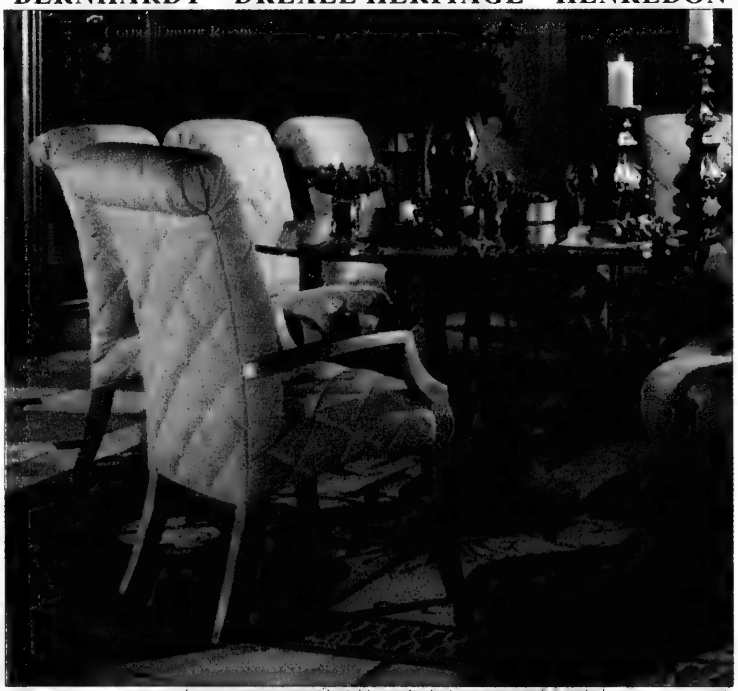

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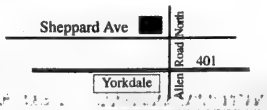

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A great deal beneath the surface

From the editor's desk

In view of the concerted effort by some academics and other professionals around the world to isolate Israel and Israelis, we announced after Rosh Hashanah *The CJN* Book Review Project, aimed at encouraging our readers to read books by Israeli authors. In the last issue of each month, therefore, this space will be dedicated to publicizing new Israeli books.

* * *

It's a good thing *The Crime of Writing* by Haim Lapid (The Toby Press) is a relatively short novel. For as soon as the reader turns the last page, there is an urge, if not a need, to start all over again.

That is because the ending of the tale is momentous. It arrives, without warning, like a thunderclap on a quiet summer night. In fact, it becomes something of a rosetta stone, a key unlocking some of the sealed rooms, as it were, of the preceding narrative.

In that sense, the end can truly be said to have been the beginning.

It is thus not surprising to discover that Lapid is a psychologist who teaches social and behavioural psychology. Only someone familiar with the intricacies and inter-relationships of the mind's many complex chambers could have imagined, let alone written, the compelling story that quickly and deftly unfolds.

The novel is actually a story within a story. There are two narrators.

The first narrator "speaks" at the outset of the novel, but only for a handful of pages. He introduces the tale by recounting a chance encounter his wife had with an elderly stranger in a restaurant in London, England.

That encounter brings about the delivery to his wife of a manuscript written by the older man, which the narrator reads surreptitiously, without his wife's permission.

The stranger's manuscript, of course, comprises the central story in the novel. It flows like a river on sloping landscape, slowly, even tentatively, at first, diffusing into smaller, seemingly innocuous tributaries, but arriving at its spectacular conclusion with the force of a waterfall spilling over the face of a steep cliff.

The narrow nub of the plot focuses on the elderly stranger's lifelong search to discover the secret of his mother's disappearance. "In my ceaseless longing for my missing mother, I never discounted any possible place where she might be," muses the second narrator.

And in his search for his mother, the narrator leaves no place unexplored. Wherever he imagines she might possibly be is where he searches.

Lapid weaves the narrative with delicate, crafty skill. He plants clues and hints of the plot's ultimate resolution throughout the story, but I discovered them only retrospectively after I turned the final page and then I trekked backward through the story to notice for the first time what I had missed all along.

My bookmark, I amusedly realized, in a piercing echo of the line by songwriter Paul Simon, had only "measured what was lost."

Because the plot moves so effortlessly and smoothly through the tightly written prose, one must also pay tribute to the translation from the Hebrew by Yael Lotan.

Although beautifully descriptive passages abound in the novel, its essence is narrative. The key components on which the story relies for its coherence are the disposition of the storyline and the introspection of the storyteller.

Thus, the linguistic structure of the Hebrew itself, with its core reliance on root meanings of words, is not an issue. There are frequent moments of arrestingly insightful and image-laden writing, such as the following passage in which the old man sincerely and pitifully comments on his sad life.

"That's it. Most of the years that followed – whole decades, the better part of my life – were almost devoid of events worth narrating. What is there to tell about someone to whom loneliness had stuck like a beggar's only shirt? Now and then you bathe with it on, or take it off momentarily, scrub it and put it on again, still wet, to dry on your body."

The title of the novel is a conundrum. It ostensibly refers to the narrator's feelings about the utility or even propriety of writing. And yet, the narrator goes to great lengths to record his own story, in seeming violation of this purported credo. "I sip the good hot cocoa. It's so tempting to live in the present. The tap in the basin drips: one drop and then another, adding up to a full glass of fresh water. What do words add up to, one after another? The white page overflows, the words fall into darkness."

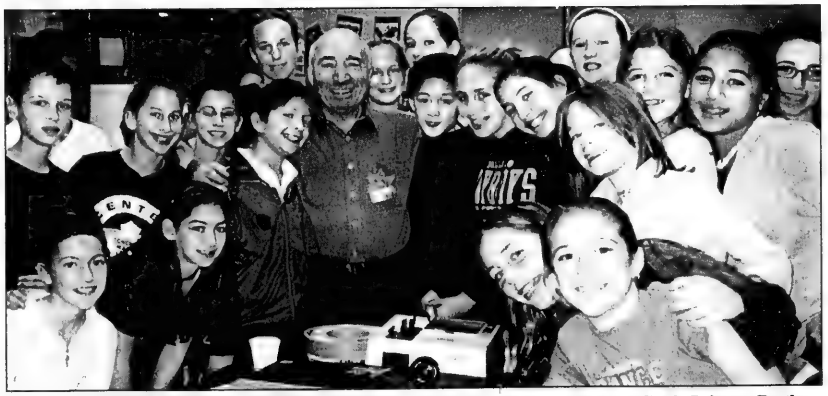
But as the reader eventually comes to understand, like so much of the detail that the narrator shares with us regarding the search for his mother, a great deal lies beneath the surface in this novel.

* * *

Next week, I resume recording some of my observations from my recent trip to Germany. Next month, I will write about *Husband and Wife*, by Zeruya Shalev.

—MBD

SeeJN



LIFE LESSONS FROM THE PAST: Educator Irving Eisner recently spoke to a Grade 7 class at Baythorn Arts Elementary School in Thornhill about his experiences during the Holocaust.

Sri Lankan peace process compared with Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

While the world was focusing its attention on Palestinian-Israeli strife, a conflict that seemed just as intractable and emotion-laden has seen the adoption of a historic peace process with potential ramifications for the Middle East.

That's the assessment of Montreal-area Liberal MP Irwin Cotler, who was honoured recently by the Quebec Coalition for Peace in Sri Lanka for "his extraordinary contribution to peace in Sri Lanka and in the world." Cotler was honoured in a ceremony at the Durkai Amman Koyil Temple in Montreal.

The Sri Lankan peace agreement ended one of the longest running disputes in Asia, a 19-year conflict that left 65,000 dead, 1.5 million displaced and 12,000 "disappeared," the latter figure second only to the number of missing people in Iraq, Cotler said.

This "untold human catastrophe" was brought to an end by a process similar to the one adopted by Israelis and Palestinians at Oslo, but with one important difference, Cotler said.

While the Palestinian Authority (PA) reaped the benefits of the peace agreement without being compelled to do anything substantial in return, the Sri Lankan approach was based on reciprocity, he said.

In Sri Lanka, "you had a situation with express undertakings organized around reciprocal obligations with a timeline." So when the Tamil Tigers renounced terrorism and said they would not seek an independent state, the government of Sri Lanka "un-banned it" and released prisoners, Cotler said.

Fulfillment of those terms led to a next set of commitments, and in that way the peace process progressed with both sides making concessions.

Under Oslo, "the exact opposite occurred." The PA, he said, never complied with its commitment to cease and desist fomenting hatred of Jews. "Not only was this obligation honoured in the breach, but the culture of hatred intensified," Cotler said.

Palestinians also violated the terms of Oslo by ignoring Israeli requests to extradite terrorism suspects and by refusing to bring them to justice within PA jurisdiction. Meanwhile, the limited police force contemplated by Oslo took "a quantum leap in numbers and a veritable army was created," Cotler said.

"Not only was there a pattern of institutionalized breaches by one side, but on the Israeli side, regrettably, they didn't take these breaches seriously enough."

Israelis, he continued, "were psychologically and politically invested in the peace and so they engaged in wilful blindness to these violations."

Cotler commended former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu for demanding Palestinian compliance with the terms of Oslo before making concessions. Commenting on the proposal by newly-crowned Labour leader Amram Mitzna to unilaterally dismantle Gaza settlements, Cotler said "I think that approach will not work, because it will end up rewarding terror."

On a related issue, Cotler said the newly-constituted organization, "Justice for Jews from Arab Countries," is more than "a crie de coeur of survivors. It dovetails with the emerging norms of international humanitarian law."

In an address to a meeting of the organization last week, Cotler said 900,000 Jews were expelled from Arab lands in the postwar period in an early example of "ethnic cleansing."

This "forgotten exodus" is absent from the "Mideast narrative, from which it has been utterly expunged," similar to the assault on Jewish memory undertaken by revisionists who deny the Holocaust, he said.

Cotler said a satisfactory resolution of the claims of Jewish refugees must be "part of the reconciliation process" between Arabs and Jews, along the lines of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in post-apartheid South Africa.

"As long as the Arab ethnic cleansing of Jews is replaced with the myth of Jews creating Arab refugees," there can be no peace or reconciliation, he said.

* * *

Last week, Cotler rose in the House of Commons to memorialize former Israeli foreign minister and UN ambassador Abba Eban as "one of the greatest statesmen and diplomats of the 20th century."

Cotler characterized Eban as "a distinguished academic, a prolific scholar, the unparalleled chronicler of his people and his country and of civilization itself."

Eban had emerged not only as the voice of Israel "resonating with its unique combination of Churchillian rhetoric and Shakespearian literacy...[but as] the voice of humanity, and his entire being was suffused with the commitment to peace between Jews, Arabs and Palestinians," Cotler stated.

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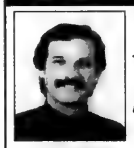

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Prof says peace requires territorial concessions

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Being stronger than its Palestinian adversary, Israel must take the initiative to end its conflict with the Palestinians, says an Israeli academic.

In a recent talk sponsored by Canadian Friends of Peace Now, Emanuel Adler suggested that Israel needs peace to perpetuate "the Zionist dream."

But to achieve peace, the Hebrew University political scientist said, Israel should be prepared to withdraw from most of the West Bank and Gaza and give up the bulk of the settlements there.

In exchange, the Palestinians must accept Israel's existence unconditionally and drop their demand for the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their former homes in what is now Israel.

An agreement must be guaranteed by the United Nations and the United States, noted Adler, a visiting professor at the University of Toronto who holds the Andrea and Charles Bronfman Chair in Israeli Studies.

Speaking at Temple Emanu-El, Adler explained that a withdrawal from the West Bank and the Gaza is essential if Israel is to preserve its identity as a Jewish and democratic state.

The demographic imperative – the prospect that there will soon be more Arabs than Jews in the area encompassing Israel and the territories – makes it crucial for Israel to pull out, he warned.

To maintain peace within its borders, he added, Israel must reform itself.

Israel should provide Israeli Arabs with full rights and accept them as equal partners. And, as much as possible, Israel should separate religion from state.

"This is not a call for a post-Zionist state," he said. "I still believe in a reformed Jewish state."

Adler said there is no chance for genuine peace unless Israel changes itself internally.

He urged Israel's prime minister, Ariel Sharon, to embrace "a historic compromise" within the parameters of a two-state solution. But he expressed doubt whether Sharon is capable of moving in this direction.

Sharon's idea of "painful compromise," he noted, is a bantustan-like Palestinian state broken into bits of land.

Three quarters of Israelis are ready to relinquish the territories and the settlements under a viable agreement with the Palestinians, Adler said.

However, most Israelis do not believe Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is a reliable partner. This perception accounts for Sharon's popularity with the electorate, Adler said.

Israel and the Palestinians came close to resolving their differences at the Taba talks in 2000. But with Sharon's election as prime minister, the talks ended.

Adler cited a litany of reasons for the failure of the Oslo peace process:

- The Palestinian Authority did not control terrorism and Israel continued to enlarge settlements beyond the Green Line.
- Benjamin Netanyahu did everything possible as prime minister to sabotage Oslo, while his successor, Ehud Barak, did not live up to the obligation of carrying out a third withdrawal from the West Bank.
- The Palestinians insisted on the right of return.
- The United States did not engage in forceful diplomacy.
- Former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassination ruined the spirit of Oslo, and Israel's continuing occupation, with its web of humiliating checkpoints, had a devastating effect on ordinary Palestinians.
- Oslo's incremental character enabled extremists on both sides to derail the process, while deep political divisions within Israeli and Palestinian societies crippled it.
- The Palestinians, taking their cue from Israel's haphazard withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000, mistakenly concluded they could drive Israel out of the territories by force.

On the basis of Palestinian and Israeli attitudes, Adler said, peace may be hard to achieve.

Palestinians view Israeli Jews as colonizers in their land and believe time is on their side, he said, while Palestinian terrorism induces a belief among Israelis that a compromise is impossible.

And both sides, he lamented, demonize each other.

Lecture series to honour Rosenzweig

David Rosenzweig, who was murdered last July, will be honoured by a yearlong lecture series called The David Rosenzweig Learning Legacy.

Rabbi Mendel Kaplan, senior rabbi and spiritual leader of Chabad@Flamingo, will deliver the lectures, which are intended to highlight Rosenzweig's unique characteristics. The project will be launched at Chabad@Flamingo, 8001 Bathurst St. in Thornhill, on Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. It will be preceded by an outdoor menorah lighting ceremony. A reception with light refreshments will follow the lecture.

A media release said the series will centre on "the themes of morality, decency and spirituality that were all so outstandingly embodied by David."

The first lecture will be titled Ethics, Morality and Religion. Other topics will include treating others with respect, recognizing God's presence in nature, learning to be non-judgemental, creating harmony in the home and parenting.

The David Rosenzweig Learning Legacy will be conducted under the auspices of the synagogue's Robinson Family Institute of Jewish Learning.

For information, call Chabad@Flamingo, 905-763-4040.

Canada condemns Egypt's 'Protocols' TV show

Continued from page 1

There have been international appeals to keep the series off the airwaves, including criticism from the U.S. State Department, which called it "racist and untrue." Last week, 46 members of the U.S. Congress wrote to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urging him to take the series off the air.

One of them, Jerrold Nadler, a Jewish Democrat who represents a New York district in the House of Representatives, circulated a letter proposing all U.S. military aid to Egypt be cut off because of the series.

Although there have been a number of voices in the Arab world that have condemned the series, including an Egyptian human rights group, they have been drowned out by the 22 networks airing the program, including Abu Dhabi TV, Hezbollah's al-Manar TV, and Yemen TV, among others.

An Internet petition protesting the series to Egypt's foreign and information ministers, spearheaded by the Simon Wiesenthal Center, has yielded more than 20,000 signatures.

In this country, Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) has written Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham, calling on him to protest the broadcast to his Egyptian counterpart.

For its part, Egypt is denying the series is anti-Semitic.

The CJN's requests for comment from Egypt's ambassador to Canada, Sallama Mahmoud Shaker, were referred to the embassy's press office, which relayed a statement issued by the government. The statement contends the series "does not contain in its dramatization nor its discourse what could be taken for as a 'call for anti-Semitism.' "

The statement says Egypt's "media policy ensures equal respect for all religions and beliefs. It also does not allow for any dramatic work or program to contain innuendos aimed at religious institutions.

"We would like to note that stirring up an allegation of 'anti-Semitism' at this time of crisis is an old tactic and since the allegations have not been proved truthful, we think there is a hidden agenda," the statement reads.

"In regards to the allegations that 'anti-Semitism' is growing within the Egyptian society, we would like to clarify that there is a big difference between anger towards Israeli politics and 'anti-Semitism.' "

The series has passed through a "rigorous censorship governmental committee," the statement says, adding, "it is our position that certain Zionist circles have created this propaganda to [divert] attention away from the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories and its daily consequences on the Palestinian people's freedom and right to practice their religious rituals and to earn a living."

The series purports to portray the history of the Middle East from 1855 to 1917. It tells the story of an Egyptian man who leads the struggle against the British colonizers until he finds a book written in Russian that turns out to be the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

The *Protocols*, which purports to depict Jewish leaders plotting world dominion, has long been recognized as a hoax concocted by the czarist secret police and used in early 20th-century Russia, and later in Nazi Germany, as a pretext for persecution of Jews. It has been a pillar of anti-Semitic hatred for about a century, and, according to many scholars, appears to be gaining a new foothold in the Arab world.

Israel and Jewish groups in several countries say the show, which was approved by Egypt's information ministry, breaches the 1979 Israel-Egyptian peace accord, which calls on both sides to prevent incitement against each other.

In the growing war of words, an Egyptian government newspaper told Israel last week to stop the "series of massacres" of the Palestinians before criticizing the program.

The Egyptian press office's statement said the nation's "media policy respects the right to freedom of expression, that being a human right. Denying individuals this right would not be synonymous with the democracy that the Egyptian society has proved to follow and that allows this society to respect the cultural practices of others as well as their religious and sacred beliefs."

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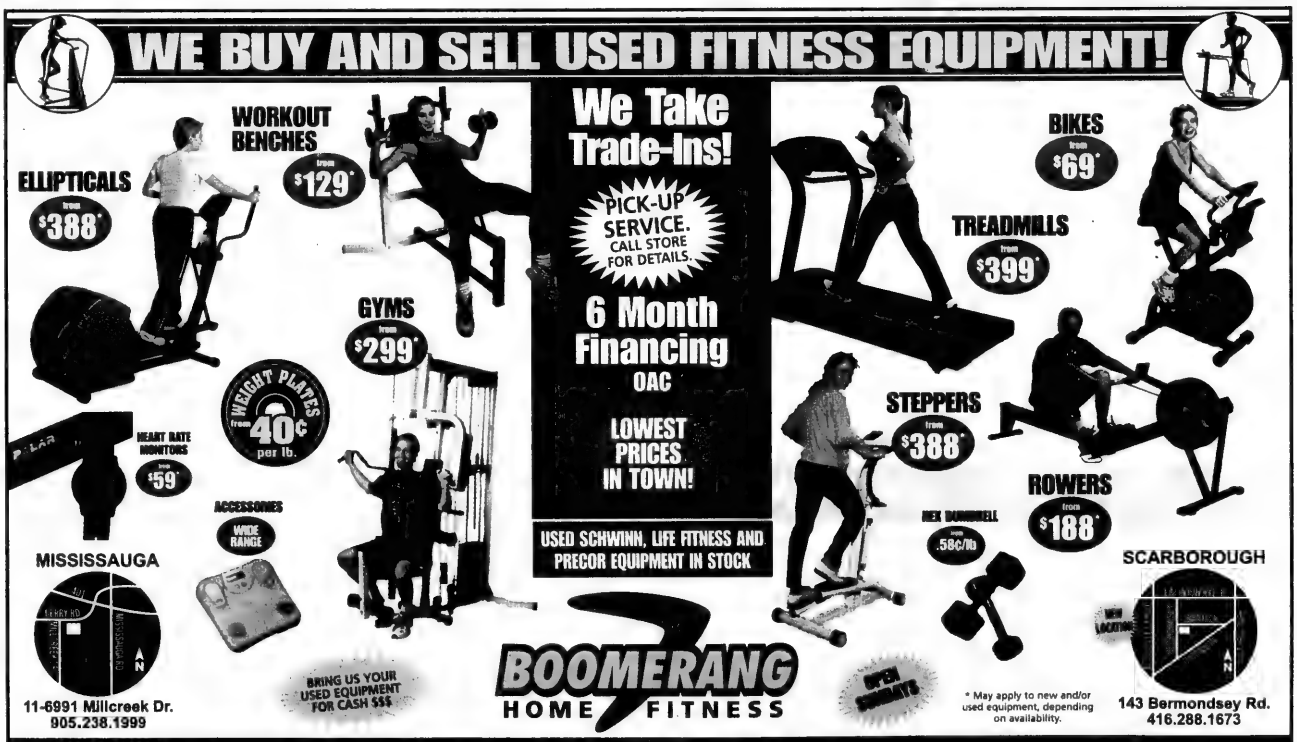
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Part of living history

As these words were written, shivah for the victims of the latest atrocity committed against the people of Israel had not yet concluded. Indeed, this most recent seven days of mourning had overlapped with an earlier one. Kaddish for the 11 people murdered on a Jerusalem bus last week mingled with the kaddish for the 12 people killed in Hebron the week before.

Israel's security forces prevent most of the terrorist attempts on the lives of Israelis. But, alas, they cannot prevent them all. There seems to be no shortage of young, hapless Palestinians in the long queue of murdering "martyrs" whom the craven Palestinian leaders recruit and keep in their files.

It does not seem to concern the Palestinians that the more they attempt to perpetrate their terror, the farther away they distance the creation of a Palestinian state. They are willing to wait, their leaders say. For in truth, the establishment of a Palestinian state is subordinate in priority for them to the elimination of the Jewish state and the killing of Jews. The leaders of Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah and their sponsors openly say so. The leaders of the Palestinian Authority prevaricate. But their actions place the matter no less in doubt.

Last week, *Ha'aretz* reported that the Israel Defence Forces had seized secret documents showing "the PA's Preventive Security Organization in the Gaza Strip has set up a factory for producing large quantities of nitric acid, the most important chemical in making explosives." These explosives are distributed by the Preventive Security Organization to all armed Palestinian camps, including Hamas. Needless to say, acquiring or producing such explosives is strictly forbidden under the Oslo accords.

It is this inversion of priorities by the Palestinian leaders and the disregard of all humane and humanistic values that will doom their enterprise and bring them to ruin. The imperative of life, in this case, Jewish life, is a stronger force by far, than the obsession to destroy. That is Jewish history's key and everlasting message. And it is a message we bring to the fore especially now on the eve of Chanukah.

It is the melancholy and yet great might of Jewish fate that once again, we are able to prepare – indeed we must prepare – to celebrate our holiday, even in the midst of our mourning.

Israel will mourn its dead. But it will also light the candles. We will show the world; we will show our enemies; most importantly, we will show our children that we are the mysterious, impenetrable blue of the inner flame of the hot orange and red of the fire at the very heart of the Chanukah candles. We are part of living history.

We thank God "for the miracles, for the rescue, for the heroism, for the victories, for the wonders, for the consolation, and for the battles He waged for our ancestors in ancient times and in our own as well." We also thank God "for granting us life, for sustaining us and for bringing us to this day" to be able to say to ourselves and to our children that the mysterious, impenetrable blue of the inner flame of the Chanukah candle will never be extinguished.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farhad Saleh, Dani (Hamid) Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

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Asper's assertions correct

One example that supports Izzy Asper's assertion about biased media comes from a CTV News report posted on CTV News' Web site (dated Nov. 15). The news item reports on Concordia's effort to obtain a court injunction to prevent the one-sided anti-Israel "forum." The item refers to the demonstrations opposing the visit by Benjamin Netanyahu in September.

The CTV report stated: "The school imposed a moratorium on public events related to the Middle East in September, after competing Palestinian and Israeli groups staged violent protests, forcing the cancellation of a speech by former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu."

So, according to CTV News, Jewish Montrealers staged violent protests. CTV News is so biased against pro-Israeli advocacy that it resorts to pure fabrication of the facts. The facts are that it was the pro-Palestinian side that undertook violence against Jewish Montrealers.

David Murrell, Professor
University of New Brunswick

* * *

Christians support Israel too

I would like to add a P.S. to the article "Arab American journalist," by Paul Lungen (*CJN*, Oct. 31). At the end of the gathering at the Shaarei Shomayim synagogue in Toronto, a young woman next to my seat stood up and blew a shofar for quite a long time. When I approached and complimented her on being able to do so, she replied that she is a Christian and that she loves Israel, having been there many times. There were many other Christians at the meeting as well.

Ann Szedlecki
Toronto

* * *

Questions Rector Lowy

I do not accept the comments of Frederick Lowy in "Rector asks Jews not to abandon Montreal's Concordia University" (*CJN*, Oct. 10), that the alleged "mini-riot" in Sept. 9 was entirely attributable to unruly non-students and the Muslim immigrant population.

Past and current riots against Jews and the State of Israel, as reported in the press and viewed in television, are artfully devised and supported by Arab and Muslim groups. These groups operate in every part of the world as benevolent organizations with a hidden predisposition for evil purposes.

From time immemorial, Jews have been mistreated and hated. They have been robbed of their birthrights, they have been expelled, they have been restricted and they have been confined. They have been killed and blamed for the atrocities and damage caused by others. They have been demonized for their entrepreneurial acumen and insight into practical affairs.

Their achievements and triumphs in arts and design, medicine and medical sciences, literature, music, entertainment and philanthropy have been ignored and obviously not appreciated by the vast majority of the world's inhabitants.

It is ironic that Jews apologize endlessly for the chaos created by others. We turn the other cheek repeatedly to avoid physical contact and unnecessary heated arguments.

Now is the time to say "no" and "no more" to the rector. The endless dialogues and conferences carried out between Arabs and Jews over the years and across Canada have always met with disdain, lies and curses and more often with greater calamities. Now is the time to paraphrase "never again" in letters, books or compositions, invitations and everywhere.

We should make our views widely known to those who do not like us and we should not ask for their affection.

Albert L. Stal
North York

* * *

Banning Hate in Canada

In the Nov. 14 edition, *The CJN* reiterated its call to ban Hezbollah, the infamous Lebanese terrorist organization. I strongly believe in this cause and I am writing to express my support for this important action.

I believe that Hezbollah's ability to conduct fundraising activities in Canada for its social wing is a gaping hole in our country's ban on terrorist organizations, and I believe that we should ban all its fundraising in Canada, preventing this network from operating in Canada altogether. I have already made my views on this important topic known to the government and I will continue to press this cause.

Art Eggleton
Member of Parliament for York Centre

* * *

Weinfeld's Republican omissions

Morton Weinfeld's Nov. 7 column, "Jews, U.S. politics and the left," praises Paul Wellstone, the late Democratic senator as a rarity – a Jew elected in a non-Jewish state like Minnesota.

Weinfeld claims that Wellstone's success signals that "Jews continue to resist the neo-conservative political agenda." But Wellstone's predecessor, Rudy Boschwitz was Jewish, as is his successor, Norm Coleman. Did Weinfeld omit these key facts because Boschwitz and Coleman are Republicans?

Ezra Levant
Calgary

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Eban - our brilliant man of reason

By HANAN BAR-ON

It is not easy for those who remember Israel's earliest years to realize that Abba Eban is not with us any more.

How difficult to imagine that nearly the last of those few who were not only "present at the creation" but part of the creation is dead.

During the 1950s, Eban, as befitting the fledgling state and the tender age of many of its leaders, was the youngest ambassador in Washington and the youngest permanent representative to the United Nations. He was, throughout much of the world, the embodiment of the young emerging and fascinating state. He was the country's resounding "Voice," considered by so many to have been, together with Britain's Gladwyn Jebb, not only the best orator at the United Nations but also frequently the most interesting one. The passionate but cultured "Voice of Israel."

Few recall today that during those years, many throughout the world, West and East, believed Israel might be a passing phenomenon.

It took more than the prowess of Israel's armed forces to persuade the world and its powers that the new state was a factor in the Middle East that had to be taken permanently into account.

More often than not, Israel's case was made in Abba Eban's words, words steeped in Jewish history, underpinning the political arguments that needed to be made, whether in New York City at the United Nations, in Washington, D.C., or throughout the United States. His speeches sometimes seemed to render the existence of Israel credible to a world in which reborn Jewish independence was not accepted without question.

Eban will be remembered as Israel's superbly brilliant ambassador to the United States during the Eisenhower administration. He will live in the nation's annals as Israel's foreign minister, a giant on the world stage, during some of its most turbulent and most historic years. He also served as president of the Weizmann Institute and the originator of the Rehovot Conferences that were such an important element in Israel's relations with Africa, Asia and Latin America.

But, perhaps more than anything else, he was one of the country's major voices of reason. Because of his profound understanding of Jewish history, he knew that a measure of humility is one of the hallmarks of statesmanship. He also knew that the setting of an achievable political goal must be the beginning of any action, even if the action must, of necessity, include the use of military force.

When Eban, as foreign minister, negotiated with world leaders in three key Western capitals during the days preceding the Six Day War, his skills, culture and

experience were probably taxed to the utmost in what were some of the most crucial diplomatic conversations he had conducted since the days surrounding the establishment of the state. The history of these discussions is well known, but it might be worth recalling what he said to Charles de Gaulle: "Israel without honour is not Israel. Our nation faces a stern choice."

There is no doubt that an important part of his approach to diplomacy is anchored in those few words. On one hand it is a very down-to-earth observation, that there are stern choices that have to be discussed. But, on the other hand, these must be recognized, too, and dealt with from the perspective of the moral questions involved. The choice of a word like "honour" was very much designed for a personality like De Gaulle, for whom the honour of France was a leitmotif.

Eban will be missed and not only by those who knew him and of him. His voice of reason, his passion for his country and people – and therefore for peace, to be achieved by a tolerable compromise with our neighbours – will continue to resound among those who choose to deepen their understanding of his legacy.

On a personal level, all who did know him are poorer for the fact that his humour, culture, his belief in manners and his friendship will not be with us any more.

Hanan Bar-On is a retired senior Israeli diplomat.

Eban quotes

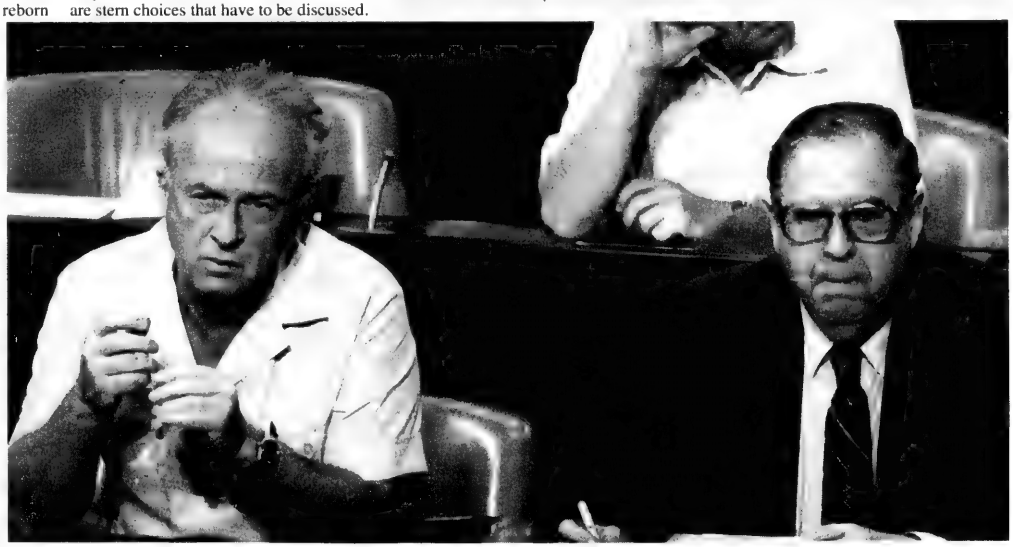
On Israel in the Middle East

"Israel learned in 1967 that its physical survival depended on its organic relationship to the science, technology, social cohesion and democratic ethic which marked it off from its neighbours. The very qualities which it did not share with them were those which enabled it to withstand their assault. Israel would be part of the Mediterranean world and of the Jewish spirit rather than of the Arabian hinterland... Israel's roots and geographical environment are older and just as authentically Middle Eastern as are those of the Arab... Israel will be itself and utterly specific. It responds to the natural diversity and not to the spurious homogeneity of the Middle Eastern world. The question is whether the region can recapture its higher moments, when Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hellenism, and Roman civilization were all considered as part of its accumulated legacy. For it to be Middle Eastern does not involve being Arab or Moslem. It is not an offense against the Middle Eastern tradition for a non-Arab and non-Moslem sovereignty to live and flourish in the original home of Hebrew memory and thought. The question is not whether Israel will change its special nature, but whether the Arabs will come to terms with Israel as it is."

On Jewish Destiny

"In the larger context of its peoplehood, twentieth-century Jewry faces the same dilemma as in its early dawn. The tension is between the universal and the particular, between matter and spirit, between quantity and quality. The influence of Judaism on the life and thought of mankind bears no relation to the number of its adherents or to their achievements in any domain of temporal power. Its vocation has rather been to preserve and develop an intense vitality of spirit. Religion, philosophy, literature, science, political systems, and moral ideas have all been profoundly agitated by the currents of the Jewish mind."

My People, The Story of the Jews, Behrman House Inc., Random House, 1968



MP Abba Eban (right) and MP Yitzhak Rabin during a Knesset session in mid 1970's. **[File photo]**

Memories of World War II

November is a month when memories are brought into sharper relief for many people in our community. Holocaust Education Week combines with Remembrance Day and many of us are transported back in time to a period that now has a permanent hold on our memories and our hearts. As November fades into December, I, too, share some memories.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

In 1939, I was living in Cincinnati, attending rabbinical school, but I could not join the U.S. armed forces as a chaplain because I was still stateless – bereft of German citizenship, but not yet an American citizen.

Finally, on March 30, 1942, I became a U.S. citizen, and the next day, I joined the army and became a chaplain. I was privileged to participate in the conquest of Nazi Germany and was among the first soldiers to meet our Russian allies across the Elbe River.

In the spring of 1945, we were quartered outside of Berlin, when the news reached us that Adolf Hitler had committed suicide. A few days later, World War II was over.

At this time of year, I remember with gratitude that I and so many others were privileged to survive the armed conflict and enjoy life.

Yet, sadly, it often seems that few people are aware of the abiding significance of World War II. After all, it ended 57 years ago and is remembered by only a relatively small number of Canadians and Americans. For most, it has become part of ancient history, which, as any teacher will tell you, is not a favourite subject for today's students. Our kids grow up with a truncated vision of the past. Many feel it is something they no longer need to know.

Winston Churchill said a nation that forgets its past is doomed to repeat it, and it might be of some interest to younger news watchers to find out how veterans view their war experience. We will recall a lot of suffering and only a little joy. What we prize today is the abiding comradeship that still binds us in some cases. I myself have a staccato correspondence with only one World War II buddy, who lives in Jerusalem.

Of course, with the passage of time, we veterans are no longer as emotionally tied to our war experience and our emotions flatten out. But for me and the rest of my fellowship, there is still meaning in the remembrance. In addition, as a Jew raised to see memory as an important part of life, I have a special reason to appreciate its value.

So I send my greetings to former comrades-in-arms, and to all my readers a reminder that the past must be remembered and incorporated into our consciousness.

Speed dating in the shadow of the Rockies

Recently I endured a long and painful break-up with my boyfriend of 4½ years.

Although it finally meant the end to a string of infidelities on his part, coupled with more dishonesty than anyone should ever endure, it took me a while to get over the slump. As one day followed another and the world stubbornly refused to stop functioning just because I was down in the dumps, the ache grudgingly began to subside.

Barbara Balfour in Calgary

So when I hit the final stage of the grieving period for this relationship, I timidly began my foray into the outside world. I set off in pursuit of something I have never had but my mother has always wanted for me: a nice Jewish boy.

I have never dated anyone Jewish before. This is partly because I had limited exposure to the Jewish world while growing up. When I finally did get more involved in Calgary's tiny Jewish community in university, I never came across anyone who seemed right for me.

And partly it was because I had never placed a whole lot of importance on dating – especially marrying someone – of the same race or ethnic background. In fact, I felt such an attitude was dangerous in today's world, as it reeked of ethnocentrism, maybe even racism. I always felt that you fell in love with the inner person and everything else was just circumstance.

Save from the occasional grandmother crossing my path, I never fell into the hands of the anxious matchmakers so prevalent in every Jewish community.

But I thought that perhaps I could take life into my own hands and finally find someone who understood me. I don't think it's a coincidence that my best friends in high school and university have always been either immigrants or the children of immigrants. We were all driven by the same ethic: a basic principle that hard work means success.

Since many Jewish young adults I've met fit the bill in terms of being either immigrants or first-generation Canadians, and therefore might share some of my core values, I thought I could give dating Jews a try.

So I looked in the phone book and called up "Six Minute Dates," an agency that had advertised a speed-dating event for members of the Jewish community.

Apparently, a rabbi who wanted to avoid intermarriage among young Jewish adults came up with the idea for speed dating. This particular agency offers events in which adults in certain age groups get together in a coffee shop for a series of quick, painless six-minute dates.

At the end of each event, the men and women tick off who they were interested in on a sheet, and if there was a "match," the agency would release their e-mail addresses to one another.

Unfortunately, because the Jewish community in Calgary is so tiny and there are so few Jews my age who openly identify themselves as Jewish and actually want to date each other, the event for Jews was cancelled due to lack of interest.

But I decided to attend a similar event for non-Jews. What did I have to lose? On my way to the coffee shop downtown where the event was being held for singles aged 21 to 31, I heard my heels clip-clopping on the sidewalk, a sound that seemed to echo my self-doubt.

What if no one ticked my name off? What if the guys were all weird? Did I look okay? What if we ran out of things to talk about?

In the end, it wasn't that bad. It turned out that six minutes was just the right amount of time to talk to a stranger, though I came away feeling exhausted after talking to 10 in one hour.

I didn't really find anyone that day, and don't expect to for a while, but I have discovered that the whole process is less about reaching the destination than it is about making the journey.

And it appears that for me, the journey is just beginning.

Barbara Balfour can be reached at bbalfour @ucalgary.ca.

Defending anti-Semitism?

Unfortunately, Chanukah time coincides with exam time. So instead of looking forward to latkes and dreidels, I find myself consumed with essay writing, theory, and the unique stress that only university life can provide.

Joanna Grossman in Halifax

For the past week, I have been wholly, utterly and completely engrossed in one paper. Every time I sit down to write it, I find myself thinking about another source that I want to read. The paper is on Wagner and the anti-Semitic implications of *The Ring Cycle*, his four-opera masterpiece.

Throughout the semester, I have listened to the 16 hours of opera, studying both music and text, considering its historical, political and philosophical connections. As the semester comes to a close, I am caught trying to find a decisive answer to one question: Can the beauty of this work be truly appreciated, considering the great evil it inspired?

The history of the West is one in which anti-Semitism has been an ever-present reality. The greatest of minds, from Voltaire to Kant to Heidegger, all espoused the most abhorrent hatred of the Jews. Their blatant irrationality in this one area, however, cannot de-legitimize the greatness of their intellectual successes.

Interestingly though, it is Wagner, and Wagner alone, whom Hitler saw as the precursor to his Nazi revolution.

And so, this one paper has my mind spiralling, because, of course, nothing is ever so simply contained in the form of one solitary question. Thinking about my paper has elucidated a far greater concern: As Jews trying to make our way in the secular world, how far must we go to achieve a sense of equality and belonging without relinquishing all that makes us distinct?

Wagner wrote at a time when the Jews of Europe were just beginning to flourish in secular society. Many of his greatest supporters were themselves assimilated Jews. Today, we find ourselves in a far different situation. We are no longer engaged in a struggle to be recognized and we don't face the same virulent hatred that was a reality just a generation ago. As a result, we don't see our Jewish identities threatened. We feel secure in our secular lives.

Listening to Wagner is hardly an issue of grave concern, for he is a musical genius. But if we look even further back into history, as Chanukah time encourages, we can see the danger of assimilation, as the Maccabees fought to retain a life that was distinctly Jewish. The question we must ask ourselves is where does that fight begin for us today?

As Jews, do we have a responsibility to ensure that the virulent anti-Semitism of Wagner's music does not meet with standing ovations in our nation's concert halls or should we continue to bask in the anonymity that secular life provides us, whatever the consequences may be?

I have to say that the very fact this paper drove my mind from Wagner to the Maccabees provides me with my answer. While it is so easy for us to distinguish our secular lives from our lives as Jews, we may be risking something we haven't even considered. The reality is that we cannot lead two separate lives. How can one turn Wagner off Friday afternoon and then walk to synagogue to celebrate Shabbat? We live as Jews, and we cannot draw the line on any given day, or at any time of year.

We have the ability to seek the Jewish answers to the most secular of questions. We can strive to be the most influential members of society without masking an inherent part of our dignity. In order to do so, we have to come to understand that the mass answer, the secular answer, doesn't have to be right.

So often we think we know what we should say, and we manipulate what we do say in order to meld to those expectations. However, with each contortion, with every little bend, we relinquish a little piece of who we are as Jewish individuals.

We don't even consider it, or stop to think, but in trying to be accepted by what we are not, we can so easily lose touch with who we are.

The Kirshner File

The odyssey of Sylwia Szymanska

Until 1996, Sylwia Szymanska had never met a Jewish person, and her knowledge of Jews, being extremely skimpy, was coloured by a tangle of myths. Since then, she has made amazing amends.

Born and bred in Poland, she is a 26-year-old Catholic who, like some Poles, harboured anti-Semitic stereotypes, passed inexorably from one generation to the next.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

As an example, she bought into the calumny that Jews had formed an international conspiracy to take over and dominate the world. This myth was popularized by a notorious 19th century tract, *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, which was exposed as a forgery in the 1920s.

When Szymanska, petite and soft-spoken, reminds herself of this phase of her life, an aura of embarrassment wreathes her sunny face. "Poles know very little about Jews," she said, acutely aware that Poland once had a Jewish population that exceeded three million. "And anti-Semitism is quite common. We repeat what we hear."

Szymanska, who considers herself a philo-Semite today, drastically revamped her skewed views when she began studying Polish history at Warsaw University in 1995. It was then that she learned that Poles and Jews had coexisted for a millennium and that Jews had made stellar contributions to Polish society. As far as she can tell, no Jewish blood runs in her veins.

As she delved deeper, reading the posthumous diary of Calel Perechodnik, a Jew who had been conscripted into Otwock's German-appointed ghetto police force, she reached a fateful decision. She would write her MA thesis on the Jews in Otwock during the Nazi occupation.

But in order to do the required research, under the supervision of her academic advisor Jerzy Tomaszewski, she would have to master Yiddish. This she proceeded to do with zest. "To me, Yiddish was like Latin," she said, smiling sweetly.

While gathering data in the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, Szymanska encountered a Jewish librarian named Adam Bielecki, the first Jew to make her acquaintance. Subsequently, she improved her Yiddish – first at the Centre for Judaic Studies at Vilnius University in Lithuania and successively at the Oxford Institute for Yiddish Studies in Britain, the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw and the Uriel Weinreich Program in Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture at Columbia University in New York.

When she enrolled at Columbia University's summer course, she had already begun teaching Yiddish at Warsaw University and working at the Institute of National Remembrance–Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes Against the Polish Nation. It is a government body charged with two overlapping tasks: to preserve documentation about the Nazi and Communist eras and to investigate crimes committed during those totalitarian periods.

Little could she have known that the Columbia University interregnum would alter her life in ways she could never have foreseen. While immersing herself in the intricacies of Yiddish, she fell in love with a fellow student, Mitch Smolkin, the artistic director of the Toronto-based Ashkenaz Festival for New Yiddish Culture, which finished its latest run on Labour Day. During Ashkenaz, she delivered a lecture on the state of Yiddish in contemporary Poland.

On Aug. 30, the day Ashkenaz opened, she and Smolkin went down the path of ecumenical matrimony, getting married in a civil ceremony in Toronto. On Sept. 21, the couple were wed in a church in Warsaw, and in December, they intend to consecrate their vows in a Toronto synagogue.

Since this flurry of events, Szymanska has left her position as an education official at the institute and applied for Canadian citizenship. She plans to live in Toronto and hopes to complete her PhD at the University of Toronto as she deepens her grasp of Yiddish. "I want to perfect my Yiddish so I can speak with a proper Polish dialect."

She was born in Jozefow, a town near Warsaw. Her parents, Andrzej and Anna, were workers until they retired. Szymanska's older sister is a seamstress.

Prior to the Holocaust, Jozefow's Jewish population hovered around the 100 mark. "Today about 20 Jews, including an Israeli doctor, live there," she said.

Although Szymanska was raised in what passes for a tolerant home, she adopted anti-Semitic stereotypes during her adolescence – one of which, a perennial favourite of Polish reactionaries, claims that all Jews are Communists.

In her estimation, such crass stereotypes are largely rejected by Poland's new generation, who, she observed, are increasingly interested in its Jewish and German minorities.

When she told her father about her interest in Jews, he was none too overjoyed. "He thought it would bring me problems. But now he's pleased, because he knows it makes me happy."

Szymanska wrote her MA thesis at The Mordechai Anielewicz Center for the Study and Teaching of the History and Culture of the Jews in Poland, at Warsaw University.

She was drawn to the subject, the Jews of Otwock, after reading Perechodnik's book, *Am I A Murderer?* published in translation by Westview Press in 1996. Perechodnik entrusted his diary to a Polish friend in 1944, before he was rounded up and murdered by the Nazis.

Otwock, a health resort popular among pre-war Jews, was populated by 14,200 Jews when the German army occupied the town in 1939. The Germans set up a ghetto in 1941, and then proceeded to deport Jews to the Treblinka death camp and the Karczew labour camp. By 1942, the ghetto and Karczew had been liquidated. Seven hundred Jews who had found shelter in the adjacent forests were caught and killed.

Sylwia Szymanska

In August, Otwock marked the 60th anniversary of the final deportations in a special commemoration. Szymanska and a few colleagues founded the committee that sponsored the ceremony.

Currently, she is hard at work finishing a research paper she started in Poland. The topic turns on an anti-Semitic massacre that took place in the northern Polish town of Jedwabne in 1941.

The notorious incident, which triggered a national furor in Poland two years ago, was the subject of Jan Tomasz Gross' book, *Neighbors*, published by Princeton University Press in 2001. In dry, clinical prose, Gross chronicled the cold-blooded murder of some 1,600 Jews at the hands of the town's Polish inhabitants.

Accurately described as "an act of genocide" by the current president of Poland, Aleksander Kwasniewski, until recently the planning of the pogrom had been blamed on the Gestapo.

In a trial in 1949, a dozen of the Polish perpetrators were handed prison sentences ranging from eight to 15 years.

Last summer, the Polish government erected a monument in honour of Jedwabne's Jewish victims. But, as Szymanska noted, the carnage in Jedwabne was not unique. Similar pogroms unfolded in Wasosz and Radzilow.

Since these disclosures of pogroms on Polish soil, Szymanska has read Polish documents pertaining to the 1941 massacres and translated them into Yiddish. She hopes to publish a monograph.

Szymanska wants to write her PhD dissertation on the attitude of the wartime Polish police toward Jews. "In most cases, the police were hostile to Jews and often betrayed them to the Germans. But some helped, even hiding Jews."

Generally speaking, though, ordinary Poles were indifferent to the fate of Jews during the Holocaust. "Some thought that Hitler was solving the 'Jewish question' in Poland."

As for modern Polish-Jewish relations, Szymanska believes they are problematic, better abroad than in Poland itself.

A new restitution law, enacted by the Polish government to enable Jews to reclaim stolen or expropriated property, has aggravated underlying tensions.

Szymanska believes that John Paul II, the first Polish pope, has tried to smooth over the troubled relationship between Poles and Jews. But in her opinion, his sentiments are not necessarily shared by Poles at the grassroots level."Maybe it's because they grew up with the belief that there can't be peace between Poles and Jews."

Not content to rest on her laurels, Szymanska has embarked on a quest to find permanent quarters for the Centre for Yiddish Culture in Warsaw, the only institution of its kind in Poland. The objective of the centre, established by the Shalom Foundation – a Polish American Foundation – is to disseminate knowledge of Jewish history and culture to Poles.

It is a daunting task, given the burdens of the past, but Szymanska, who has come a long way in the past six years, has every intention of seeing it through.

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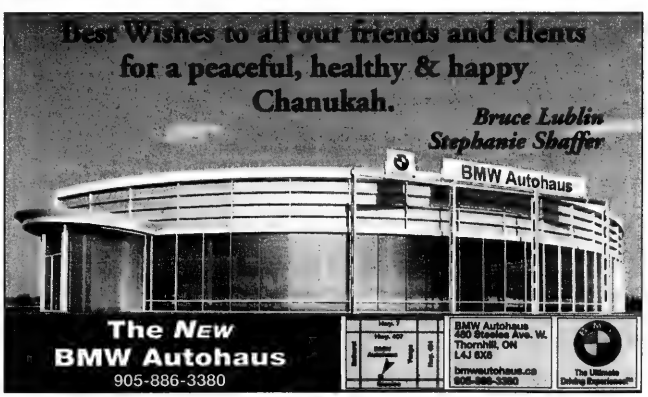
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ALEGRIA! celebrates Spain: then and now

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

At the beginning of the last millennium, Spain was a social, cultural and religious centre in a world that hadn't yet distinguished between Sephardi and Ashkenazi Jews.

Over the next few hundred years, Jewish scholars, artists and financiers spread their Spanish heritage as they made their homes around the world.

In Egypt, Rabbi Moses ben Maimon (Maimonides) became one of the most renowned Jewish philosophers ever to live and the Portuguese widow, Dona Gracia Nasi, established herself as one of the most powerful female European merchants of her time.

This culture is being recalled on Dec. 3, when the State of Israel Bonds Women's Division and the Sephardic Kehila Centre's women's auxiliary present ALEGRIA! – a women's-only event in celebration of Judeo-Spanish roots.

"The evening will focus on the Golden Age of Spain before the Jewish expulsion [in 1492] when Jewish rabbis, writers, musicians and artists were establishing a unique blend of traditions," State of Israel bonds spokesperson Raquel Benzacar-Savatti said.

> *'The art of that time and place'*

After that, Spanish Jews dispersed into different countries and took their cultural backgrounds with them as they integrated into new homes.

"We want this evening to focus on their common Spanish heritage" – on the music, the food, the art of that time and place, Benzacar-Savatti said.

It is an opportunity for women to celebrate their past and, at the same time, take responsibility for their future by investing in Israeli bonds, she said.

The event includes a dinner, a performance by The Paula Moreno Flamenco Dance Company and a lecture by guest speaker, Dominique Tomasov-Blinder.

"Dominique is an Ashkenazi woman who lives in Barcelona today and has committed herself to understanding the the Spanish Jewish community – past and present," said Vivien Sharon, co-chair of the event with Luna Igelman.

"Dominique is an inspiring speaker who will talk about being Jewish today in Catalonia," Sharon said.

In order to participate in the event, which includes sangria wine and Spanish food – a collection of tapas, such as bocorones, calentita, chorisas, paella (to name but a few) – the women must purchase a minimum Chai bond ($136), as well as pay a couvert of $36, Sharon said.

When the event took place for the first time two years ago, more than 450 Ashkenazi and Sephardi women attended and more than half a million dollars worth of bonds were sold.

The event provides women with an opportunity to learn about each other and discuss with knowledgeable people how bonds work.

"Some women had never purchased a bond before the last event," Sharon said.

Guests will also be able to take part in a silent auction as they walk through hallways that will be decorated to look like streets in a village of Cordoba, she said.

Proceeds from the auction will go to Or Haemet Sephardic School.

Benzacar-Savatti said they hope to be able to host ALEGRIA! – which means Joy in Spanish – on an annual basis and focus on different Sephardi communities – Iraq, Turkey, India – each time.

For futher information, call 416-789-3351, ext. 124.

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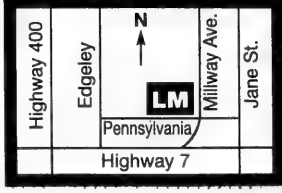

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Judy & David are back for another Chanukah party

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

There will be singing, dancing, candle-lighting and lots of surprises when Juno Award-winning children's entertainers Judy & David throw their Chanukah Party 2002 at York University.

This is the second year the married singing couple – the stars of TV's *Judy & David's Boom Box* – have celebrated the holiday with a show.

They originally decided to create one because of the lack of holiday family entertainment geared to Chanukah. After the tremendous response to last year's shows at the Leah Posluns Theatre, the couple has moved the production to a larger venue to accommodate their ever-growing fan base.

Fun lights... special effects

"We were very pleased with the success of the show last year, so we wanted to do it this year and take it to the next level," Judy (Adelman Gershon) said.

"This show is bigger and better with a higher production value with fun lights and special effects happening. We kept some of the favourite things from last year, and our buddy Bommie the Boom Box has taken on a new look this year – he's become a little magical. And CharActor's Kids' Choir will be performing with us."

Judy & David are celebrating a decade of playing children's music together, so their young fans will be also be treated to a medley of their hits from the past 10 years, including the oft-requested *My Little Yellow Bus*, along with the duo's Jewish musical numbers.

"The show has our signature interactive element to it – every song gets the audience involved as always. It's also a great opportunity for us to do some of the Jewish songs that we love," Judy said.

The duo is being honoured with an award from the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN) because their children's compositions are the most publicly performed in Canada.

For more information on Judy & David, their upcoming tour schedule, their online store and the latest on Judy & David's Chanukah Party 2002, visit their interactive Web site at www. judyanddavid.com.

The Chanukah Party show runs Nov. 30 at 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. and Dec. 1st at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at Burton Auditorium, York University, 4700 Keele St. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster at 416-872-1111.

A portion of the proceeds are going to Jewish day schools and synagogue charities that are selling show tickets to raise funds.

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UJA FEDERATION

Rabin memorial service recalls years of hope

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

How would Yitzhak Rabin handle the current situation in Israel?

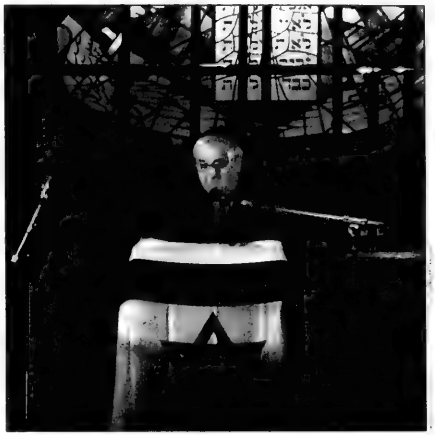
"I can only guess," said Eitan Haber, who headed the late Israeli prime minister's office. Speaking at a recent memorial service at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation that was sponsored jointly by almost a dozen organizations, Haber recalled asking Rabin what would happen if the peace process stewarded by the then-prime minister were to collapse and Israel were to go to war.

"In that case," Haber recalled Rabin saying, "I'll be able to look straight into the eyes of every mother in Israel who sends her son to war and say, 'At least we tried everything.'"

Haber, a former military correspondent for the Israeli daily *Yediot Achronot*, suspects that in light of ongoing violence and suicide bombings, Rabin would "beat them without mercy, but at the same time he would pursue peace."

Rabin was a statesman with a long-term vision for Israel, Haber said. "In his eyes peace was almost a condition for the continuance of our existence, and he was ready to pay for it a high price, but not the price of the security of Israel."

The late prime minister, a native of Jerusalem born in 1922, distinguished himself as a military leader early on, said Rachel Korazim, director of professional development programs for Jewish educators at the Jewish Agency's department of education, and MC for the evening, which included songs of peace



Eitan Haber

by the Bialik Hebrew Day School choir and individual youth, as well as readings by members of some of the six youth groups – Hashomer Hatzair, Habonim Dror, Canadian Young Judaea, BBYO, Bnei Akiva and Betar Tagar – that organized the event.

Rabin served as prime minister from 1974 to 1977 and again from 1992 until he was assassinated at a 1995 Tel Aviv peace rally by a right-wing Jewish extremist.

His leadership was marked by two historic events, Korazim noted: the Oslo agreements that led to the 1993 signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles in Washington, D.C., and the 1994 peace treaty between Israel and Jordan.

Rabin's assassination was a crime not only against the man, said Meir Romem, Israel's consul general in Toronto, but against the State of Israel, Israeli democracy and the Israeli soul. Romem recalled Rabin as a man of courage, careful consideration and wise judgment and lauded his contributions to Israel's defence and development.

Korazim said Rabin's funeral was moving not only because of the loss but also for the reactions of world leaders. "We cherished the eulogy by King Hussein of Jordan," she said.

Rabin made a historic decision to "trade clasping a finger to a trigger for clasping a hand for peace," said Haber, who was Rabin's closest adviser and confidant for the last 10 years of his life. He recalled how difficult it was emotionally for Rabin when his decisions resulted in loss of soldiers' lives.

Even winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994 did not lift Rabin's spirits when he was deciding whether Israeli forces would storm the house where kidnapped soldier Nachshon Wachsmann was being held, said Haber.

"It resembled, on a different scale, the tension before the Entebbe operation. He was gritting his teeth. His warm eyes went frozen for a moment. 'Attack them,' he said."

After Wachsmann was killed, Haber and Rabin were on their way to a press conference when Haber entered the men's washroom where Rabin was spending an unusually long time. "I'm willing to swear," said Haber, "that his eyes were soaking wet."

The years in which Rabin pursued peace were the best years for the State of Israel, said Haber, citing economic growth, a 50 per cent reduction in unemployment, visits by 80 world leaders and new investment by 200 international companies.

"The journey to peace was ended by three shots," he said. "We are left only with a small legacy: to dream of peace and to pursue it, and to protect democracy, without which we have no life in Israel."

Noah Brotman, Hashomer Hatzair mazkir (national youth leadership co-ordinator), asked that people "remember not only a great man but also a time when there was hope... Only when we have made lasting peace in Israel will we have truly honoured [Rabin's] memory."

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Jewish Life

A look at two giants of philosophy

Wittgenstein's Poker, by David Edmonds and John Eidinow, Faber and Faber, (Paperback), 2001, $17.99.

Books
Bernard Baskin

The time was October 25, 1946, the place was a small, crowded tutorial room at Cambridge University and the combatants were two renowned philosophers, Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889-1951) and Karl Popper (1902-1994).

Popper had been invited by the prestigious Moral Science Club to address the question, "Are there philosophical problems?" Wittgenstein became so enraged by Popper's remarks that he picked up a red-hot poker from the fireplace and waved it threateningly at his opponent, who held his ground. Bertrand Russell stepped in to end the argument. Wittgenstein dropped the poker and stormed out of the room.

Using this 10-minute encounter as a point of departure, two journalists with the BBC have written an entertaining and thoughtful book about the lives, personalities, ideas and influence of two intellectual giants, the highly Jewish Vienna from which they came and their relationship to Judaism.

Both men were descendants of converted, almost totally assimilated families. Wittgenstein was extremely wealthy, while Popper came from a modest middle class background.

Sixteen of Popper's relatives from his mother's family were killed in the Holocaust. But he made it clear that he did not consider himself Jewish.

For Wittgenstein, "In western civilization the Jew is always measured on scales that do not fit him." His litany of nonsense included the characterization of Jews as dangerous foreign bodies in a nation's bloodstream. For Wittgenstein, apparently there could be no assimilation for the Jew and only danger for the host culture in an attempt by Jews to assimilate.

The Anchluss (the merger of Germany and Austria) brought Wittgenstein face to face with his Jewishness (as classified by the Nazis) and he was forced to give up much of his fortune to have his sisters declared *mischlinge*, or of mixed race, to save their lives.

The several chapters largely concerned with philosophy are not beyond the comprehension of the average interested reader. Wittgenstein's major contributions were in the field of linguistics. He argued that all judgments about moral and aesthetic matters cannot – ever – be meaningful uses of language. The same is true of philosophical generalizations that we make about the world as a whole. They are meaningless if they cannot be broken down into elementary sentences, "which really are pictures." The world can only be spoken about by careful description of the individual facts of which it is comprised.

In a major work, Popper attacked Plato, Hegel and Marx as false prophets. He considered democracy as the only viable possibility because it was the only from of government that embodied the scientific, trial-and-error method and allowed society to modify its politics in the light of experience, and to change government without bloodshed.

With the passage of time, Popper's reputation has dimmed. Wittgenstein's, by contrast, is unsurpassed. A poll of professional philosophers put him fifth on a list of those who had made the most important contributions to the subject, after Aristotle, Plato, Kant and Nietzsche. Say the authors: "Students pore over his texts like Talmudic scholars divining wisdom from the Torah."

This book on an unusual subject is idea-filled, informative and engaging.

Batya: Israel's one-woman search bureau

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Roots & Remembrance

He was a British soldier and she was a Jewish nurse in British-mandate Palestine: they met in Egypt about 1940. She was killed in an accident and he vowed to let her family know. But how to find them?

He knew that she had been born in Bremen, Germany, and once had sisters. After many years of searching, he provided these scanty details last year to Batya Unterschatz-Landsman, then head of the Israeli Search Bureau for Missing Persons in Jerusalem.

Using her extensive arsenal of research techniques, Batya eventually found a niece of the deceased nurse on an Israeli kibbutz. "I sent him [the ex-soldier] the message that I had found her, and at first he didn't believe me," she recounts. "He never imagined that I could do it, because he knew almost nothing about the family."

In her 30 years as director of the Search Bureau, Batya earned a reputation as a sort of Israeli Sherlock Holmes. Because of her persistence, she usually finds the person she is looking for, or a descendant if the person is deceased.

The Jewish Agency established the Search Bureau in 1945 to help reunite Jewish families torn apart by World War II. Until this year, it was still receiving an average of 300 search requests a month.

Born in Lithuania after the war, Batya immigrated to Israel in 1971 and took work in a department store. "I had been working in the tourist section, and talked to each person in his own language – Hebrew, English, German, Russian, Yiddish, Polish, and so on," she recalls. One day, a man from the Jewish Agency spotted her and offered her a job on the spot.

The Search Bureau had a staff of 17 when she started there in 1972. Within five years, she had become its head, only to witness its staff begin to shrink dramatically. Seven years ago, she gave up her last remaining assistant. Frustrated and overworked, she left last January but continues to conduct searches privately for paying clients.

She often consults old phone books and records from landsmanschaft societies, trade unions and chevrah kadishahs (burial societies). Also useful are immigration records in the Israel State Archives, and Holocaust records at Yad Vashem.

"The most important factor behind a successful search is to put your heart into what you are doing," she says. "It's a great deal more than just sitting around a desk and looking up information. You must be inventive!"

After her talk last summer at the Jewish genealogical seminar in Toronto, several people rose to praise her for finding their long-lost relatives in Israel. As one person recounted, her research had even saved someone's life by facilitating a last-minute bone-marrow transplant in the United States.

Batya says she passed by her old office one day and saw mounds of unopened mail inside the door. Her claim that the Jewish Agency had forgotten about her is corroborated by the fact that, despite several attempts, I could find no one from that organization who knew anything about the Search Bureau or could comment on it.

In these troubled times, uniting the Jewish people by reuniting the branches of its family tree is still important, isn't it? To contact Batya, e-mail her at batya1@netvision.il.

* * *

Chanukah gift suggestion: An Israeli company recently released an updated version of its Jewish family tree software. DoroTree works in both English and Hebrew and has several unique features for those doing Holocaust research, It also offers an English-Hebrew name translator and a calendar conversion program. Available at Jewish bookstores. or visit www.dorotree.com on the Web.

Jewish Life

Chanukiyot and the Web

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It is one of the loveliest moments in the Jewish calendar. For eight nights, families gather to light the chanukiyah to commemorate a miracle that occurred more than two millennia ago. And though the tradition is widely observed, people have practical questions about the lighting ceremony and a deeper curiosity about meaning of the holiday. Today, some answers from the World Wide Web.

Let's start with the basics. If you get confused about which blessing to say while lighting the candles, you can read them in Hebrew and transliterated English on the TorahTots pages. And for extra help, click on the link to hear the blessing recited. **[http://www.torahtots.com/holidays/chanuka/brachot.htm]** For people who are confused by the right-to-left candle placement and left-to-right candle lighting tradition, you'll find clear instruction on the Being Jewish site. **[http://www.beingjewish.com/yomtov/chanukah/menorah.html]** And if you like, you can watch the Torah.org Online Menorah as it is updated daily during the holiday to illustrate that night's candle configuration. As the site mentions in a tongue-in-cheek fashion "Note! Rabbinic authorities agree: you CAN'T fulfill the Mitzvah by looking at a computer screen!" **[http://torah.org/learning/yomtov/chanukah/]** For some thought-provoking articles about menorahs, see Eliezer Segal's home page **[http://www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Shokel/Calendar_Index.html#Hanukkah]**

If you don't have a Jewish museum in your town, you can visit some gorgeous menorahs online. Many of us may be familiar with the traditional ornate silver menorahs, such as one 19th silver menorah on display at the Adler Judaica Collection in Memphis, Tenn. **[http://rj.org/uahc/congs/tn/tn002/Judaica_Exhibit/Chanukah_Menorah.html]** Or take a look at the 1767 bronze Chanukiyah that former Israeli prime minister David Ben-Gurion presented to U.S. president Harry Truman as a token of esteem for the president's recognition of the State of Israel. **[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/israel/menora.htm]**

Of course, modern artists have been inspired to craft Chanukah menorahs using a multitude of materials into countless stunning designs. **[http://uahcweb.org/ny/tinw/ReligiousLiving/RelgiousObjects/MenorahImages.htm]** Nowadays, it is not uncommon to see massive menorahs on public display in major cities throughout the world. Chabad's impressive Virtual Chanukah site includes pictures of menorahs from Boston to Bologna and from Denver to Disney World. **[http://virtualchanukah.com/lights/video/menorah_stills.asp]**

But I feel one of the most remarkable menorahs on the Web is a miniature silver chanukiyah that was made in the Lodz ghetto. As the Yad Vashem Web site describes, "when closed, the folding lamp has the shape of a book. It contains nine small oil-holders and tongs. As it is portable, it enables the owner to fulfill the obligation of kindling the Chanukah lights even under difficult conditions." It was dedicated on Chanukah 1944. The menorah was found after the war in the ruins of the home of Mordechai Chaim Rumkowski, chairman of the ghetto's Jewish Council. **[http://shlk.com/237]**

Although the tradition of lighting Chanukah candles may seem obvious, the Ohr Somayach Web site tackles plenty of contemporary questions about the commandment. **[http://www.ohr.org.il/special/chanukah]**

Here's one the Maccabees probably never had to face. How can you fulfill the mitzvah if an overnight flight from the U.S. to Europe means you won't have the opportunity to light a menorah? The response: "in this case there is no obligation to light Chanukah lights. The Talmud describes the mitzvah to light Chanukah lights as 'a candle for a person and his home' (Shabbat 21b). The obligation to light Chanukah candles applies only if you are based in a home at the appropriate time for fulfilling the mitzvah. But if you're riding with your family in a car or plane the entire night – and there's nobody residing in your home – you're exempt from lighting Chanukah candles."

If you are earth-bound during the holiday, you may want to try your hand at making your own menorah. The Mazornet.com site has four plans, including the Builder's Special (which uses ceramic tiles and shot glasses) and the Seaside Special (which calls for seashells and driftwood). **[http://www.mazornet.com/jewishcl/Holidays/Chanukah/menorah-building.htm]**

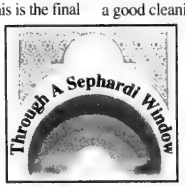
Have a very happy holiday.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

The revered Rabbi Yitzhak Kadouri

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON



He is more of the times of the Babylonian Talmud than he is of this century. He is revered as *the* elder within a community that is itself comprised of venerable old sages.

In the realm of Kabbalah, his is the final word. For the sick, the poor and the troubled, his counsel and his blessing are considered to be in a category of their own. For many he is seen as the oracle of our times.

He lives in Jerusalem's Bucharian Quarter. Rarely does he venture from his residence – an apartment inside the synagogue built for him by the Safra family. As a centenarian, his health is rigorously guarded and the public is generally kept from him.

He is Rabbi Yitzchak Kadouri.

How does one gain his blessing, or indeed even catch a simple glimpse of the man? The best chance, I am told, is to join him for morning prayers, preferably Mondays and Thursdays.

So, I set out to do just that.

What is the address, I inquire? Just tell the taxi driver: "Rabbi Kadouri." True enough, the driver knows, winding his way through alleys, a market and the many children making their own way to school.

Inside, the Sephardi synagogue looks common enough: tiled, large and airy, with a massive crystal chandelier in dire need of a good cleaning.

It is about 7:30 a.m., relatively late by Israeli standards. Some 20 men sit and wait patiently.

Evidently, the service doesn't begin without the Rav.

Not until close to eight does a door in the back wall of the synagogue open.

On cue, all assembled stand in silence. Ever slowly out of the door, walking backwards, the shammas emerges with both hands stretched out, holding those of the rabbi.

In this way, the rabbi is brought in. All one can see of him are those hands emerging from the tallit that drapes his body, head and shoulders. What must have once been a man of tall stature is now one severely stooped.

Slowly shuffling his slippers, he is shown to his seat on the Torah reading platform. As he makes his way, there is an undeniable aura. As with a Torah, people gently touch his passing body and kiss their fingertips. Whispering and and gasping can be heard from the ladies' balcony.

The rabbi sits, and his body seems to blend into the seat. A stand holds the siddur that he cannot. Even the turning of its pages must be done for him. When one must sit or stand, he is lifted.

The service continues. The Torah is to be read. But first the third aliyah is auctioned. It is understood that whoever purchases it will honour the rabbi with it. In return, the rabbi will recite the *Mi Sheberah*, bestowing his blessing on the individual.

The bidding is brisk and energetic. A feeling of inadequacy prevents me from participating. Who am I to take this blessing away from the sick that are here today. The honour goes to the highest bidder. Although I do not bid, I am full of regret.

As the rabbi says the Torah blessing, everyone gathers near to hear a faint and barely audible voice, eager to respond with "Amen."

The "moment" for me is when he recites the concluding Kaddish. An intense surge of emotion overpowers me, as it has many times since.

I have yet, however, to receive his blessing.

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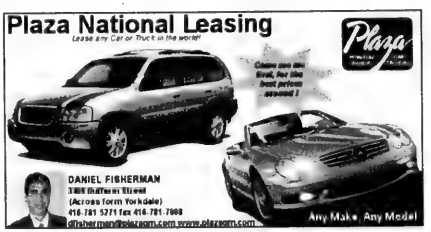

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BAYT solidarity mission dedicates guidance centre

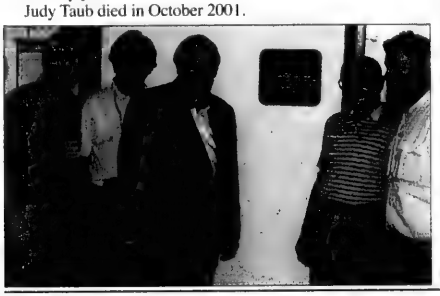
By STACEY STEIN
Special to The CJN

The dedication of a guidance centre in honour of Rabbi Baruch Taub's late wife Judy was one of many remarkable experiences shared by a group of congregants from Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto (BAYT) on a recent solidarity mission to Israel.

Located in the West Bank community of Bet El, with which BAYT is twinned, the guidance centre will counsel teenage girls and provide assistance in areas such as interpersonal and family relationships, careers and religious issues. It was dedicated on the first day of the group's mission, which began on Nov. 3 and ended Nov. 10.

"It's a reflection of what Judy Taub did," said Moishe Posner, who planned the synagogue's mission to Israel with Larry Zeifman, chair of BAYT's Bet El twinning committee. "Judy devoted her life to helping women in the community. She had a tremendous impact on young women in the community. Her loss is felt deeply."

Judy Taub died in October 2001.



"One lady came on the mission because of what Judy had done for her. That was her reason for coming on the mission, out of respect for Judy," said Zeifman.

About 200 people attended the dedication ceremony, which featured speeches by Rabbi Zalman Baruch Melamad, Bet El's chief rabbi, Yaakov Katz, the executive director of Bet El's Yeshiva Centre and co-founder of Arutz Sheva, a popular Israeli news channel. Other speakers included Zeifman, BAYT president Leon Rucker and Rabbi Taub.

At the ceremony, Rabbi Taub affixed a mezuzah in one of the guidance centre's rooms with the late Mrs. Taub's brother, David Blustein.

The community of Bet El, located north of Jerusalem, is comprised of more than 1,000 families.

BAYT's Israel mission was "a trip to show solidarity to our fellow Jews all throughout Israel, especially Jews who had been victims of terror attacks," said Zeifman.

The group, which consisted of 24 people, also visited the victims of terrorist attacks. Some of the victims they visited included the family of a 52-year-old man who was murdered the day before the group's arrival in the community of Rafiach Yam in the Gaza Strip. The group also visited the community of Atzmonah in Gaza, the site of a terrorist attack that claimed the lives of five yeshiva students in March.

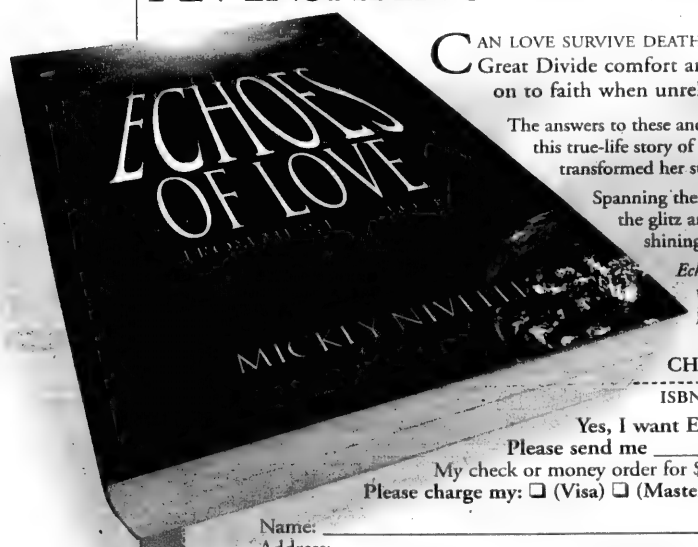
Throughout the mission, the group was struck by the strength and resilience of Israelis.

"We went on a solidarity mission and these people ended up giving us strength. They showed us how strong Jews can be," said Zeifman. "We were taken with the bravery of our soldiers and the resoluteness and unity of the Israelis."

Rabbi Taub and Judy Taub were the founding spiritual leaders of the BAYT congregation of 12 families, 23 years ago. It has since grown to become one of the largest Orthodox synagogues in North America.

Members of the Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto's solidarity mission in front of the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron. [David Wilder photo]. Photo at left: Seen at the unveiling of the dedication plaque for the Rebbitzen Judy Taub Memorial Guidance Centre in Bet El are (from left) Larry Zeifman, chair, Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto's Bet El twinning committee; David Blustein, brother of Judy Taub; Rabbi Baruch Taub; Leon Rucker, BAYT president; and the executive director of the Bet El Yeshiva Centre, Yaakov Katz. [Randy Zelcer photo]

AN INSPIRING TRUE STORY OF ETERNAL LOVE



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FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE RECOGNIZED: Chabad Lubavitch of Ontario recently received a $310,000 grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation for its Friendship Circle program. This community initiative matches children with special needs with teens who offer friendship and recreational opportunities to children and respite for their parents. The foundation, an agency of the Ontario Ministry of Culture, allocates grants to eligible charitable and not-for-profit organizations in the arts and culture, environment, human and social services and sports and recreation sectors. The Friendship Circle will host its first holiday program on Dec. 1 for special needs children and their siblings. For more information on the program, call (905) 731-7000, ext. 35. Seen here at the cheque presentation are, from left, Chaya Perman, Esther Grossbaum, Thornhill MPP Tina Molinari, Chabad Lubavitch executive vice-president Rabbi Zalman Grossbaum and foundation representative Gary Gladstone.

Israeli lawyer filed suit against Syria, Iraq, Iran

Continued from page 3

Darshan-Leitner has also hit Syria, Iraq and Iran with lawsuits. All three countries support and/or fund Palestinian organizations ranging from Hamas to Islamic Jihad.

Taking her crusade one step further, Darshan-Leitner filed a 100 million shekel ($20 million US) suit in a Tel Aviv district court against the European Union last May.

The plaintiffs are members of the Bloomberg family who were attacked in a drive-by shooting in the West Bank in August 2001 that killed a pregnant woman and severely wounded her husband and daughter.

The suit contends the EU – which has transferred more than $1.5 billion (US) to the PA since 1994 and continues to assist the PA to the tune of some $10 million a month – is an unintentional sponsor of terrorism.

In its defence, the EU argues that it cannot be sued because of its so-called sovereign immunity.

"I have urged the EU not to hide behind its immunity and to face the facts," she said. "I want to make sure that European taxpayers know how their tax money is spent."

She added, "Don't take European visitors [in Israel] to Yad Vashem. Take them to cemeteries where terrorist victims are buried."

If her case is rejected by the Tel Aviv district court, she said, she will take it to Israel's Supreme Court and, if necessary, to the EU court in Brussels.

Darshan-Leitner has also sued Abu Abbas, whose group, the Palestine Liberation Front, murdered American tourist Leon Klinghoffer aboard the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro in October 1985.

But Abbas, who currently resides in Baghdad, has not bothered to defend himself.

In addition, Darshan-Leitner has sued Mohammed Dahlan, a security advisor to PA President Yasser Arafat.

She claims he planned an attack on a bus in the Gaza Strip that killed two Israeli teachers.

The United States, she noted with bitterness, is grooming Dahlan as Arafat's successor. "He is nothing but a murderer, and the U.S. should not do business with a terrorist."

In closing, Darshan-Leitner declared that Israelis are "sick and tired" of attending the funerals of fellow citizens who have been gunned down or blown up by terrorists.

On their behalf, she is fighting back.

"We can win these cases. We're winning them already."

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Jewish Toronto

Sam Gotfrid: 70 years of service at age 95

Samuel ("call me Sam") Gotfrid turned 95 this October and the former practicing lawyer has spent 70 of those years performing volunteer work throughout Toronto's Jewish community. In 1925 he was elected treasurer of the UJA Federation - then known as The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies – Jewish Youth Branch.

"I've always been a community-minded person," says Gotfrid who has also served as the former chair of UJA's Lawyers Division during the 1960's; on UJA's Executive Board for 10 years, and on UJA Federation's Bequest and Endowment Fund, now The Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto.

He continues to volunteer as a canvasser even today for UJA's Lawyers & Accountants Division.

"I've been doing it for many years. The last number of years I've canvassed mainly the people who the younger canvassers wouldn't have a chance to get to; established lawyers and judges mainly. I wanted to be a good example to the others."

"I think it (community volunteerism) started when I was in university. I wanted to join the fraternity, but it cost money, and my parents didn't have it. I wanted to help with the Jewish Boy's Club that some of the older kids were involved in. Fortunately, I received a scholarship that paid me $100 cash and free tuition. I used the scholarship money to join the fraternity."

Gotfrid, who was born in 1907 on Gerrard Street, became active in Toronto's Jewish community when he accepted an invitation to teach Sunday School at Holy Blossom Temple, then on Bond Street, for the impressive stipend of $5 per month.

"It was a great experience," he says. "It forced me to go back to the library and brush up on my Hebrew. I had a great time with the boys and girls. In 1927 I received the Temple's scholarship for teachers. I spent six incredibly enlightening weeks at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati."

95-year-old Samuel Gotfrid, still an active member of Toronto's Jewish community.

Still active on the membership committee of Toronto's Oakdale Golf and Country Club, and on the Board of Governors at Mount Sinai Hospital, Gotfrid says UJA's role hasn't changed that much over his 70 years of service.

"We all know that Israel needs a lot of money. Everyone knows how bad the situation is over there. There are still many needs that must be taken care of. That's what UJA tries to do, and that's the reason it was originally formed, and it is still counted on," says Gotfrid.

Finding love on the Kinneret

Boaz Willinger and fiancée Esther Benquesus

When a *birthright israel* trip left Toronto's Pearson Airport on December 27, 2001, 26-year-old Torontonian Esther Benquesus was hoping to return with a sense of connection and belonging to Israel.

It's safe to say that Benquesus got more than she bargained for. Not only did she come home with a new and deeper understanding of Israel; she also brought back her *beshert* (marriage partner).

It was on that trip when she met St. Catharines resident and *birthright* staff member, Boaz Willinger. The two will be married on December 1, 2002 at Thornhill's Sephardic Kehilla Centre. Their Jamaican honeymoon will begin almost one year from their initial encounter in Israel.

Benquesus first noticed Boaz once they hit the tarmac in Tel Aviv.

"I noticed this guy across the room at Ben Gurion," she says. "He had these amazing green eyes, and there was a connection right away. I guess you could say it was love at first sight."

The couple didn't have the chance to actually meet until a few days later when they were enjoying themselves on a disco boat in the middle of the Kinneret.

"I first noticed her on that boat," says the soon-to-be-married, Israeli born Willinger. "We spoke for a few minutes, and I told my roommate that she was the type of girl I could marry. I never expected it to happen like this."

Willinger left St. Catharines in September, moving to Toronto to be closer to his fiancée.

"To me, *birthright* is an incredible experience in itself," says Willinger. "It's amazing to see the emotions displayed by people the first time they see the Kotel. I never expected anything else like this to happen to me. To meet someone and know so quickly that I want to spend my life with her is an unbelievable feeling."

"Boaz and I want to thank *birthright israel* personally for its incredible contribution and commitment to Israel, to the Jewish community and to us personally," adds Benquesus. "Boaz and I know that we are each other's soul mates and our souls have been searching for each other; however, because he lived in St. Catharines and I live in Toronto, we don't know how we would have met if not for *birthright*."

birthright israel is a world-wide partnership between leading philanthropists, the Government of Israel, North American Federations and locally by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. Be sure to watch *birthright israel - a story of Jewish self-discovery* on Vision TV Monday, December 2, 8-9 pm.
See ad in this week's CJN.

Visiting the land I cherish

Israel mission reflections

by Michael Diamond

I joined the 85-person strong UJA Federation-Israel Bonds Solidarity Mission from Toronto this October. The group included people from Ottawa, London and Toronto, ages 1-60 and more. Some had been there many times before, and others were there for their first time.

I would have no qualms in recommending a solidarity mission to any family member or friend who wanted to visit Israel cost-effectively, with a group of like-minded people. It's a wonderful opportunity to absorb together large amounts of historical and current information about Israel and the Middle East in only a few days.

Israel continues to be one of the most, if not the most, incredible places in the world to visit and experience- for a Jew or a non-Jew. We were greeted warmly, and as friends, everywhere we went. I can say that, after a 25 year hiatus, my four return visits over the past eight years or so have made my life more enriched as a result.

One of our speakers was Rabbi Donielle Hartman of the Hartman Institute. He spoke about many of the prevailing feelings among Israelis these days, most notably, their sense of isolation and loneliness- from the world.

We spent a good deal of time with soldiers at their bases, and around their lunch tables. Other than the officers, they are all young kids, 18-21 years old, carrying a burden that they handle with varying degrees of comfort. Most are there for their required years, fighting for their country. And some see a larger picture- that they are fighting for the Jewish people.

We visited the Emergency Terror Unit at Shaarei Tzedek Hospital, which takes about 40% of the terror victims in the Jerusalem area. We met two terror victims who had survived- one who had sustained burns all over her body and another who still had nails and other metal implements embedded forever within his body as a result of a homicide bomber whose intention was not just to kill, but to maim. Both of these young people were upbeat, optimistic and despite being permanently scarred, were moving on with their lives in positive ways.

We visited an elementary school and were greeted with a large group of children waving Israeli flags and applauding our arrival. These sweet children showed their appreciation for our presence with a short performance of singing and dancing, and interacted with us using English as much as they were able. The kids are bright, upbeat, and generally optimistic about the future.

Michael Diamond at Jerusalem's David Citadel Hotel.

I could go on - but the bottom line is that Israel is stressed but alive and well; and that going there is something that you will benefit from. Those people who believe you have to be brave to visit Israel are incorrect - no more than you need to be brave to drive on our highways or get on an airplane. And the benefits of a visit to Israel, however short, are so significant that if you do need to be brave, it is indeed worth it!

UJA Federation has organized over 30 missions since the Intifadah began in October 2000. To find our more about UJA Federation missions, please call 416.635.2883 ext. 177 or visit www.jewishtoronto.net/mission

***JEWISH TORONTO* IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.**

Record gift for UJA's Foundation

UJA Federation is receiving its largest gift ever from a philanthropic family. Barry and Honey Sherman, two long-time supporters of UJA Federation and other charitable causes, are bestowing a $50 million endowment on the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, which houses Jewish community bequest and endowment funds. The Jewish Foundation is a key component of a broader UJA Federation initiative called Jewish Toronto Tomorrow (JTT).

Jewish Toronto Tomorrow, which is an unprecedented program to address the Jewish community's burgeoning growth, is matching philanthropists with worthy projects in order to raise more than $1 billion within the next eight to ten years for capital projects, the annual UJA Federation campaign, bequests and endowments.

"In every generation, there are philanthropic leaders who set a new standard for generations to come. Barry and Honey Sherman are two of those philanthropic pioneers. Barry and Honey strongly believe that other men and women with the financial ability to support people in need have an undeniable obligation to do so," says Jewish Foundation chair Neil Nisker. "We greatly appreciate the Shermans' generosity and vision in bestowing this tremendous gift."

"Endowment gifts keep on giving year after year for the community. We are pleased to be able to make this contribution and we hope our gift encourages others to contribute," says Dr. Sherman, the chair and CEO of Apotex, a major Toronto-based pharmaceutical company. The Shermans, active volunteers with UJA Federation, are among Canada's leading philanthropic families.

The Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto houses $150 million in bequests and endowments for the future of Toronto's Jewish community. The Jewish Foundation is one of three JTT components: the UJA Federation Annual Campaign (wrapping up with a record-breaking total of approximately $66 million this year); the Jewish Foundation (endowments/bequests); and Capital Campaigns (with $350 million in projects underway in three regions (downtown, central and York region).

Jewish Foundation chair Neil Nisker (left) with Honey and Barry Sherman

Holocaust survivors celebrate life at the Bernard Betel Centre

Two of UJA Federation's beneficiary agencies – Jewish Family & Child Service and The Bernard Betel Centre – have teamed up on behalf of Toronto's Holocaust survivors who have expressed an interest in more social and cultural activities.

Based on a program started several years in Phoenix, Arizona, the Betel Centre's *Café Europa* is a monthly social and cultural get-together for survivors, providing them with two hours of music, storytelling, and lunch.

The launch of Toronto's *Café Europa* took place last week, and despite some typically cold Toronto winter weather, the joint was jumping with close to 40 participants singing and dancing to a live band.

"I feel so fresh, so incredibly alive here," said Regina Herskovics. "This is so wonderful for all of us."

Participant Rosie Pollak, who showed some savvy moves on the dance floor could barely contain her enthusiasm. "I just can't say enough about this program," she said. "I never expected to come here and dance like this. This touches me right in the heart, this is the music I grew up with."

The idea of following the Phoenix example here in Toronto developed from an annual conference sponsored by the Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies.

"When I came back from that conference, I encouraged my staff to implement that program here," says Gordon Wolfe, Executive Director of Toronto's JF&CS. "This was such a wonderful way of reaching out to survivors, and to provide them with the opportunity to socialize, celebrate, and share with each other."

Rosie Pollak (L) dances up a storm with friend, Haya Stein, at the launch of Cafe Europa at Toronto's Bernard Betel Centre.

The program, implemented in Toronto by JF&CS, is being funded by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims against Germany, in New York.

Argentina's Jews prepare for a difficult Chanukah

As life for Argentina's Jewish community continues to deteriorate, Chanukah this year promises to be a challenging one.

"Chanukah this year will be very difficult," says Ariel Rubel, a 33-year-old born in Buenos Aires who now calls Toronto home. Rubel, along with his wife Ana, left Argentina just before Chanukah last year.

The Rubels symbolize the flight of Jews from Argentina to Israel. Normally, the average number of Argintineans making aliyah per year is 1,200. This year, almost 6,000 have already made aliyah, with countless others looking into the possibility.

UJA Federation's overseas partners, the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI), has taken steps to quicken the aliyah authorization process, and improve its assistance package to those who make aliyah. JAFI has also aided Argentineans in the often-difficult process of liquidating what assets they do have. There are curently more than 20 JAFI emissaries working in Argentina.

Another UJA Federation overseas partner, the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), is responsible for initiatives to improve Argentina's quality of Jewish life.

"This year, many people you are used to celebrating with, or who sit next to you at synagogue – your contemporaries – won't be there," says Rubel. "They are too busy trying to get financial help. I'm sure that there will be an air of sadness at Chanukah celebrations. What is really bad is that this year, Chanukah will fall almost exactly on the one-year anniversary of Argentina's financial crisis and the collapse of its banking system when people stood in line unable to take out any money."

Just two years ago life for Argentina's Jews was completely different. They were shopkeepers, business-owners, doctors and lawyers – leaders in their own community. Today, thousands of Argentinean Jews live on the edge of poverty.

On July 18, 1994, their lives were changed forever by an explosion that rocked Argentina's Jewish Mutual Aid Association (AMIA) building in downtown Buenos Aires killing 86 and injuring at least 300.

"I had friends who worked in that building," says Rubel. "Life for all Jews there changed forever – not just on the holidays – but every day. Even people who were not anti-Semitic started to avoid being around Jews just out of fear that something might happen again and they would be hurt too."

According to Anita Weinstein, Director of the Federation of Jewish Communities in Argentina, housed in that rebuilt AMIA building, the memory of Argentina's tragedies will be on everyone's minds this Chanukah.

"I was in the building that day in 1994, when we were bombed," says Weinstein. "The memory is always with me, with all Jews in Argentina. On Chanukah, we will remember what happened to us. But more importantly, we have been, and will continue to go about our lives, practicing our Jewish values. That is the best way to respond to those who wanted to destroy us."

Pictured right: At Chanukah festivities one year ago in Buenos Aires, Jews celebrate in the street while Argentina's largest menorah is ready for lighting.

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JEWISH TORONTO IS A PUBLICATION OF UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO.

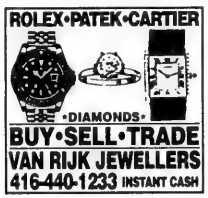
Partnership fund eyes Israel with real estate market

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

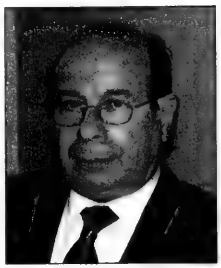
If location, location, location are considered the three most important elements in purchasing real estate, then entrepreneur Shlomo Grofman believes he has found the last prime undeveloped lots in central Israel.

Grofman, for years one of Israel's biggest real estate developers, is heading up a major series of construction projects to erect residential units in Rishon le Zion, Ra'anana, Petach Tikvah, Hod Hasharon and other areas in the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem corridor. He is doing so in partnership with a blue-chip roster of American and Israeli businessmen who have purchased units in the $30 million FAIRE (First American-Israeli Real Estate) Fund established by himself and Zalman Shoval, the former ambassador to the United States.

Grofman was in Toronto last week to meet with potential investors and spread the word about the benefits of investing in Israeli real estate. His one-day visit was facilitated by Michael Serruya, co-chair of CoolBrands Ltd. and a Canadian investor in the FAIRE Fund.



The FAIRE Fund was established one-and-a-half years ago as a limited partnership that pools funds from a select group of entrepreneurs, Grofman explained. It was introduced "as a new vehicle for investments from the United States, Canada and Israel in the real estate industry, especially in the residential area of real estate. Until [it was introduced], Israel had not known the tool of a real estate fund and most of the [development] activities were by companies," including his own Africa-Israel Investment Ltd, where he serves as president and CEO. Africa-Israel is one of the country's five largest business concerns, with interests in construction, infrastructure developments and tourism. The company owns the franchise to the Holiday Inn and Crowne Plaza hotels in Israel, Grofman said.



Shlomo Grofman

The idea behind the fund was to bring together high profile investors and offer them an attractive rate of return from an Israeli opportunity, while also serving as a sort of "club" in which the investors would be given the opportunity to network twice a year and create new contacts, said lawyer Yaron Grofman, Shlomo's son.

Initially, when they conceived the fund, the goal was to raise at least $30 million (all figures in US dollars), with investors buying units in $1.5 million increments. Subscription to the first FAIRE Fund is sold out and a second fund is contemplated with a goal of $30 to $40 million, Shlomo Grofman said.

So far, some prominent names from the U.S. corporate world have signed on to the venture, including Laurence Tisch, former owner of CBS and co-chair of Loews Corporation, Jay Schottenstein, chair of American Eagle Outfitters, Lester Pollock, trustee of New York University and others.

Grofman said the fund plans to build 3,000 "flats" in the next four years. "Middle class, middle Israel, middle price" are the apartments' selling points.

The flats range from three to five rooms and sell for $220,000 to $300,000 each. Penthouse and luxury apartments can fetch $450,000.

So far a 196-unit project in Rishon le Zion is under construction as is a 400-unit development in the Em Hamoshavot area of Petach Tikvah. Em Hamoshavot is a new neighbourhood that will house 15,000 families once it's completed. From 52 per cent to 60 per cent of the FAIRE Fund's units have been pre-sold, Grofman said.

Although Israel is suffering from a recession, demand for housing units remains robust. "Building starts in Israel went down dramatically as a result of the recession, the departure of some builders looking for new opportunities, the lack of building permits and the non-conversion (to residential zoning) of agricultural land," said Yaron Grofman. "We anticipate a shortage of residential units in the next 18 months. We expect a substantial shortage and since it takes two years to complete [a project], there will be a few years in which there will be over-demand, especially in those areas where the fund is investing."

With the deals 75 per cent to 80 per cent leveraged, investors can expect "a very interesting yield...of not less than 20 per cent per year," Shlomo Grofman said. His unique knowledge of the Israeli market and management of the projects gives foreign investors confidence in the project, he added.

The security situation should not dissuade anyone, he continued. "I've seen worse crises, but Israel will be here for eternity."

Grofman's Africa-Israel company has built 300,000 flats in Israel as well as a mall in Ramat Aviv and office towers. He is also chair of Sarel Medical Supplies and Solon Greece-Israel Investments. Shoval serves as chair of the Yetzu Group, which controls the Bank of Jerusalem.

Israeli musician a guest conductor for TSO

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Asher Fisch says his role as an Israeli musician is to portray the positive side of Israeli culture so that audiences can see that there are many aspects to life in Israel.

Fisch, who will be appearing as a guest conductor with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO) on Dec. 4 and 5 said he sees himself as a diplomat overcoming political biases currently associated with Israel.

Asher Fisch

The internationally renowned conductor and pianist said that "cultural budgets are getting slashed [in Israel]" as a result of security constraints, and very few artists, athletes or scientists are travelling abroad to represent the non-political side of Israel.

The Jerusalem-born musical director of the New Israeli Opera stressed the importance of emphasizing the cultural aspects of Israel.

When the New Israeli Opera performed at a major international opera festival for the first time, organizers chose productions created by leading Israeli directors and designers.

As a conductor of both symphony and opera, Fisch is known for his energy and ability to draw the audience into the lyrical experience of each performance. He has drawn rave reviews in his appearances with major orchestras and opera houses around the world.

When Fisch conducted the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with soloist Yo Yo Ma, the *Chicago Tribune* wrote that "Ma is nothing if not an impetuous, emotional performer, but the conductor responded flexibly to every musical move."

After his operatic debut at the Los Angeles Opera with *Der fliegeude Hollaender*, the *Wall Street Journal* reported that Fisch drew "overwhelming passion out of the orchestra."

He performed with the TSO in October last year.

In the upcoming concert, Fisch will conduct the TSO in two works by German composers – *Emperer Waltzes* by Johann Strauss and *Also sprach Zarathustra* by Richard Strauss. Pianist Jon Kimura Parker will perform Beethoven's *Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor."*

After a five-year tenure as music director of the Vienna Volksoper, Fisch said he "sees value in the lighter Viennese style" and German classical music.

Fisch's teachers have included conductor Mendi Rodan of the Israel Symphony Orchestra and pianist Daniel Barenboim, with whom he has performed several times.

In Israel, Fisch supported Barenboim's attempts to bring the music of Richard Wagner to the Israeli Opera last year because he felt that people should be able to choose the music they want to hear.

Richard Wagner was appropriated by Nazi Germany as a political symbol because of his anti-Semitic views, and his work has been boycotted by most Israeli symphonies.

Fisch, whose parents are survivors, said that attempts to ban Wagner in Israel today are driven by supporters of a political agenda and not by survivors' sensitivities.

"There are survivors who are interested in hearing the music of Wagner and are forced to listen to it in the privacy of their homes," he said.

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The good news is, there are thousands of people who have turned their backs on dieting, stopping the insanity of a vicious lose-gain cycle.

Instead, they have followed the advice of an increasing number of health professionals who are advocating a completely different way to lose weight — one that is safe, effective and helps people change the way they think about food. This revolutionary, anti-diet approach — one that has already helped thousands of people lose weight successfully and permanently — is *hypnosis*.

Finding the Key to Change. The subconscious mind often stores negative thoughts or behaviours that can trigger destructive habits. For overweight people, an inability to change these habits can result in a lifetime struggle with weight. The most effective way to overcome this obstacle is to reprogramme the subconscious mind through hypnosis.

In an altered state like hypnosis it is easier to incorporate new habits, explains Patrick K. Porter, Ph.D, executive director of Positive Changes Hypnosis Centres. "People know the right things to do, like drinking more water, or leaving food on their plate. They just don't know how to make these behaviours a habit. By using hypnosis to bypass the subconscious mind, we can help clients lay the foundation for new, healthy habits."

"With hypnosis, we increase your ability to absorb suggestion," Porter notes. Ineffective, destructive behaviour is replaced effortlessly by healthier behaviours and you start to lose weight and break free of unhealthy habits.

"We help clients think and eat like a slim person by reprogramming their subconscious mind," says Porter. "They lose weight and keep it off long term because they've changed their whole relationship with food, mentally as well as physically. Once they've successfully replaced their old habits with positive ones, they never have to think about dieting because their weight is no longer an issue."

Winning the Weight War. More and more people seeking a positive approach to long-term weight loss have sought out hypnosis, with amazing and lasting results. "We have clients who've maintained their weight loss for more than 15 years without even thinking about it," says Porter. "The key to having the kind of life you want is picking and choosing the kinds of habits that can help you live the life you want. Then, we help

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Mr. Serota has produced over 100 albums of sacred and secular, vocal and choral music. He has served as a researcher for the Milken Archives of American Jewish Music, and was a pioneer in the recording of Hasidic melodies. He has lectured throughout the United States, England and Israel. He holds degrees from Columbia University, the Jewish Theological Seminary and the De Paul University College of Law in Chicago.

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Please come and bring your friends and your memories.

Founding member of The Travellers was 'a proud Canadian'

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Jerry Goodis, one of Canada's most famous advertising personalities and a founding member of The Travellers, perhaps Canada's most well-known folk music group, died of cancer Nov. 8 in Chilliwack, B.C., at age 73.

Obituary

The son of a Toronto tailor who became a union organizer in the needle trade, Goodis was active in the youth division of United Jewish Peoples' Order (UJPO) and served for a period as its president.

He was also in a UJPO folksinging group that later became The Travellers.

Jerry Gray, a member of the original group, recalled that in The Travellers' early years, the group's Yiddish song program was presented at many Jewish organizations and at the University of Toronto's Hillel House.

Later, the group became known nationwide. Among its best-known hits was a Canadian version of the Woody Guthrie song *This Land is Your Land*, for which Goodis helped rewrite the lyrics.

"Jerry was a dominant personality and used his wiles in selling songs from the stage and for his advertising ideas in the marketplace," Gray said.

Goodis studied commercial art at Toronto's Central Technical School and founded a successful ad agency, Goodis, Goldberg, Soren, in 1961. The agency became known for its creative and innovative ad campaigns and through to the mid-1980s, after leaving the band, Goodis fronted a number of agencies and became the most famous ad executive in Canada.

Jerry Goodis

In the early 1970s, he also wrote a best-selling book titled *Have I Ever Lied to You Before?*

He became an advisor to the Trudeau government in the 1970s.

"Jerry was a proud Canadian and proud of his left-wing Jewish upbringing," Gray said.

After living most of his life in Ontario, Goodis moved to Harrison Hot Springs, B.C., last year.

He is survived by his wife Joyce Seidel-Goodis, children Leslie, David and Noah, and four grandsons.

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MAYTAL WAX-LEIDERMAN – The Will to Live...

27 year old Maytal was at the The Dizengoff Center in Tel Aviv celebrating Purim. At 15:55 a loud explosion pierced through the air. This terrorist attack changed the course of Maytal's life instantly. The attack killed her brother Asaf and left Maytal with only one shattered leg and an entire body covered with burns. She was unconscious for twelve days and spent three months thereafter on a respirator.

"I wanted to live so badly. They didn't know whether I would make it through the first night. Each day was a struggle to live." But the will to live is stronger than anything else for Maytal.

She and her husband had recently bought a walk-up apartment with a lovely garden. After this horrific incident they could not live there as it was physically impossible for her to walk up and down the stairs. Unfortunately, her marriage also suffered. *"What began as young innocent love turned into a relationship of caregiver and patient, and that was not healthy. I had gone from being independent to a state of helplessness."*

The struggle to rehabilitate has been a long and painful process for Maytal. She now works as a librarian at the university and has started going out with friends again. It is at Beit Halochem where Maytal participates in wheelchair dancing, sculpture and painting.

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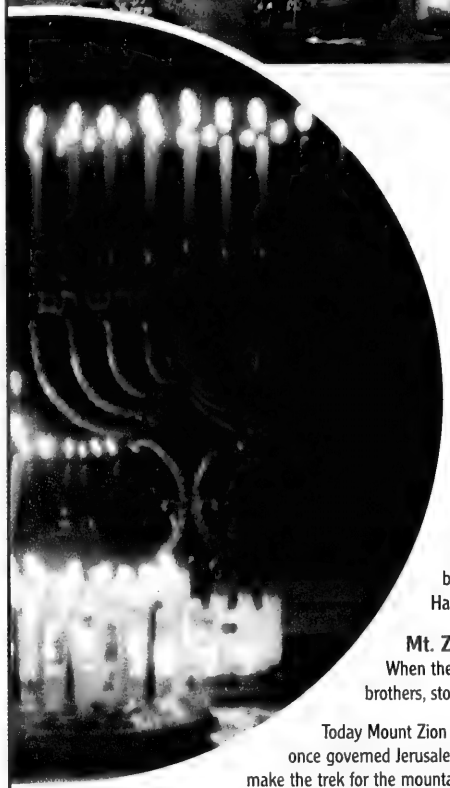

Following the Chanukah Trail

Although the miracle of Chanukah originated nearly 2200 years ago, the historical sites and geographic locations that trace the trail of Chanukah are still intact today. The story starts in what was then, and is, once again, a thriving Jewish community near Jerusalem.

Modi'in

It's hard to believe in contemporary 2002 that Chanukah's roots sprang from a fast-growing city just a 15-minute drive from Ben Gurion International Airport, about halfway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Now picture yourself in 167 BCE. What is now modern day Israel and neighbouring Syria were ruled by a less than benevolent king, Antiochus IV, who represented Greek philosophy, which, in most respects, contradicted Jewish values. Antiochus sent a trusted officer to Modi'in to meet Matityahu from the Hasmonean family of Maccabees, who refused an order to join the king's loyalists. When a Jewish resident of Modi'in offered a pagan sacrifice as a sign of obedience to Antiochus, Matityahu struck both the Modi'in man and the king's representative. The rebellion, which eventually led to the holy Temple's return to Jewish hands had begun. Ancient Modi'in was almost totally destroyed by a succession of conquests and what may have been an earthquake, but modern Modi'in is a thriving community, adorned by the Judean mountains where the Hasmoneans hid from the king's forces.

Mt. Zion

When the Maccabees conquered Jerusalem, three years after the rebellion began, Matityahu's son, Judah, and his brothers, stood atop Mt. Zion before cleansing the Temple and lighting the oil that miraculously lasted eight days.

Today Mount Zion is famous for King David's tomb, several major Christian landmarks and the remains of many civilizations that once governed Jerusalem. Although some historians dispute Mount Zion as the actual site of King David's death, many visitors still make the trek for the mountain's magnificent scenery and religious significance. Mount Zion, hotly contested during Israel's War of Independence, was captured by Israeli forces in May, 1948

Hasmonean Tombs

The entire Modi'in region is a treasure field of Hasmonean remains, but the most spectacular discovery took place in 1995, when road crews were widening Highway 443, which runs past the city. There they found a Maccabean burial cave, with 23 ossuaries – stone boxes containing the bones of Hasmonean family members. Each year, thousands undertake a pilgrimage to the Maccabean burial site.

Chanuka in Israel

Chanukah's holiday lights are even brighter in Israel, where candle flames from millions of homes illuminate the streets. There's also much to do from the olive oil trails of *Neot Kedumim*, Israel's biblical park, to Negev desert concerts, to the annual Torch Run, which begins with a Chanukah torch lighting ceremony at the Western Wall and ends with festivities at the Jordan Valley amphitheatre.

Whether it's Chanukah or any other time of year, your visit to Israel will benefit Israel's struggling economy and improve the morale of every Israeli you meet. With so many travel options available, there's no time to wait and there's no better time to go. If you want to make a significant difference for Israel, make a commitment to visit our incredibly beautiful land as soon as possible

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On Campus

JSA encourages Ottawa students to get political

By ADAM GRACHNIK
Special to The CJN

The Jewish Students Association Hillel Ottawa (JSA) wants to encourage its members to get involved politically on the two university campuses in the nation's capital.

The JSA recently indicated that it wants 10 Jewish students per campus to work together to advocate for Israel on the University of Ottawa and Carleton University campuses, in an effort to engage apathetic Jewish students and inform the general student body about Israel and the Jewish perspective on Middle East issues.

"Just being on campus is not the same as having involvement on campus.

"We often have to influence the way people perceive Israel and the Jews," said JSA advisor Anne Silverstone. "It's important for Jews to get involved in the grassroots level on and off campus."

In an e-mail sent out to members of the JSA, students were informed that the 10 leaders will be asked to "run for a student federation of the University of Ottawa or Carleton University student association position, get involved with the Ontario Public Interest Research Group, a left-wing activist organization, and attend meetings held by other organizations on campus, for example, the Middle East discussion group."

Furthermore, the leaders will be asked to sit at JSA information tables, engage non-Jewish students in conversations about Israel, attend training session with organizations like Canadian Jewish Congress, the Canada-Israel Committee and the Embassy of Israel, and approach Jewish students "to garner support and commitment to help with advocacy."

"If Jews are not out there, there is only one side of the story being told. From our perspective it's not the correct side," said Silverstone, who added that the leaders would be paid a small stipend if the JSA receives a United Israel Appeal Federations of Canada Israel Advocacy grant. He said they applied for the grant in October.

The grants for Canadian university campuses, according to the UIAFC's Web site, are valued at $10,000 per campus and go to fund "innovative campus-based Israel advocacy programming."

Pearl Jacobson, the U of O's JSA president, explained why it's important for university students to get involved.

"Young people are going to form the next generation. With the current climate, with what is happening in Israel, young people's voices are becoming more important. What students have to say about political issues is important," Jacobson said.

Jacobson explained that there isn't a huge Jewish involvement at the University of Ottawa, but there is a large Arab student body.

"Here it seems like Arab students have demonstrations every weekend," Jacobson said. "These students [the new leaders] will be able to influence and have a positive affect."

Silverstone added to Jacobson's comments about the U of O. "[Jewish students] see pro-Palestinian [and] anti-Israel signs. They feel, 'Where is the Jewish voice?' Now Jewish students can feel sure there is a Jewish presence. This can excite and interest other Jewish students to get involved."

The JSA's main office is at the U of O, but it also represents Jewish students at Carleton and Algonquin College and JSA believes the majority of the new leadership is needed at Carleton.

"There's a better atmosphere at the U of O. Things here have been quieter," Silverstone explained. "Carleton is a free-for-all. There is no real policy in place. You can put out any information you want. There are many Arab groups who band together and we only have one Jewish group. We are one club, so naturally students feel outnumbered.

"Hopefully, this will change that," she added.

Jacobson agreed. "We need to stop being apathetic about things," she said.

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Registration: $10, includes deluxe dessert & entertainment

Session 1 (7:30 p.m.)
a) **Rabbi Wayne Allen:** Etz Hayim, an Intellectual Study
b) **Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl:** Hatred and Revenge – Interpreting Leviticus 19:17
c) **Cantor Marshall Loomer:** How Etz Hayim Inspires Our Liturgical Nusach Tradition
d) **Rabbi Philip Scheim:** The Ten Commandments – Beliefs versus Actions
e) **Rabbi Saul Tanenzapf:** The Biblical Commandments – a Rationale for the Mitzvot

Coffee Break 8:30 p.m.

Session 2 (8:40 p.m.)
a) **Rabbi Martin Berman:** Etz Hayim and Conservative Judaism as revealed in the Halakha L'Maaseh section
b) **Rabbi Mark Biller:** A Lesson in Spirituality in The Life of Jacob
c) **Cantor A.E. Kirshblum:** Contemporary issues in Biomedical Ethics
d) **Rabbi Howard Morrison:** The People of the Book – Four Torah Commentaries – One Torah Text, Samples Comparing Hertz, Etz Hayim, Artscroll and UAHC
e) **Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum:** Two Commonly Misunderstood Texts

Refreshments & Entertainment 9:40 p.m.

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Ottawa's Arts Alive gets a Middle Eastern flavour

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The annual Arts Alive cultural weekend and book fair had a Middle Eastern flavour this year.

Called Waves to the Shore: The Sephardi Experience, the event showcased Sephardi artists, musicians, authors and food.

For the opening evening, the Soloway Jewish Community Centre (SJCC) was transformed with opulent Moroccan decorations, fabrics, furniture, brass fixtures and traditional costumes worn by staff and volunteers, as well as many patrons.

Arts Alive committee chair and MC Cantor Daniel Benlolo acknowledged the generosity of Montreal's Sephardi community, which lent posters and artifacts for the weekend.

"I hope that with this co-operation we will create a link between our communities," he said.

Benlolo introduced the Edery Brothers, Montreal musicians who played throughout the evening, and explained the tradition behind the henna, a traditional Moroccan pre-wedding ceremony arranged by the bride's family. The demonstration of the henna ceremony was, for many, a first glimpse into an exotic custom; for others, it was a taste of home.

During the celebration, henna, a red dye, is put on the palms of the bride's hand as well as those of her family and friends, to protect them from the evil eye. Special songs are sung for the bride and a *hamsa* (five-fingered hand) on a chain is placed around her neck, also for protection against the evil eye.

For the ceremony, the bride was carried into the room on a chair and took her place on the stage to receive wedding gifts donated by local sponsors.

There was lively singing and dancing, as well as traditional Moroccan food, making for a rousing start to the community-wide event.

The following day featured speakers, artists displaying their wares, music and children's programs. A kosher fare and wine tasting provided an opportunity to sample a wide variety of kosher products available in local stores and through caterers.

The SJCC Shira Ottawa Choir, under the direction of Benlolo, performed on Sunday evening at Agudath Israel Congregation. A capacity crowd enjoyed the selection of Sephardi music as the choir, accompanied by the Edery Brothers, entertained for nearly three hours. Even Israeli Ambassador Haim Divon added his voice to the performance. Avi Beker, secretary general of the World Jewish Congress, brought greetings.

Arts Alive, a program of the SJCC, was sponsored by The Vered Israel Cultural and Educational Program and the Friends of the 39th Henry "Hank" Torontow Scouting Movement. The volunteer planning committee included Eva Amzallag, Yvone Azuelos, Muriel Benlolo, J. Boulakia, Marcia Cantor Naomi Cracower, Edie Landau, Ethel Malek and Viviane Ohana Sandler.

"I have had many people tell me that they are intrigued by the whole thing and they want to learn more," said Benlolo. "Now people are thirsty for more information. I hope that this is just the beginning and that future Arts Alive weekends will have themes of Jews from other parts of the world so that we can all learn from each other."

Cantor Daniel Benlolo cuts the ribbon to open the Sephardi Arts Alive weekend, assisted by his wife Muriel Benlolo and Israel Ambassador Haim Divon (right).

TEDDY BEARS: Students of Kehila Jewish Community Day School in Hamilton donated 54 teddy bears to hospitalized Israeli children who were injured in terrorist bombings. The students raised $270 for Operation Teddy Bear, a project of B'nai Brith's Heart-To-Heart Mission, by donating allowance money and doing paid chores for their parents. They also sent get-well letters in Hebrew and English to the injured Israeli children. Seen here, holding hand-woven tzedakah boxes, are some Kehila students with teacher Louise Klinghoffer.

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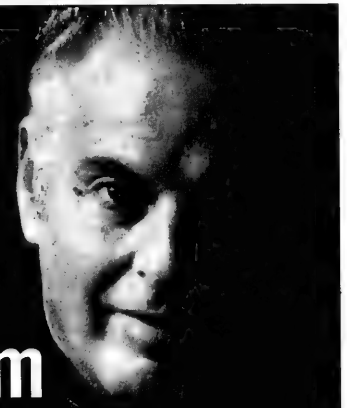

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Coast to Coast

Manitoba's Premier Doer visits Israel

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Manitoba Premier Gary Doer's first visit to Israel was an eye-opening experience.

"I was struck by the proximity of everything and the security issues that arise from that," he said. "You don't get the sense from watching television how close the Golan, for example, is to Israelis. From Metullah, we could see Lebanon, Syria and the Golan."

Doer's trip was arranged to coincide with a Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/CJA mission that visited Israel from Oct. 27 to Nov. 4 – although he was only able to join the group (which included Manitoba Health Minister Dave Chomiak and deputy Health Minister Milton Sussman) from Oct. 28-30 following a business stopover in London.

He travelled with the group from Tel Aviv to northern Israel – stopping at the Canada Centre in Metullah – and on to Jerusalem and the Western Wall and Yad Vashem, culminating in a reception at the Canadian Ambassador's residence in Tel Aviv.

Doer said that having always been a solid supporter of Israel, the trip didn't change his views, but he said it has led him to "become more focused and more knowledgeable about the issues."

For example, he said he assumed that most Israelis would be talking about the coming U.S. attack on Iraq. He asked some youths on a kibbutz in northern Israel their opinion about Iraq.

"Their reply was that they were more concerned about the next couple of days and if they could get safely by bus to Tel Aviv without being blown up," he says.

Doer's visit to Israel came about, he says, as a result of attending several Jewish National Fund Negev gala evenings and being urged to see Israel.

"My predecessor as premier, Gary Filmon, had been to Israel. I decided in June that if I could find the time this year I would go."

Doer said he was impressed by the beauty of the country and the purposefulness of the people and greatly enjoyed his hosts and travelling companions. "I learned a lot," he said.

The premier also took advantage of his short visit to discuss business with a couple of Israeli companies – Elbit Aerospace and Tevah – that are considering establishing a presence in Manitoba.

As a result of the visit, Doer said he is raising his voice nationally in support of Israel.

"I have been asked to comment on the Canadian government's treatment of [Magen David Adom] as compared to Hezbollah," he said. "It is unfair that the government should provide Hezbollah with tax relief but refuse [Magen David Adom]. I can't understand that kind of inequity."

He described his visit to Israel as one he will never forget and is looking forward to going back some day.

CJC president's Chanukah message

Keith Landy

The Talmud tells of competing schools of thought about the lighting of candles at Chanukah. One school, seeking to mirror the diminishing light of the legendary oil cruse after a week and a day, suggested starting with eight candles and removing one each day. The other school countered that the true miracle of Chanukah lay in adding light to the world and advocated beginning with one candle and ending with eight. We know how this debate concluded.

We are imbued with the wonderful symbolism of the lighting of successive candles on this joyous festival, and our thoughts often turn at this time to how we, in our own lives, can add light to the world.

I would venture a guess that the lighting of candles at Chanukah ranks second only to conducting a seder in the list of observed annual holiday rituals. I believe that, like Passover, the themes and messages of Chanukah – freedom, identity, peoplehood, resistance to assimilation – resonate powerfully with Jews today.

It is precisely these connections that we will need to provide us with the courage and strength to overcome the many challenges we are facing today as Jews – at home, in Israel and throughout the diaspora.

If we are to deal successfully with the threats to our collective security and well-being from resurgent anti-Semitism, terrorism and war, we must re-galvanize our sense of activism and direct involvement, as we have done so effectively in other times of crisis.

The Passover Haggadah impels us to imagine personal liberation from slavery to freedom. As we chant the second prayer while kindling the lights of Chanukah, we should imagine that we, too, were present when "the sovereign of all worlds... did miracles for our ancestors in those times at this season."

From the very name of Chanukah – meaning dedication – let us strive to strengthen our commitment to the ideals and values of Judaism and our connection to Israel and the Jewish people and to conduct our lives so as to bring more light into the world.

I wish you and your families a joyous Chag Samayach.

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Dec.2 is deadline for Dec. 12 issue and Monday, Dec. 9, is deadline for Dec. 19. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Saturday, Nov. 30

KLEZMER KAFÉ

Music and dancing with the Beth Jacob Klezmer Orchestra, 7 p.m. 375 Aberdeen Ave., Hamilton.

Sunday, Dec. 1

MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE

Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation presents **Mark Shaw**, author, criminal defence lawyer, speaking on Miscarriage of Justice: The Jonathan Pollard Story, 8 p.m. 613 Clark Ave. W. 905-886-3810.

THREE RABBIS, ONE TEXT

Rabbi Daniel Komito-Gottlieb of Temple Kol Ami participates in a discussion with colleagues of the Orthodox and Conservative movements on the many ways of seeing Torah, 7:30 p.m. at 36 Atkinson Ave. 905-731-4316.

A HEALING SERVICE

The Toronto Healing Project presents a Healing Service led by **Rabbi Jason Rosenberg** of Holy Blossom Temple and **Ken Rabow**, composer/arranger, 3-4 p.m., Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. **Etta** 416-944-3359.

HANA'S SUITCASE

Karen Levine, author of *Hana's Suitcase*, shares the story of Hana, a child of the Holocaust and her suitcase, at Temple Sinai. Service 9:30 a.m., lecture at 9:50 a.m.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Rose Dyson, author of *Mind Abuse-Media Violence in an Information Age*, leads a discussion of her book at the meeting of the Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, at 1:45 p.m. at the Barbara Frum Library. Call **Ruth Goldsmith** 416-782-6414.

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

North York General Hospital hosts its annual multi-faith, multicultural celebration Festival of Lights, 4-5 p.m. on the hospital's front lawn at 4001 Leslie St. Fun for the whole family. 416-756-6693.

Monday, Dec. 2

DIABETES CHAPTER

Jewish Diabetes Chapter meeting focuses on Diabetes and Dentistry – Your Teeth Matter Too, with guest speaker **Dr. Alan Winnick**, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

Tuesday, Dec. 3

ISRAEL & PALESTINIANS

Derek Penslar, professor of Jewish history, University of Toronto, speaks on Israel and the Palestinians, the Possibility of Compromise, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation. 416-781-3511.

MEMORY LOSS

Dr. Guy Proulx, psychology department, Baycrest Centre, talks about Coping With Memory Loss, 7 p.m., at Forest Hill Place Retirement Residence, 645 Castlefield Ave. Reserve by calling **Susan** 416-785-1511.

Wednesday, Dec. 4

EMUNAH WOMEN GALA

Emunah Women of Toronto gala event, *En Hiver*, at the Windsor Arms Hotel at 6:30 p.m. Scotch tasting, cigar lounge, silent auction, casino, cartoonist, handwriting analyst. 416-636-0036.

Thursday, Dec. 5

ROSH CHODESH

The Riverdale Shul's Rosh Chodesh program features **Chashi Skobac** leading a Chanukah meditation. 7:30 p.m., 179a Danforth Ave., 416-826-4539.

Continued on page 31

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What's New

Continued from page 30

Chanukah Events

SATURDAY, NOV. 30

Shaar Shalom Singles and **Intersynagogue Singles** (35+) Chanukah Shabbat Service, 10 a.m., 2 Simonston Blvd. Prayer led by **Paul Kochberg**, president, Canadian region, United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism. Special guest **Rabbi Jordan Cohen**, Kolel: the Adult Centre for Liberal Learning.

Jewish Russian Community Centre Giant Menorah Lighting in memory of **Matti Baranovski**, 7 p.m., G. Ross Lord Park, followed by a party at the JRCC, 18 Rockford Rd., 8 p.m. 416-222-7105, ext. 21.

Chabad of Markham Torah Tots Parent Association's Chanukah on Ice, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Thornhill Community Centre. 905-886-0420.

Enjoy latkes, shiatsu, and dance to the music of **Ron Wiseman** (the king of Jewish reggae) at the **Anshe Minsk Synagogue** Chanukah party. 10 St. Andrews St., Kensington Market, 8:30 p.m. Prizes for children. 416-595-5723.

***

SUNDAY, DEC. 1

Adath Israel Brotherhood and **Congregational School** Chanukah Variety Show featuring comedian **Dick Joiner**, ventriloquist **Kirwin Massey and "Roger"** and one-man show **Adam Timoon**. 10:30 a.m. 416-635-5340.

Kiever Congregation Chanukah party celebrates its 75th anniversary. Featuring Jellybelly the Clown. 3-5 p.m., 25 Bellevue Ave. 416-593-9956.

Secular Community Chanukah Celebration for the whole family, 10:30 a.m., **Winchevsky Centre**, 585 Cranbrooke Ave.

Jewish Russian Community Centre Chanukah Carnival for the entire family, 1-5 p.m., at Fisherville High School, 425 Patricia Ave. 416-222-7105, ext. 21.

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda's Young Family's Group Family Chanukah Party featuring **Mickey Lewin.** Noon to 2:30 p.m. Call 416-633-3838 for tickets.

Beit Rayim and **Adath Sholom Synagogue** Chanukah Party, 12:30-3 p.m. Mad Science "Harry Potter Potions," Reach Dance Academy performance. For children of all ages. DJ, dancing, games, prizes. Beit Rayim, 9711 Bayview Ave. 905-770-7639, ext. 31.

Chanukah Party and Fair for children with special needs and their families, hosted by **Friendship Circle**, 2:30 p.m. at Chabad @ Flamingo, 8001 Bathurst St. 905-731-7000, ext. 35.

Singles at Sinai, 55-70 plus, Chanukah Party, 8 p.m. at **Temple Sinai**. Call temple office to reserve 416-487-4161.

Jewish Centre for Learning and Living's Chanukah Party, 4-6 p.m., 696 Carrville Ave., Richmond Hill. 905-883-3844.

***

MONDAY, DEC. 2

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Sisterhood Chanukah Fun and Fashion Show, 8 p.m. Shabbat chapeaus, accessories and sunglasses.

***

TUESDAY, DEC. 3

Adath Sholom Sisterhood annual Chanukah Party featuring Mitchell Smolkin and ensemble, 7:30 p.m., 864 Sheppard Ave. W. Call for reservations. 416-635-6131.

***

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 4

Beth Tzedec's 50th anniversary Chanukah concert with stage and screen star **Paul Zim**, joined by the Congregational School Choir and USDS students. Light dinner, 6-7 p.m.; magic show, 6:30-7 p.m.; concert, 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3511.

Kehillat Shaarei Torah Gala Chanukah Concert featuring all types of Jewish music. 7:30 p.m., 2640 Bayview Ave. 416-229-2600.

And What Else Is New

KHANIKE HULIANKE

Friends of Yiddish Khanike Hulianke, featuring **Janie Respitz** from Montreal, Saturday, Dec. 7, at 8 p.m. at the Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave. RSVP no later than Dec. 4 to **Bess** 416-630-7222.

RABBIS AND PROPHETS

The Building Blocks of the Bible: How Do the Rabbis and Prophets Fit In?, a 2-part series with **Rabbi Ahron Hoch,** Saturdays, Dec. 7 and 14, at 11 a.m. at the Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. 416-785-1107.

ROCK 'N ROLL DANCE

Rock 'n Roll Dance featuring The Majestics, Saturday, Dec. 7. Adath Israel Congregation. Doors open 8 p.m., concert and dance start at 8:30 p.m. Sponsored by the synagogue's brotherhood, sisterhood. Dynamic Singles in conjunction with Centennial Celebration Committee. Pre-paid reservations by Dec. 2. Call office 416-635-5340 or **Charles Wrock** 1-877-898-5161.

HEBREW LANGUAGE

Hebrew Culture Organization of Canada presents Hebrew Language Studies with **Channa Sargon**. Upcoming sessions begin the week of Jan. 6, day and evening classes, all levels. Canadian Zionist Federation 416-633-3988. Classes at 4580 Dufferin St., Suite 508.

WIERZBNIKER LADIES

The Wierzbniker Ladies Auxiliary recent annual tea was held at the home of **Jayne** and **Harvey Naiman**, children of **Helen** and the late **Max Naiman**. Proceeds will go to organizations and institutions in Israel.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

FOR SENIORS

Combined meeting of **Holy Blossom Temple Lunch** and **Learn in Retirement** and **Beth Tzedec's Senior Haverim**, Wednesday, Dec. 4, at 1:30 p.m. at Holy Blossom. Program: An Afternoon of Music with the Toronto Police Association Male Chorus. 416-789-3291 or 416-781-3511.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the Borochov Cultural Centre boardroom, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Nov. 28, free evening for stories and discussion; Nov. 30, Chanukah dance party, 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 5, bingo; Dec. 12, video movie; Dec. 19, free discussion, Dec. 26, sing-a-long.**Yitzchak Argaman. Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Saturday dances, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 7,14, 21; Sunday dances Dec. 1, 15; Dec. 29. Pre-New Year's party. Membership open 416-395-7881.

Young at Heart Seniors Florida vacation at glatt kosher Saxony Hotel. Plane tickets will be going up. Reserve as soon as possible. **Helen** 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Thursday, Nov. 28. general information session on diabetes, 1:15-2:15 p.m. A nurse and dietician will be available on Tuesdays starting Dec. 3.

Chanukah Songfest. Hear the voices of the children as they sing traditional songs. Monday, Dec. 2, 10-11 a.m. Chabad @ Flamingo; Tuesday, Dec. 3, 10-11 a.m., Playlearn Preschool; Wednesday, Dec. 4, 11 a.m. to noon, Zareinu Educational Centre; Thursday, Dec. 5, 10-11 a.m., United Synagogue Day School; Friday, Dec. 6, 10:30 a.m. Betel Centre Choir.

Current events with **Joe Black** every Monday, 10-11:30 a.m.

Jews in the Lotus, **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3. **Barbara Zigler,** ext. 134.

Low Vision Interest Group, On the Move, with **Despina Salassidas,** orientation and mobility instructor, 1:15-2:15 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 3.

Personal Eye Care Consultant. A licensed optician checks and adjusts eyeglasses, Tuesday, Dec. 3, noon to 1:15 p.m. Facilitator **Nadine Walman**.

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Arthritis Management Clinic. A registered physical therapist conducts individual assessments, by appointment, Thursday, Dec. 5. ext. 131. Facilitator **Bev Tobe**.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking people meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Dec. 3, Chanukah party, entertainment by **Essi Zohar** and **Rita**; Dec. 10. **Yisrael Nutzati** lecture; Dec. 17, Israeli movie. **Anna** ext.110.

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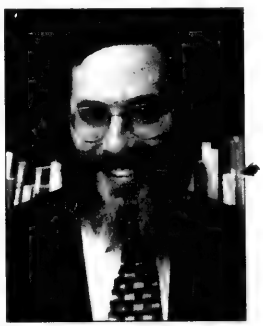
Rabbi Isser Pliner is the new dean of Eitz Chaim Day Schools and principal of the boys' division. He has a master's degree in education and a principal's certification for both elementary and high schools and worked as the dean of the Hillel Academy of Pittsburgh.



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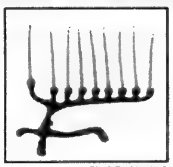
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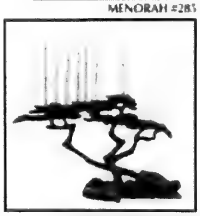
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Coast to Coast

Among those honouring Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Calgary Post #2 with a plaque were , from left, Val Rimer, post commander of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Calgary Post #2; Rami Kleinmann, JNF Jerusalem emissary, Prairie region; and master of ceremonies Ron Ghitter. Calgary Negev Dinner. Inset: Ghitter presented retired Israeli Maj.-Gen. Yaakov Amidror, the guest speaker, with a traditional white hat, given to the city's special visitors or guests.

Amidror subs for Mofaz at Calgary Negev Dinner

By TAMARA STECYK
Special to The CJN

CALGARY — Israel will not give into the Palestinians' terror tactics, an audience of 200 people was told at the Jewish National Fund 2002 Calgary Negev Dinner.

"We want at the end of the war to change the mindset of the Arab leadership. No more… talk of using terror instead of negotiating. This war is not only important itself but for the future of Israel," said retired Israeli Maj-Gen. Yaakov Amidror.

Amidror had replaced the scheduled speaker, Lieut.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz, after Mofaz came out of retirement to accept an appointment as Israel's defence minister. Currently, Amidror is a visiting military fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

In an interview prior to the Nov. 17 dinner, Amidror said he hopes to take advantage of his role at the institute to provide Americans a better picture of what is happening in Israel and influence public opinion.

"I think after 9/11, the Americans understand better than in the past that there is a real need to fight terrorism. Fighting terrorism is not so easy in a democratic country. There are concessions you have to make. Israel is paying economically," Amidror added.

Having Amidror as a speaker tied in with JNF's tribute to the Jewish War Veterans of Canada, Calgary Post #2. Proceeds from the dinner will be used to help construct a park and recreation area for military personnel to visit with friends and family at the Chavad Hashomer Base in the lower Galilee.

Amidror explained to guests that the two-year intifadah is not about Israeli occupation. In 2000, the Israeli government was prepared to give the Palestinians 100 per cent of the Gaza Strip and 95 per cent of the West Bank.

The reasons for the current war are demands for the right of return for Palestinian refugees, the right for Israel to be an independent Jewish state and for the Palestinians to agree that the end of the conflict is not the beginning of another stage of terror, Amidror said.

"No question that this is a tough war. First of all, it's a very long one. It's only two years and no one can say when will be the end of it," Amidror said. "Most of the Israelis killed are civilians. They have to find more civilians to kill because they believe this is the way to put Israel on its knees. They believe by putting Israel on its knees, Israel will give up many of its demands."

But Israel will not negotiate without a responsible partner on the Palestinians' side and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is not a responsible negotiator, Amidror said. The Palestinians must find a leader who understands that terror is not an option, he added.

"It's very tough [to fight the war] because the terrorists are civilians. If there would be any agreement, it [would mean] the end of the conflict and there would be no more claims against Israel. But it is a tough job to implement the war itself. You have to defend the citizens of Israel and make the war inside the populated areas," Amidror said.

He encouraged the audience to support Israel by visiting the country.

"It is an important signal to the Arabs and the Palestinians that the Israelis are not alone. The Israeli society is not going to collapse. It is not going to give up."

Mideast situation adds urgency to Hadassah meet

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Rochelle Levinson launched her three-year term as national president of Canadian Hadassah-WIZO with a pledge to boost membership, to keep the organization vital for Canadian-Jewish women and to make Diaspora Jews more aware of just how much Israel needs them right now.

"This is still a very vibrant organization," Levinson, a 63-year-old native of Winnipeg who lives in Vancouver, said in an interview as Hadassah's 37th national convention came to a close recently at a downtown Montreal hotel.

"It's more and more difficult for women to balance careers and a home life, leaving little time for volunteerism," said Levinson, who ran unopposed for the presidency of the organization, currently celebrating its 85th anniversary.

"New chapters are being formed, but I would like to raise awareness about the organization and of the work we do."

One positive sign, Levinson noted, is the large number of women – out of Hadassah's Canadian membership of 14,000 – who belong to its "Aviv" component for women 45 and younger. A highlight of the three-day convention was a reunion of Aviv participants.

"I'd like to see us grow in strength and in numbers," she said.

At the time of the interview, Levinson was set to leave almost immediately for a Canadian Hadassah solidarity mission to Israel being co-ordinated by her and her immediate predecessor, Marion Mayman.

Mayman, of Ottawa, made it clear before the triennial convention got underway that it would not be a "business as usual" event in light of the two years of terror against Israel that has left 600 Israelis dead.

The convention program clearly reflected that.

Besides featuring panels on Israel and the media and on what Jewish students face on campuses, the convention, chaired by Susan Balinsky and Maxine Sanders, also presented awards to two friends of the Jewish state: human rights lawyer and Liberal MP Irwin Cotler, who received the Humanitarian Award, and hockey legend Jean Béliveau, who received the Canadian Award.

Béliveau has travelled several times to Israel for the Maccabiah Games and shown strong sympathy for Israel.

At the convention's closing dinner, attended by about 300 delegates, Israel's ambassador to Canada, Haim Divon, praised Canadian Hadassah-WIZO and referred to the "reassurance and strength" provided by Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital, which Canadian Hadassah has raised funds for since 1990. Also singled out for a tribute was veteran Canadian Hadassah executive vice-president Lily Frank, a name synonymous with the organization.

The evening's most memorable moment came when the Dr. Avraham Rivkind, who heads the hospital's Trauma Unit in Ein Kerem and which has treated hundreds of terror victims, accepted Canadian Hadassah's highest honour, the Rebecca Sieff Award.

To Rivkind's surprise, Shimon Ohana, a young Israeli whom he had literally brought back from death two years ago, appeared at the presentation ceremony with his mother Rachel.

Ohana, then 18 and a police border recruit, was shot in the heart soon after the start of the latest intifadah in the Jerusalem suburb of Gilo. Rivkind never gave up on him, even though Ohana showed no vital signs and was clinically dead.

Past recipients of the Rebecca Sieff Award have included former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek, conductor Zubin Mehta, filmmaker Claude Lanzmann, and Soviet refusenik Ida Nudel.

Another convention highlight was a tribute to three lieutenant-governors: Lise Thibault of Quebec, Marilyn Trenholme Counsell of New Brunswick and Myra Freeman of Nova Scotia, who is Jewish.

The convention also stressed the need for continued support of Canadian-funded Hadassah projects in Israel.

They include a network of day-care centres, schools, residences and youth villages, and two hospitals: Assaf Harofeh Hospital near Ben-Gurion Airport and Hadassah Hospital.

At the closing dinner, it was announced that the Dan family had just pledged $500,000 towards Canadian Hadassah projects in Israel, including $100,000 for Hadassah Hospital's Trauma Unit.

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Coast to Coast

AJC meets in Moncton

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

MONCTON, N.B. — Preserving small communities was the recurrent theme at the recent 13th biennial convention of the Atlantic Jewish Council in Moncton, N.B.

Incoming AJC president Mark Rosen, a Halifax lawyer specializing in insolvency, stressed to delegates from across the region that the AJC "must deal with the continuity of our communities.

"We see communities dying all over but we have to look to our youth to sustain us. We have to hear what they have to say and get them to work. I truly fear there may not be enough to do the work in the future that we are doing now. We must make them part of us."

In her final address after two years as president, Sheva Medjuck, dean of arts and science at Mount Saint Vincent University in Halifax, said Jewish survival in Atlantic Canada is "our constant struggle. But through programming in all areas, we are trying. We are working diligently to ensure our communities survive and prosper."

The conference brought together more than 100 people from the four Atlantic provinces. They discussed how to respond to anti-Israel comments with Marra Messenger, director of community development with the Canada-Israel Committee.

Four rabbis from the region led a panel on maintaining links through Atlantic communities, specifically those without rabbis. Rabbi Mendel Feldmen of Chabad Lubavitch, Halifax, emphasized the importance of being strong within oneself. Yochanan Samuels, rabbi of the Fredericton community, suggested attracting people to social events is a positive step to bringing them closer to their Jewishness.

University students had a chance to discuss growing Jewish campus populations from outside Atlantic Canada and the AJC's responsibility to provide programming for them.

At a lengthy session on anti-Semitism, Canadian Jewish Congress' community relations director Manuel Prutschi said world and Canadian communities are no longer declaring "Never again" but "find ourselves painfully asking 'Will it ever end?'"

He suggested that there be continued efforts to teach about the Holocaust, to provide support for refugees from genocidal regimes, to be tolerant of other minorities and to help all Canadians understand that an attack on Israel is an attack on the Jewish people and vice versa, 'that both are anti-Semitism.'

Israel Unger of Fredericton, a Holocaust survivor and member of the AJC's Holocaust education committee, said that anyone concerned with an anti-Semitic issue in his or her community should contact the AJC for assistance in formulating a response.

Joan Sichel, a volunteer in the Jewish and wider communities, received warm applause when she said that "having an opportunity to do good deeds – in hospitals, soup kitchens, and elsewhere – shows the outside community we have a Jewish heart and are willing to help our fellow man. That can be a very positive response to any anti-Semitic feeling."

In addition to Rosen, the new AJC executive consists of first vice-president Jim Spatz, second vice-president Howard Conter, treasurer Michael Pink, secretary Kathy Zilbert and legal counsel Mark David. All are from Halifax.

Continued on page 35

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HAPPY CHANUKAH

Nine honoured out East for service to community

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

MONCTON, N.B. — Nine Atlantic Canadians were honoured recently for their personal commitment to the Jewish and secular communities.

Some are retired yet continue to give. Others are young and vibrant and find it difficult to say no when asked to serve.

But, as cited on Community Service Award plaques they received at the Atlantic Jewish Council's Biennial Convention, their volumes of community work denote huge hearts and caring natures.

The nine men and women – David Attis, Joseph Kohn and Jack Brodie of Moncton, N.B.; Marianne Ferguson and Bob Wolman of Halifax, Sandra Levine, Saint John; Martin Chernin of Sydney, N.S.; Claire Frankel-Salama of St. John's and Rosalie Simeone of Prince Edward Island – have performed a variety of services. While all have been closely connected to their Jewish communities, several gave, and continue to give, major amounts of time to civic responsibility in the wider community.

Moncton's Attis was described as a man who cares. He spearheaded the Canadian Jewish Congress's small communities program in the 1980s, led the fight against Holocaust denier and former Moncton school teacher, Malcolm Ross, served Tiferes Israel congregation as president and rosh chevrah kadishah, chaired the board of the Atlantic Jewish Council and was on the board of the Moncton East End Boys and Girls Club.

Referring to the recent spate of anti-Semitic incidents in Canada, Attis told more than 150 community members attending awards night that "no matter how much work we've done in past, we have much more to do in the future. We have to do whatever it takes to make Canada safe for Jews."

Brodie, a past president of the Moncton synagogue, was also a New Brunswick boxing referee for many years. In introducing Brodie, Moncton's Irwin Lampert joked that "his talent as a boxing judge served him well in chairing meetings of our congregation."

An active member of Lions Club, chair of Israel Bonds and UJA and lay chazzan at the shul, it was said of Brodie, "Without people like this man, small congregations in Atlantic Canada could not survive."

Sydney's Chernin, a former AJC president and 20-year board member of UIA-Canada, has been United Way of Cape Breton chair and is currently chair of the Economic Council of Canada. He had been back from Israel only a few days before the award presentation."It's important we go to Israel to visit, now. They need our solidarity," he said.

Ferguson of Halifax was introduced by her daughter Lea McKnight. "It's usually a parent that gets nachas from her children. Tonight, I get nachas from my mother," McKnight said.

"She has always been involved, whether going to meetings, baking for community functions, making phone calls. At Shaar Shalom [Synagogue] everyone looks to my mother for advice, and they always get it."

Ferguson heads the women's chevrah kadishah, which she has served for 30 years, is a volunteer at the IWK Health Centre, a children's hospital, and at Pier 21, the Halifax entry point for 1 million Canadians between 1923 and 1971, and the gateway through which she and her family entered from Europe in the 1940s.

Holocaust survivor Kohn of Moncton was vice-president and gabbai of Tiferes Israel Synagogue, as well as a Torah reader, teacher of bar and bat mitzvah children and a conductor of synagogue services for decades. He also served at length as president of the Moncton Figure Skating Club.

Levine of Saint John was described as a "tireless, dedicated contributor to many causes. When she says she'll do it, she will." Norman Holtzman said the words "no" and "can't" do not exist in her vocabulary. "And no one can stretch a dollar like Sandra," said Holtzman of the long-time treasurer of Sharrei Zedek Congregation and its Sisterhood.

Frankel-Salama of St. John's was called "The Rock of Newfoundland." In acknowledging her award, the transplanted Torontonian said, "trying to keep kosher on the Rock is not an easy thing to do. But how we act and what we say as Jews in a small community is important to us as a people."

She added, "I wouldn't have been able to grow as I did and have had the same opportunities [(to serve the congregation and the Jews of Newfoundland] if I stayed in Toron[illegible]. Being here for 17 years, and it was only supposed to be a couple, has enriched me and my family."

Simeone has contributed similarly to Prince Edward Island, hosting visitors, running a Hebrew school, serving as community representative on AJC's board and on the Holocaust education committee. She is also media spokesperson for the P.E.I. community.

Wolman of Halifax has participated in UJA and UIA campaigns for 40 years, was on the chevrah kadishah for Beth Israel Synagogue for 20 years, has been shul gabbai for the [illegible] 10, a board member for close to 30 years and served two terms as president.

AJC conference held in Moncton

Continued from page 34

Members at large are Michael April, Michael Argand, Rachael Budovitch, David Korn, Andrew Wolfson and Michael Zatzman, all of Halifax; Barrie Carnat and Nicole Druckman of Moncton; Ivan Levine of Fredericton and Halifax; and Rosalie Simeone of Prince Edward Island.

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Concordia board OKs lifting of Mideast ban

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – Concordia University's board of governors voted unanimously last Wednesday to authorize rector Frederick Lowy to lift its campus moratorium on public events and information tables related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The controversial ban was imposed by the board Sept. 9 after a violent demonstration halted a planned speech by Benjamin Netanyahu, now Israel's foreign minister.

Lowy was expected to meet early this week with leaders of Hillel, Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR) and the Concordia Student Union (CSU) to see if they will abide by a set of principles designed to keep future discussion on campus about the Middle East reasonably civil.

Adherence to these principles is to be monitored by a person to be named shortly, who will report directly to Lowy, the board announced following its regular closed monthly meeting where the vote was taken.

The guidelines were actually accepted at a meeting between Lowy and Hillel, SPHR and CSU representatives in late September. They speak of a commitment to "structured dialogue" through mutual respect, non-violent behaviour, avoidance of speech or materials that are anti-Semitic or racist against Arabs, and to "protect the core academic functions" of the university.

Hillel leaders were in Washington last week for the General Assembly of North American Jewish federations and were unavailable for comment.

Hillel withdrew from the regular meetings with the senior administration, SPHR and the CSU at the end of October saying it felt the talks were making little progress. SPHR, it said, had shown no remorse for the events of Sept. 9 and that it had, with the sanction of the CSU, repeatedly breached the moratorium, with impunity.

Hillel has been opposed to the moratorium and resented having its freedoms restricted in the same way as those who caused the trouble. Nevertheless, it has abided by the ban.

In a statement, the CSU said it is "delighted with the decision to end the moratorium but said "more… is needed in terms of looking into the events surrounding Netanyahu and how the university community should go forward."

The board, which is chaired by Lillian Vineberg, said the ban on Mideast events was lifted because it had "achieved its goal" of providing time for all parties to cool off and for order to be restored on campus.

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Abba Eban's rare fair-mindedness will be missed

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

The extensive media attention devoted to the passing of Abba Eban is a tribute to his towering prominence in international diplomacy on behalf of Israel.

Coincidentally, the *National Post* and *Globe and Mail* simultaneously printed Associated Press writer Mark Lavie's retrospective on Nov. 18: "Abba Eban, the famously eloquent statesmen... helped persuade the world to approve creation of the Jewish state and dominated Israeli diplomacy for decades."

A page one obituary in the *New York Times* quotes Conor Cruise O'Brien, the famous Irish writer and diplomat who knew Eban well from their days at the United Nations. Eban was, says O'Brien, "the most brilliant diplomat of the second half of the 20th century."

Eban's prestige as an elder statesman committed to territorial compromise with the Arabs gave him much credibility, especially in liberal circles. His dovish views were nonetheless tempered by a cold realism and a strict respect for the objective truth.

To take one important example very much under discussion today: While the Palestinians and their supporters have long maintained that UN General Assembly Resolution 194 grants Palestinians a "right of return" to present-day Israel, Eban pointed out that "no such 'right' exists. The very term 'right of return' has never featured in an internationally binding document" (*Jerusalem Post*, Aug. 19, 1989).

As Israel's representative to the ad hoc political committee of the General Assembly in December 1948 when Resolution 194 was drafted, Eban noted that he "made it clear that the admission of refugees was a matter for Israel's sovereign discretion and was not subject to legal constraints." The word "right" does not appear in the resolution. Any return of refugees requires Israel to grant "permission."

"The conclusion," wrote Eban, "is that entry into Israel is something that individuals or groups outside Israel have a right to request and Israel has a sovereign right to accept or reject."

Another example is the subject of Israel's "right to exist." This "right" has been under assault from numerous attackers (NGOs at the 2001 UN "anti-racism" conference in Durban, South Africa, for instance) who are determined to delegitimize the Jewish state in the eyes of the world.

Eban's voice was a rare expression of firm equanimity in a sea of vitriol. He would insist that there is no need to be defensive in asserting Israel's right to its existence because such a right "is independent of any recognition of [the state] and is certainly not dependent on the decision of a non-sovereign organization" (*Jerusalem Post*, Nov. 25, 1988).

The UN General Assembly Resolution 273 (III) of May 11, 1949, which admitted Israel into the UN, stated that "Israel is a peace-loving state able and willing to carry out its obligations under the UN Charter," which is based on the "sovereign equality" of all member states.

"It is impossible to exaggerate the transforming effects" of this resolution, Eban maintained.

Abba Eban in 1994

Calling the resolution of "transcendental importance," Eban argued that despite "much virulent nonsense" emanating from the UN about Israel (like the 1975 "Zionism is racism" resolution), "no nation involved in a struggle for contested legitimacy has received such potent support from the overall jurisprudence of an international organization."

Eban's meticulous knowledge of the historical record and scrupulously fair-minded approach to controversial issues is a rarity today and will be sorely missed.

Paul Michaels is director of communications of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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שישאר בינינו

גידי קורן וחברים

שירת הנוער

חבר סיפר לי בעצב שבנו הבכור הכיר להם לפני שבועיים את חברתו הרצינית הראשונה שפגש בקולג'. נערה סינית. "שלא תבין, אנחנו אנשים ליברליים וקיבלנו אותה מאוד יפה. אבל זה עצוב, וזה רק באשמתינו, כי הילד הלך לבית ספר כללי ומעולם לא היה בתנועת נוער ולא נפגש עם נוער יהודי. שני הילדים הצעירים הולכים לתיכון יהודי וכשאני רואה את חיי החברה שלהם ואת מה שהם מקבלים שם, אני מבין איזה עוול עשינו לגדול".

עד כאן החבר. ביום ראשון, ה 17 בנובמבר התקיימה עצרת לזכרו של יצחק רבין. האירוע אורגן על ידי תנועות הנוער היהודיות והיתה שם כל הקשת הפוליטית מבית"ר דרך התנועות הדתיות, לדרור הבונים והשומר הצעיר. היה זה ערב מרגש מאין כמוהו, ולא רק בגלל הנושא, אלא בגלל האירה והאנרגיה שהביאו תנועות הנוער בשירה, בהקראה, בחשיבה. חשבתי לעצמי: יש אנשים שלא יכולים להרשות לעצמם כלכלית בית ספר יהודי- אבל כל אחד יכול לשלוח את ילדיו לתנועת נוער, ובכך ישמור על הילד מהתבוללות, כי הילד יפגוש ישראלים ויהודים. זוהי המסגרת שתשמור את הילדים שלכם בתוך עמם- ולא כדאי לזלזל - לפני שתזיזו את הראש הם יהיו בגיל שלא תהיה לכם כל השפעה. אני, שילדי הלכו לשומר הצעיר ושניים מהם חזרו בעקבות זאת ארצה, מדבר מתוך ניסיון. ויש לכם בחירה של כל המגוון הפוליטי- מימין לשמאל. זו הדרך היחידה להציל אותם, ואל תקחו את זה בקלות. לא שיש משהו רע בנכדים מלוכסנים- אבל כדאי שתתכוננו לזה ותלמדו סינית כדי לדבר עם המחותנים. אבל שישאר בינינו.

פרידה

הִינָה המלצה לסרט שאסור להחמיץ. סיפורה של הציירת המקסיקנית האגדית פרידה קאלו שאביה היה יהודי גרמני ואימה מקסיקנית נוצרית. הסיפור נחדר, הרומנטיקה בשיאה, הנופים והציורים משגעים. וגם פריצת דרך קולנועית- שימוש בתוכנת מחשב שיוצרת קטעי סרט מצויר שמתארים את מה שעבר בראשה של הציירת- משהו מהמם. עשר בסולם קורן.

מה יהיה

נכון לעכשיו, שרון הוא ראש הממשלה הבאה, הליכוד מכפיל את כוחו ל - 36 מנדטים, העבודה יורדת ל- 19, שינוי קופצת ל- 12, ש"ס יורדת בחצי, ולישראל יש ממשלה ימנית. זה שצריך להמשיך בשיא הכוח לְמַנֵּר את הטרור- מסכימים גם הימין וגם השמאל, אך לא נראה שהימין יתאמץ במיוחד למצוא מסלול לשלום, כי חלק גדול ממצביעיו אינם מאמינים בנתינת הגדה המערבית לפלשתינאים.

היעדר הסכם פוליטי יזיק קשות לכלכלה, לתיירות, להשקעות בישראל. אבל אנחנו כאן רק יכולים להסתכל ולקוות לטוב.

קו העוני והקו הירוק

על פי הסטטיסטיקה האחרונה יש בישראל 1.2 מיליון נפשות מתחת לקו העוני. לכאורה-מספרים מפחידים. אבל כשביקרתי בישראל לפני כשבועיים יצא לי לשמוע כמה דיונים מאוד מעניינים על משמעות המספרים האלה:

בניגוד לכל הארצות בעולם, שבהן מנסים אנשים להיטיב את מצבם הכלכלי וחלק נופלים אל מתחת לקו העוני, בישראל יש עוני מתוך רצון. קבוצה גדולה של גברים החליטו לא לעבוד, אלא ללמוד תורה. לא רק שהם אינם תורמים לכלכלת ביתם, הם גם לומדים מקצועות שאין להם שום קשר לחיים כלכליים מודרניים. החרדים בזים ללימודי המדע והמתימטיקה, ללימודי הכלכלה, השירותים ומה לא. וכך, גם אם ירצו ביום מן הימים לתרום לכלכלת ביתם- לא יוכלו לעשות שום דבר אמיתי. וגם ילדיהם לא יוכלו. הבחירה הזאת בבורות ובעוני היא מזעזעת, אם חושבים על זה ברצינות. מזעזע לא פחות הוא ששאר הישראלים תומכים בעניים-מתוך-בחירה בסכומים ענקיים.

האבסורד השני של מפת העוני הישראלית הוא שהעניים מעדיפים להצביע עבור הימין, אותו ימין שמשקיע מיליארדי דולארים בכבישים עוקפים בשטחים ובשירותים למספר קטן של מתנחלים, במקום להשקיע בהם באופקים ובנתיבות. לאבסורד הזה אין אח ורע בשום מקום בעולם.

לדברי רבים וטובים, המצב הזה, שבו מעטים נושאים על גבם "עניים מתוך בחירה" ומתנחלים מתוך רצון, חולך להתפוצץ בקרוב. אלא אם כן....ארה"ב פתאום תבוא עם תקציב סיוע נרחב....(שישאר בינינו- השבוע הודיעה ארה"ב על סל סיוע מיוחד של עשרה מיליארד דולאר).

Reconstructionists mull relationship with Israel

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – The Reconstructionist movement is considering redefining its relationship with Israel because many of its members disagree with the current government's policies and many also see North American Jewry as an equal partner in ensuring the survival of Jewish culture, a view that clashes with classical Zionism.

At the recent Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) biennial convention in Montreal, new president Daniel Cedarbaum of Evanston, Ill., announced the movement's board of governors will establish a task force on Israel, in collaboration with the Reconstructionist rabbinic body and rabbinical college.

The JRF, which represents 103 congregations in the United States and Canada comprising 16,000 households, has not updated its position on Israel significantly since 1988.

At a convention workshop on Israel, moderator Moti Rieber, JRF mid-Atlantic regional director, said Reconstructionism was Zionist well before the idea was embraced by the American Jewish mainstream. In the 1930s, its founder, Rabbi Mordechai Kaplan, maintained that Jews needed a land of their own in Palestine to survive.

But, like Rabbi Kaplan, the movement has always recognized the importance of the Diaspora.

Reconstructionists' strong liberal views are increasingly at odds with what the Israeli government does and, Rieber said, there is a "growing tendency to want to wash our hands of the whole mess.

"In question is the entire Zionist enterprise. If the cost is so high in terms of our values… do we wish to support an Israel that does not live up to our ideals," he said.

The panelists represented the diversity and complexity of opinion in the movement, which has an intellectual tradition.

The most radical position was put forth by Benjamin Mordecai Ben-Baruch of Detroit, an outgoing board of governors member, who advocated that Reconstructionists stop being Zionist, and base their relationship with Israel on "ties of peoplehood" rather than with the state itself.

According to Ben-Baruch, North American Jewry and Israel are the two "Jewish civilizational centres," and they need each other.

"We need to reorient our thinking so that support of Israel is not interpreted or conceived of as meaning support of the state or of the government," he said. "We should excise from our vocabulary 'Zionism' and the 'State of Israel,' and start talking about the underlying values that unite us rather than get into conflicts over the politics."

In practical terms, he said that means ending donations to United Jewish Appeal and the Jewish National Fund and instead supporting those communities and organizations that "share our values and vision of the future."

Diaspora Jews do not need to "mediate" their relations with Israel through any political institution or Zionist organization, but can form bonds with those in Israel who share their outlook, Ben-Baruch said.

Sam Kelman of Cleveland, a JRF executive committee member, said he remains an "unrepentant Labour Zionist," but agreed that classical Zionism, with its emphasis on aliyah and the "mythology" of Jewish victimhood, has had its day.

Reconstructionists should be spending less time on halachic questions and more on developing an ideology that expresses their relationship with Israel.

There should, for example, be rituals designed for Yom Ha'atzmaut, he said.

"The political entity of Israel is essential, but Israel is not essential to the cultural development of the Jewish people – it's very important, but not essential," Kelman said.

The third panelist, Rabbi Amy Klein, director of the JRF's office in Israel, said her attachment to Israel had nothing to do with ideology. "It's a nostalgic attachment I can't explain," she said. Nevertheless, she has serious concerns about the direction the country is going in.

Her goal, she said, is for Israel to become "the core of Jewish civilization and culture, where everyone is treated equally, whether they are Jewish or not." To achieve that, she said, Reconstructionists do not need to abandon Zionism, but do need to rethink it.

She agreed that Jewish culture in North America and Israel are on "parallel tracks" and that Israel is "not the saviour of the Diaspora."

Diaspora Jews can criticize the political institutions without weakening their ties with the people of Israel, she believes. Reconstructionists should support those people in Israel who share the same ideals, she said.

Israel could be a "radically" different country in terms of more closely adhering to Western ideals of human rights and pluralism if another 200,000 Jews like herself made aliyah, she added.

No resolutions were tabled at the convention, which drew more than 300 delegates. It was the first such gathering to be held in Montreal since 1967.

Firebombed Prairie shul grateful for community support

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Last April, Saskatoon's Agudas Israel Synagogue was set ablaze by a Molotov cocktail in a crime that is still unsolved.

But while the perpetrator (or perpetrators) are still unknown, the shul's roughly 100 members are gratified by the outpouring of support from their fellow citizens.

"We were certainly shaken by the attack," said lifelong Saskatoon resident and shul spokesperson Gladys Rose. "But the level of support and sympathy we have received is indicative of how well-regarded the Jewish community is in this city and province. The financial and practical assistance we have received has been overwhelming."

The principal damage from the firebomb was to the lower level of the building that houses offices, classrooms and a library. Virtually all the books were destroyed.

"It was really a fluke about the books," Rose said. "The bomb was thrown into an unused classroom, which suffered the bulk of the damage.

"Unfortunately, two weeks before, we had had a problem with a dishwasher in the kitchen, which is above the library. We had suffered some water damage in the library and had moved all the books into that unused classroom while we repaired the library."

The congregation also had to rebuild its sisterhood gift shop, Rose said. While the gift shop initially appeared to be unscathed, the smell of smoke permeated the walls.

"Renovations usually take longer than you expect," she said, "but the repairs to the building are just about completed. We are just beginning to put our new books back on the library shelves. Some we have ordered but many of the new books have been gifts."

As for the empty classroom where the fire started, it has been rebuilt beautifully and is now being used, Rose said.

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Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto

Coast to Coast

CIC says Canada subsidizes purchase of anti-Israel books

Continued from page 1

Canada's contribution is funneled through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). This is in addition to the $50 million transferred each year directly to the Palestinian Authority for humanitarian purposes.

The CIC recently wrote to Foreign Minister Bill Graham outlining its concerns over the use of Canadian funds. Referring to the group's recent mission, Wilder wrote: "What we did not expect to learn was that contrary to your repeated assurances, UNRWA does indeed use textbooks that demonize, delegitimize and deny Israel's place in the region. Quite apart from the objective concern this revelation presents, the fact that Canadian officials did not ensure that you were apprised of this fact raises a whole other set of troubling questions."

Joseph Wilder

CIC is hoping to meet with Graham to discuss the UNRWA issue, but "we don't think it's proper for Canadian government funds to be used in this way," Wilder said.

"I don't know what to think of it. Every foreign minister going back to Lloyd Axworthy denies being complicit in these textbooks. I can only think their staff hasn't fully informed them, because the facts have been known for some time."

Rodney Moore, a spokesperson for Foreign Affairs, said, "We are well aware of this problem. It's something we've been working on for some years."

Canadian officials continue to call on the PA to put an end to incitement against Israel and to promote tolerance. Canadian support for UNRWA takes into consideration the entirety of the work the agency does, including valuable services provided to the refugees, Moore said.

For its part, he added, UNRWA sponsors "extracurricular activities for students that focus on peace education, human rights and conflict resolution." Canada is aware of problematic elements in the texts, but it is using its influence to improve them. UNRWA's work with school children has been praised by Israeli diplomats.

Questions about UNRWA's role in refugee camps have been circulating for years and UNRWA has responded to a variety of allegations with a rebuttal on its Web site (www.un.org/unrwa/myths/index.html).

Addressing the "allegation" that "UNRWA schools and textbooks teach hatred of Israel," the UN agency states that "the curriculum in the agency's schools is determined by the education authorities in the locations where it operates."

UNRWA also quotes Nathan Brown, professor of political science at George Washington University, who published studies on the subject. Summarizing Brown's findings, UNRWA states:

"Regarding the PA's new textbooks introduced in 2000 and 2001, he [Brown] states: 'The new books have removed the anti-Semitism present in the older books. While they tell history from a Palestinian point of view, they do not seek to erase Israel, delegitimize it or replace it with the State of Palestine. Each book contains a foreword describing the West Bank and Gaza as 'the two parts of the homeland.' The maps show some awkwardness but do sometimes indicate the 1967 line and take some other measures to avoid indicating borders; in this respect, they are actually more forthcoming than Israeli maps. The books avoid treating Israel at length but do indeed mention it by name. The new books must be seen as a tremendous improvement from a Jewish, Israeli and humanitarian view."

The UNRWA Web site attributes much of the criticism of Palestinian textbooks to the Centre for Monitoring the Impact of Peace (CMIP).

CMIP is a non-governmental, not-for-profit organization established in 1998 in New York State. In a November 2002 update of its report of the year before, which had examined texts used in grades 1, 2, 6, 7 and 11, CMIP examined 14 new books in addition to 26 high school final examinations in various subjects (www.edume.org).

Although it found some improvement in the treatment of Judaism's relation to Jerusalem, it found "the Jews are still presented in a negative light historically, yet at the same time denied any part in the history of the country shared by them and the Palestinians. Israel is still not recognized as a sovereign state, but is rather presented as a foreign entity imposed in 1948 on the land. It is a source of aggression, death and destruction to the Palestinians, especially the refugees among them who aspire to return to their former homes within its territory. Hence, no peace is sought after, but rather a war against Israel as the usurper aggressor and occupier is to be waged."

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Israel target of UN and British ire

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Last week was a bad week for Israel in the court of world opinion.

After Israeli soldiers mistakenly killed a British man serving with the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in the Jenin refugee camp, UN and British officials criticized Israel.

And as the Israeli military continued its war on terrorism, this time in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, the Jewish state risked the ire of the United States.

Israeli officials admitted Sunday that UNRWA official Iain Hook had been killed last Friday by Israeli fire.

Hook, who ran a UN project to rebuild homes in the Jenin refugee camp, was killed during an exchange of gunfire between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen, the army said, adding that soldiers mistakenly thought he was holding a weapon.

Issuing a preliminary investigation of the incident, the army said Palestinian gunmen had fired at Israeli soldiers from a UNRWA compound in the refugee camp.

The army also said the gunmen had used civilians as human shields during the clash, which erupted after soldiers surrounded the hideout of a local leader of Islamic Jihad.

Three army jeeps and a soldier wearing a bulletproof vest were hit by Palestinian fire coming from the vicinity of the UNRWA compound, the army said.

A UNRWA official disputed the Israeli account.

"Preliminary findings from our inquiry indicate that this is not true," Paul McCann, a spokesman for UNRWA said Sunday. Israel's "claim is incredibly incorrect."

McCann said an investigator would soon arrive from UN headquarters in New York to launch a full investigation into Hook's death.

UNRWA was created after Israel's 1948 War of Independence to help Palestinian refugees.

Israel came under attack earlier this year after Palestinian officials accused the army of carrying out a massacre in the Jenin refugee camp.

In August, UN officials issued a report refuting the massacre allegations.

For their part, Israel and U.S. Jewish groups have accused UNRWA of allowing terrorism to flourish in the refugee camps it services, particularly in Jenin.

Following the killing of Hook last Friday, the army expressed regret over the incident.

British officials criticized the Israeli actions and are demanding a full Israeli investigation.

In addition to dealing with what is a shaping up to be a public relations disaster, Israeli officials are also pressing ahead with the war on Palestinian terror.

Bethlehem is the latest West Bank city to come under Israeli control.

The army took over the city last Friday – a day after a Palestinian suicide bomber, who came from Bethlehem, killed 11 people aboard a Jerusalem bus.

Since taking over the city, Israeli soldiers have arrested some 30 suspected Palestinian terrorists, including three who were planning suicide bombings.

On Sunday, Israeli troops cordoned off the square around Bethlehem's Church of the Nativity, preventing worshippers from attending services.

The army sealed off all access to the church to prevent a repeat of the standoff last spring, when more than 100 Palestinian gunmen took refuge in the holy site, which Christian tradition considers the spot where Jesus was born.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon announced last Friday that the "Bethlehem-first" plan – under which Israeli troops left the city several months ago so the Palestinian Authority could demonstrate its ability to fight terrorism – had been called off as a result of the Nov. 21 suicide bombing in Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, the United States is urging Israel to end its operation in Bethlehem as soon as possible.

Last Friday, State Department spokesman Philip Reeker urged Israel to remember the consequences of military actions and to take steps to avoid civilian casualties.

U.S. officials have been repeatedly urging Israel not to take actions that would escalate tensions in the Arab world as the United States prepares for a possible attack on Iraq.

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Only those whose work has been selected will be contacted. Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies thanks all who submitted entries.

NOTE: Submissions will not be returned and will remain the property of Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

GA focuses on Israel-Diaspora relations

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

PHILADELPHIA, PA — The United Jewish Communities General Assembly (GA), held here last week, was an expression of solidarity between Diaspora and Israeli Jews.

Speaker after speaker at the three-day, 71st annual conference spoke about the urgency of supporting Israel during the current intifadah, and said Jews cannot afford to neglect their fellow Jews.

The GA, with almost 4,000 delegates, is the largest annual gathering of Jewish community leaders from North America, Israel and elsewhere overseas. Plans are for next year's GA to be held in Jerusalem.

United Jewish Communities is the umbrella organization of 156 Jewish federations and 400 independent Jewish communities across North America.

The conference's theme, *Tzedek, tzedek tirdof* – Justice, justice you must pursue – was introduced at the opening session.

David Marshall, GA international chair, said that the word tzedek connotes charity and righteousness as well as justice.

"There is [much] injustice in the world, and tzedek is the vehicle to pursue that justice," Marshall said. "Today's challenge is to meet unprecedented needs. Even with dedication and commitment, we know we can't fix everything, but we cannot stop trying. The pursuit of justice is a basic value."

Dorit Beinisch, a judge on the Supreme Court of Israel, said that the gathering is taking place at a difficult time.

"Free countries are fighting a terrorism that knows no restraint," Beinisch said. "The court's role is to ensure that the fight against terrorism is maintained within the framework of the law."

At a separate press conference, Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Natan Sharansky, who attended the conference in place of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, said it is a huge challenge for a democratic state to fight a war in which human lives are a tool for blackmail.

"It is difficult to wage this war alone, but we are not alone," Sharansky said. "[All] of North American Jewry was with us in the struggle for Soviet Jewry, and they are with us in today's battle."

Sharansky, who met with American government leaders in Washington, D.C., including U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney, before arriving in Philadelphia, said Israel will be virtually the only country in the world that will be threatened if the United States declares war on Iraq.

"There is the [possibility] that Israel will be attacked, and we cannot afford to sit passively if we are attacked," he said.

In response to a question about how to boost Israel's image, Sharansky said that Jews need to show pride in their Jewish heritage and that they are proud of the Jewish state.

"We have to remember that fighting anti-Semitism brings more freedom and security. We have to have self-confidence that we are doing the right thing."

Sharansky said he is glad about plans to hold next year's GA in Jerusalem because tourism has dropped drastically in the past two years.

It is "alarming" he said, that large numbers of students no longer come to Israel to study. "It is important that they come to study in our institutions."

At an evening session sponsored by El Al Israel Airlines, Israel's Ministry of Tourism and the Jewish Agency for Israel, Sallai Meridor, chair of the Jewish Agency executive, thanked the crowd for helping Israel.

"Thank you for your solidarity and thank you for your missions," Meridor said. "They have added to our national strength.

"The war continues and the price is heavy. There is not one Israeli who has not lost a relative or friend. As well, poverty is up and unemployment has skyrocketed."

It is difficult, Meridor said, "but we will overcome because we have no choice. We are determined to protect the only state that the Jewish people have. The more pressure they put on us, the stronger we will get."

The most important thing, he said, is to continue to bring Jews to Israel. "Nothing is more important; nothing strengthens the morale of Israelis more. Nothing is more critical to the very existence of the country."

Also at the evening session, Prof. Judea Pearl accepted an honour for his son, murdered *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl, who was kidnapped and murdered in Pakistan earlier this year by Islamic fundamentalists after being forced to admit his Jewish heritage.

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Jewish online resource launched

NEW YORK — MyJewish Learning. com, an online resource for exploring Jewish religion, history and culture, was launched Nov. 19 to coincide with the Chanukah season.

Inspired and funded by Edgar Bronfman and the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, the U.S.-based Web site is co-produced by Hebrew College and Jewish Family & Life.

The free service aims to be a resource for Jewish groups to cheaply enhance learning programs. It contains original content from experts in the fields of Jewish religion, history, culture and education, as well as content gleaned from research of existing sources. Its editors shape the information for online learning and edit all material on the site.

"Knowledge provides a lasting legacy. We [wanted] to spark a renaissance of ideas and learning," Bronfman said.

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The women who spearheaded the fundraising in Toronto are (left to right) Helen Vale, Milly Korzinstone, Heather Goose and Sharyn Jacob.

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For Mitzna, now comes the hard part

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — If Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna hopes to becomes Israel's next prime minister, he faces a daunting challenge: resuscitating a moribund Labor Party in a little more than two months.

A day after the dovish newcomer to national politics won a sweeping victory in Labor's leadership primary, political observers warned Mitzna that he had only passed the easy part.

The daily newspaper *Ha'aretz* noted that Mitzna has an extraordinarily short time to consolidate his position in Labor, neutralize potentially hostile camps within the party, win the loyalty of senior party members, organize a national election campaign and inject new life into a dispirited party.

Even then, his chances of winning the Jan. 28 national elections are considered slim: Polls show the Likud Party with a daunting lead over Labor.

Essentially, as one commentator noted in the *Jerusalem Post*, Labor chose Mitzna to be the next opposition leader, not the next prime minister.

If Labor loses in January, Mitzna might be asked to step down as party chairman. If he refuses, he might face a challenge for the party chairmanship next summer.

In last week's primaries, Mitzna received 54 per cent of the vote, incumbent chairman Benjamin Ben-Eliezer won about 39 per cent and MK Haim Ramon won about 7 per cent.

The soft-spoken Mitzna immediately extended an olive branch to his two rivals in a bid to unite forces in preparation for the national campaign.

Mitzna said his first task would be to unite the party "as one big beehive, a joint staff, in order to lead the Labor Party in the most important of all confrontations, with the Likud."

Critical to this will be reconciliation with Ben-Eliezer, whose withdrawal from Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's unity government – Ben-Eliezer was defence minister – precipitated Sharon's decision to call elections. A longtime party veteran, Ben-Eliezer still has a formidable political machine within Labor.

Mitzna offered Ben-Eliezer the No. 2 spot on Labor's Knesset list for the elections, but Ben-Eliezer said he needed time to consider the offer.

Mitzna, 57, is a former general who clashed with then-defence minister Sharon during the 1982 Lebanon War and commanded Israeli troops in the West Bank during the first intifadah in the late 1980s. His tenure as Haifa mayor is generally considered successful – the city is seen as a model of Arab-Jewish coexistence – but opponents say he is too close to business interests and has allowed virtually unchecked real estate development.

Continuing an Israeli tradition of white knights with little national experience – Ehud Barak and Amnon Lipkin-Shahak were two other ex-generals seen briefly as political saviours whose stars quickly burned out – Mitzna burst onto the national stage a few months ago and instantly became the frontrunner for Labor's chairmanship.

Described as aloof, somewhat stiff and yet open to counsel, Mitzna galvanized a left wing thrown into disarray when the peace process collapsed in the terrorism of the intifadah.

The national unity government of Sharon and Ben-Eliezer refused to negotiate with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat or even contemplate diplomacy while violence continued.

But Mitzna said he was willing to negotiate under fire and would talk with any Palestinian leader, including Arafat.

If talks fail to yield a deal, he said, Israel would withdraw unilaterally from most of the West Bank within a year. Mitzna also pledged to uproot settlements in Gaza right after taking office.

On the economy, Mitzna backs less spending on settlements and more on retirees, students and development towns.

Such positions provide voters with a stark contrast to the Likud. Mitzna's stance toward the Palestinians – and his insistence that disengagement will allow Israel to focus on its own domestic problems – is likely to appeal to left-wing voters who complained their voices weren't heard during 19 months of national unity government.

Whether such positions will win over the mass of Israelis in the centre – whose votes have proved crucial in the last three elections – is far less clear. Most polls show Israelis moving to the right since the start of the intifadah.

The national vote will come into greater focus after the Nov. 28 Likud primary, when Sharon takes on Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Writing in *Ha'aretz*, commentator Yoel Marcus said Mitzna will stand a better chance if the harder-line Netanyahu beats Sharon.

Using Netanyahu as a foil, Sharon has presented himself as a responsible elder statesman committed to an eventual peace with the Palestinians and to keeping close ties with the United States.

Mitzna will be far worse off if Likud sticks with Sharon, whose popularity only grows as the intifadah intensifies, and who can "eat naive politicians for breakfast," Marcus wrote.

Amid the cautionary tales, a supportive voice was found in former Labor legislator Eli Goldschmidt. Writing in the daily *Ma'ariv*, he said Mitzna has two important characteristics of a good politician: "a successful sense of timing and civilian courage."

He lauded Mitzna's willingness to stick to his convictions, including his pledge to speak with Arafat, despite the controversy it might spark. Goldschmidt also said the test of Labor's senior members will be their willingness to support Mitzna. If they do, he said, Labor could again offer voters a real alternative.

With the primary behind him, Mitzna set to the immediate task of seeking agreement on a method for selecting Labor's list for Knesset. Representatives from his and Ben-Eliezer's camps met to discuss the issue ahead of this week's Labor Party convention, which was expected to decide the matter.

Mitzna, who favors an open primary system, said last week that "all candidates will have to be elected," but Ben-Eliezer wants to leave the decision to the 4,700 members of the party convention, which is dominated by his supporters. Mitzna knows this could hinder his efforts to assert control over the party. As well, other senior Labor members – whose places on the list might be adversely affected – have warned they might bolt the party if convention members set the list.

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The Academy requests both applications and nominations, which may be sent to:

Eliot Arnovitz and Shelley Cooper
GHA Search Committee Co-chairs
c/o Fitzgerald + CO.
3060 Peachtree Road
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Applications consist of a resume and a letter of interest explaining how the individual's experience, skills and interests correspond to the leadership statement (available in response to e-mail request). Applications received after December 18, 2002, when the search committee begins its candidate review, cannot be guaranteed full attention. The search is confidential.

Nominations may be sent by e-mail to eliot@arnovitz.com or rscooper@attbi.com

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E-mail: office@chatrh.org

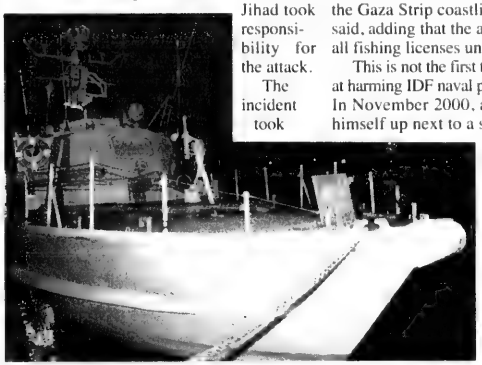
Israel & the Jewish World

Boat bomb attack injures four soldiers

By ARNON REGULAR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Four Israel Navy seamen were injured late last Friday night when a fishing boat laden with explosives blew up close to a naval gunship off the northern coast of the Gaza Strip.

One soldier was lightly wounded while three others sustained moderate injuries in the apparent suicide bombing. Two Palestinians on board the fishing boat were killed. Islamic Jihad took responsibility for the attack. The incident took place at around 10:30 p.m. last Friday when the region's naval control centre noticed a Palestinian fishing boat that crossed the no-sailing area. A naval Dabur gunship was scrambled to the area and tried to stop the boat. The two people on board ignored the calls to stop, which included a spray of water spurts and warning shots. Several minutes later, the fishing boat exploded, injuring the gunship and the sailors.



The Israeli naval gunship which suicide bombers attempted to destroy. [Israel Sun photo]

An Islamic Jihad announcement released Sunday in Beirut identified the two men on the fishing boat as Jamal Ali Ismail, 21, from Bureij, and Mahmad al Masari, 19, from Beit Hanoun.

In response to the attack, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) imposed a total naval closure on the Gaza Strip coastline, Palestinian sources said, adding that the army had also rescinded all fishing licenses until further notice.

This is not the first time that such an attempt at harming IDF naval personnel has been made. In November 2000, a suicide bomber blew himself up next to a similar gunship (in that case, no injuries were reported). In addition, several attempts at infiltration from the Gaza Strip into Israel through the sea have been prevented.

IDF sources said the Palestinian terror organizations in Gaza were trying to find "indirect" ways to carry out terror attacks because of the difficulty in crossing the separation fence that surrounds the Gaza Strip. Since the beginning of the intifadah more than two years ago, no Palestinian cell from the Gaza Strip has managed to carry out a terror attack inside Israel.

Nov. 18
• Esther Galia, mother of seven, was killed when Palestinians fired on her car as she drove from Jerusalem to her home in Kochav Hashachar. The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade of Fatah, claimed credit.

Nov. 19
• Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz endorsed Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's bid to retain the Likud Party leadership.

Nov. 20
• Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert endorsed Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's bid to retain the Likud leadership.
• The Simon Wiesenthal Centre announced plans for a new $150 million (US) tolerance centre in Jerusalem. Frank Gehry, the Toronto-born architect, will be in charge of the centre's design.

Nov. 21
• Eleven people were killed by a Hamas suicide bomber in Jerusalem: **Dikla Zino, 22; Sima Novak, 56; Hodaya Asraf, 13; Marina Bazarski, 46; Yafit Ravivo, 13; Hadassah Helena Ben-David, 32; Varga Mirsa, 25; Ella Sharshevsky, 44; Michael Sharshevsky, 16; Kira Pearlman, 67; Ilan Pearlman, 8.**
• The trial of Tanzim militia leader Marwan Barghouti resumed in Tel Aviv.

Nov. 22
• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon ordered the army to carry out a "wide and extensive operation" in response to Thursday's suicide bombing on a bus in Jerusalem that killed 11 people. The directive came after the prime minister held consultations with senior IDF officials and Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz.
Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

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Jews confront the 'December Dilemma'

'There's a party going on and we're not invited'

By JENNIFER PAQUETTE
Special to The CJN

The "December Dilemma" is one of those clichés of modern Jewish life. But ask two Jews and you'll get 10 different answers about what exactly it is.

For many, it's dealing with non-Jewish in-laws and extended family. For others, it's pressure, both secular – from shopping malls and generic "holiday pageants" – and spiritual, as Christians around us celebrate the birth of their messiah.

In a Nov. 18 program at the Miles Nadal JCC titled December Dilemma: Being Jewish in a Non-Jewish World, Alena Strauss helped a diverse group confront this seasonal woe head-on.

What comes to mind when you hear the words "Christmas" and "Chanukah?" This was the group's first talking point, spawning a range of positive and negative responses.

A few common threads emerged: music, food, families, parties, gifts. Yet even here, there were differences of perception: a participant commented that Chanukah music can't really compete with Christmas carols.

One woman said she was uncomfortable not with Christmas itself, but with the way Chanukah, a relatively minor holiday, "gets beefed up" to compensate. When asked by her kids' school to speak on Chanukah, she said she agreed on the condition she could return for another holiday. Her Sukkot visit was well received, she said, because "the kids didn't know anything about Sukkot," and were fascinated by its "fresh" symbols.

Participants agreed that attempts by non-Jews to "include" Chanukah in holiday celebrations often backfire, leaving Jews feeling more alienated than before.

One mentioned a store window display with fake snow, evergreen trees and other imagery. In a smaller window nearby, there was a menorah and, for an extra Jewish touch, a jar of pickles.

For Strauss, such attempts at multiculturalism often seem to "wipe out differences and emphasize similarities," at the expense of sacrificing what is unique about Judaism. The challenge, according to Strauss, is "to make diversity work, but let people maintain who they are."

This modern challenge stems from the fact that "Jews are not an immigrant community anymore."

With this comes a loss of insularity. "We have the desire to participate in the broader community," Strauss said, "but we wonder if it's okay to participate and still be who we are."

The consensus seemed to be that the season's religious aspects are less annoying than its commercialism. One parent said she took her children to the home of religious Christian friends to observe their celebration. "I like that they do that. I much prefer my children to see that," than be flooded with secular Christmas experiences.

Yet more than one participant spoke of growing up in England, a society that, said one woman, makes more of an "assumption that you are celebrating Christmas."

Strauss agreed that in December, that assumption can lead to the oppressive feeling that "there's a party going on and we're not invited."

With psychological training and PhD-level studies examining interactions between Judaism and psychology, Strauss has taken her interests into the real world through her teaching at Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning. Titled "Conversations About Conversion," her course offers – outside a synagogue setting – a chance for Jews and non-Jews to discuss psychological aspects of conversion.

Strauss's program was part of the Nadal JCC's ongoing adult education series. Upcoming programs will feature speakers such as Rabbi Aubrey Glazer and Chashi Skobac on unique aspects of Judaism, including Jewish meditation.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I just found out that I am pregnant for the first time and I have no idea what I can or cannot eat. I also feel quite queasy and am worried that I'm not eating enough.

A. The only things that you really want to avoid in pregnancy are alcohol, caffeine, aspartame and any undercooked foods such as sushi or undercooked beef or pastry.

But aside from these, there are many foods that you may have an aversion to, so avoid those to limit nausea as well. Many women experience nausea during pregnancy, especially in the early stages, and, therefore, eat much less than usual. This is normal. Just make sure the food that you do eat is nutrient dense, and if you are losing weight or vomiting frequently, see your doctor.

Try to drink to avoid dehydration. Some good nutrient-dense choices are proteins, so try, meat, eggs, fish, poultry, milk, cheese or yogurt or nutrient-dense fruits and vegetables such as broccoli, peppers, strawberries, cantaloupe, carrots, squash and sweet potato.

The foods that you are craving will be the most satisfying, so allow yourself to eat them. Eating something is better than nothing.

Mazal tov. Enjoy your pregnancy.

Q. My two-year-old son refuses to eat. I swear he could go all day without eating a thing. What should I do? Did I mention he would gladly eat licorice at all meals?

A. This is such a common complaint among young children. As long as your child is growing and gaining weight appropriately, you should *not* be forcing your child to eat, nor should you be anxious about it or make it an issue or a battle. The more stressed you appear and the more focus you put on your child's eating, the worse it will be.

Let your child tell you when he's hungry and let him tell you when he's full. Forcing kids to eat when they're not hungry teaches them to eat just because food is around, not because they're hungry. Depending on a child's age, you should, however, insist that your child sit at the table with the family for a reasonable length of time (five to 15 minutes), even if he chooses not to eat. Having family meal times will be your best way to improve your child's eating. No one likes to eat alone.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions send them to The CJN.

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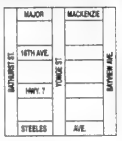

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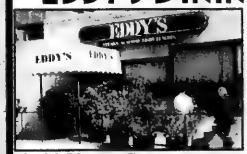

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Arts & Travel

Max Haines: Canada's murder maven

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

"Murder," Max Haines said nonchalantly, speaking in a low, unassuming voice. "That's what I do."

Haines is Canada's murder maven. He has been writing a syndicated column about that grisly topic for the past 30 years.

Crime Flashback, which appears in the *Sun*'s Sunday edition on a full page spread, is read by an estimated three million readers in 40 newspapers in Canada, Mexico, South America, Fiji and the Arab state of Qatar.

Attracted by strange and unusual cases of homicides, Haines has written more than 2,000 columns since 1972. He is also a best-selling author. His 19th and most recent book, published by Penguin, is *Unnatural Causes*. It describes 60 "heinous crimes" from around the world.

Among his subjects are George Joseph Smith, an Englishman who had a habit of murdering his wives in bathtubs, and Joyce Cohen, a Florida woman who shot her husband to claim his multi-million dollar estate.

A mild-manned person who has an aversion to blood and is opposed to capital punishment, Haines gleans his information from prisoners, police reports, lawyers, trial transcripts and newspaper reports.

His climb to fame was entirely accidental. For years, he had been writing crime stories for his own pleasure and filing them away in a drawer. "It was a hobby of mine," he explained in an interview.

Shortly after the *Sun* made its debut, Haines' wife and number one fan, Marilyn, advised him to dredge up a story and submit it for publication. "She said, 'That rag will print anything.'"

At the time, Haines was in the pantyhose business, never expecting his life to be altered by a tale about murder and mayhem.

The piece he showed the *Sun*'s managing editor, Ed Monteith, concerned the notorious axe murderess Lizzie Borden. Monteith liked it, paid Haines the grand sum of $15 and asked for more.

Haines immediately blew the $15, treating Marilyn and his two daughters, Susan and Maureen, to Dairy Queen ice cream desserts. Soon enough, Haines became a regular fixture in the new, racy tabloid.

When a readership survey found that Haines had a considerable following, the publisher of the *Sun* took him out to lunch and offered him a full-time position as a crime columnist. Encouraged by his family, Haines accepted the job.

Since then, in search of arresting material, he has travelled to 40 countries and visited scores of prisons. Haines has met anywhere from 50 to 100 of the murderers who have appeared in his columns and books. "I've liked most of them," he said.

Some were none too bright, but others were brilliant. Virtually all of them were the products of dysfunctional families burdened by poverty and afflicted by drug, alcohol and child abuse.

Quite a few have been Jewish, from Joel Rifkin, who holds the New York state record for homicides, to Saul Betesh, who killed a Toronto Portuguese shoeshine boy.

The most interesting criminal he has ever profiled is Graham Young of Britain. As a teenager and adult, he methodically poisoned people, including his parents.

Young was an extremely bright but twisted individual who amassed an awesome knowledge of pharmacology and put it to deadly use. Finally apprehended by Scotland Yard detectives, he is now serving a life sentence. To Haines' regret, he was not granted an interview with Young.

As much as he is appalled by murder, Haines does not believe the state should repay a murderer in kind. "The taking of a human life is a horrendous deed under any circumstances."

Haines and his two sisters, Shirley and Lukey, were born and brought up in Antigonish, a small town in Nova Scotia.

His father, Alex Hains, a Lithuanian Jew who immigrated to Canada in the early 20th century, was a cattle dealer. Gussie, his mother, hailed from Chatham, New Brunswick.

Being the only Jewish family in Antigonish, the Haines' were a novelty, not always for the better. Anti-Semitism dogged his childhood and adolescence, and some of his experiences were so jarring that he prefers not to see them in print.

He left Antigonish in the 1950s after studying at St. Francis Xavier University. "The Maritimes, as it is today, was a depressed area," he said.

He landed on his feet in Montreal as an accounts manager for a finance company, and then broke into the garment trade.

He has done well by his specialty as a crime writer. Three of his anthologies, *Canadian Crimes*, *Murder Most Foul* and *Multiple Murderers*, were bestsellers. And his board game, *An Evening of Murder* remains in circulation.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 71.

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Arts & Travel

Israeli artist's paintings depict Harmony in Colour

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

An exhibition of lively paintings by Israeli artist Yehudith Aisenstat runs at Gallery 133 until Nov. 29.

Titled Harmony In Colour, the exhibition was opened by Consul General of Israel Meir Romem. Paul Wise of Gallery 133 hosted the opening reception.

Aisenstat's large, bright, colourful canvases of primarily reds, blues, greens and yellows with black and white outlines, are partly abstract and partly realistic. Her everyday people and scenes are laden with a warmth and frivolity.

Born in Jerusalem, Aisenstat began painting at the age of eight and won first place at age 14 with her painting of Moses in an international art competition of children's paintings based on biblical themes.

She studied under master painter Marcel Janco, one of the pre-eminent figures of the Zurich Dada movement. She has exhibited her work in many institutions in Israel, including Beit Yad Lebanim at Ra'anana, the Ramat Gan Museum and the Petach Tikva Museum.

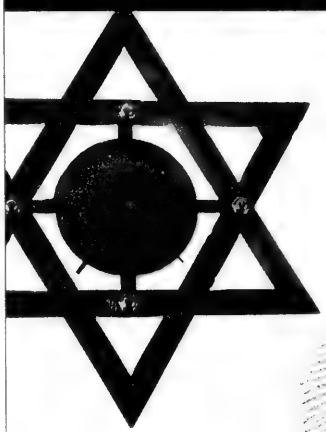
She has had three exhibitions at the Perry Art Gallery in New York and before bringing her paintings to Toronto, she had a successful showing in Beverley Hills.

Following the exhibition, Gallery 133 will continue to showcase a selection of Aisenstat's paintings.

For more information, call Gallery 133 at 416-504-6099 or email gallery133@on.aibn.com.

Yehudith Aisenstat pictured with one of her paintings.

This holiday see it in their faces...and feel it in your heart.



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Arts & Travel

Key musicians leave orchestra

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

What is happening at the Toronto Philharmonia?

In the last few years, the North York-based orchestra has seen some of its most recognized musicians either let go or resign, spawning a series of bitter disputes and accusations the orchestra has taken a step backward musically.

However, Philharmonia president Murray Chusid says there was nothing unusual in the orchestra's change of personnel. Auditions were held early in the season and the best musicians were chosen to perform during the current season, he said.

Meanwhile, two of the Philharmonia's former musicians, onetime principal bass David Lasker and principal oboist Senya Trubashnik, have asked the Toronto Musicians' Association to investigate the way they were let go. Lasker, who served as principal bass for 13 years, is claiming a contract offer as an "expanded orchestra section bass," tendered only weeks before the orchestra's first concert, was "mocking, insulting and deceptive."

Trubashnik has asked the musicians' group to investigate his dismissal in August 2000. He said it came of the blue at a meeting with conductor and music director Kerry Stratton.

In a brief telephone interview, Stratton declined to comment on the cases, saying "it's a matter that's between the musicians, the board and the union (the Musician's Association)."

"I've filed my own charges with the union," he added, though he would not indicate the nature of the charges.

In addition to the departures of Lasker and Trubashnik, others to have left the orchestra in recent years include David Miller, who resigned in July as principal cellist after 15 years, Joseph Pepper, Marc Childs and Grace Hong. Morry Kernerman left several years before.

Like Trubashnik, all were accomplished musicians who held senior positions with the orchestra and who had experience playing with some of the world's great musicians. Miller played as principal cellist with the Canadian Opera Company and National Ballet of Canada.

Lasker was a full-time member of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra for 10 years and after moving to Toronto in 1984, played with the National Ballet and Brantford Symphony.

Trubashnik, a native of the former Soviet Union, played for 18 years as principal oboe of the Moscow Philharmonic, five years as associate principal oboe of the Israel Philharmonic, 10 years as associate principal oboe of the National Symphony Orchestra of Belgium and has played under Zubin Mehta, Leonard Bernstein and with Isaac Stern and Yo Yo Ma.

Kernerman served as assistant concertmaster of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Pepper, who was principal second violin for the Philharmonia, played for the Philadelphia Orchestra while principal violist Marc Childs was former principal with the Hamilton Philharmonic. Hong, the Philharmonia's second violin, now serves as concertmaster for Orchestra Toronto.

In a letter to the Musicians' Association, Miller states the departures have crippled the orchestra:

"Now there is no full-time concertmaster or principal second. The violin section has no consistent leadership, the audience is confused by different people appearing on stage to take the concertmaster's bow and the strings are somewhat dispirited and ragged. There is no consistent principal oboist to lead the wind section and with little rehearsal time, the winds cannot develop as an ensemble."

Thirty-eight musicians are under contract for the current season, though the orchestra can expand as required, Stratton said.

In interviews with *The CJN*, Miller, Lasker and Trubashnik stated the orchestra had taken a major step backward and sorely misses the professional, high-level playing the departed musicians contributed.

But Chusid rejects those suggestions. In fact, he said, "what we've been doing in the last two years is to upgrade the orchestra considerably. To speak of the orchestra being downgraded is just plain wrong."

Chusid pointed out the orchestra continues to perform difficult pieces like Beethoven's 9th Symphony to tremendous popular acclaim and sold out audiences.

Chusid dismissed the musicians' complaints and denied suggestions there was anything amiss in their departure. "In the music world, these are the kinds of things that happen. One artist doesn't think it's as good as it can be."

In any organization, he said, "there is always somebody who thinks someone has it in for them."

Musicians, he continued, "have artistic temperaments and the conductor is the same sort of person. Such people have deep feelings. You can't order them around like people in an office. You have to give them some leeway."

Bill Skolnik, executive-director of the Toronto Musicians' Association, would not comment on the musicians' complaints, saying such matters are confidential.

However, he said the association is a self-governing body and its members, which include all members of the Philharmonia, have agreed to abide by its code of ethics and to resolve their disputes through a mechanism set out in the association's by-laws. The association attempts to employ conciliation to resolve disputes though there are provisions for arbitration as well as an appeals process.

Miller, who resigned in mid summer, said he made his decision to leave when he saw a host of talented musicians either leave or be pushed out of the orchestra.

"These are the ones with the high professional credentials. These were the ones responsible for me quitting the orchestra. Those were my friends and colleagues. Those were the ones who helped attain high quality and made it fun to be there."

Trubashnik said that late in the concert season in 2000, he became concerned that only two days of rehearsal time had been set aside prior to a concert, the first public performance in 40 days. "I told him (Stratton)...the orchestra plays bad and we [did not] improve... I told him we need more rehearsals."

Trubashnik recalls Stratton telling him to bring his suggestions for changes to him at the start of the fall concert season. When he did so, he was stunned to learn that Stratton had decided to fire him.

Arts & Travel

Yiddishist Nathan Garnick loves being on stage

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Nathan Garnick loves to be on the stage. He makes people laugh, sing, and as a director, he turns them into performers.

A regular at the Yiddishland Cafe, Garnick, 82, recently presented a production of Shalom Aleichem's *Stories of the Wise Men of Chelm* in Yiddish and English.

Garnick has given numerous presentations from the Yiddish classics and contemporary authors. His ability to present a Yiddish work and blend it with English has endeared him to audiences throughout the country and beyond.

His love of acting and singing, he says, goes back to when he was a child. "Every teacher I had wanted to put me on the stage. My parents hated it because they had a low regard for actors."

Garnick said they told him that he was going to grow up to be a bum. "They had a feeling that actors do not live good family lives. They said they were womanizers."

He realized that he didn't have the temperament to be a career actor, so he attended the Central High School of Commerce. "I wanted to make a good living, have children and live a stable family life, which I achieved," said Garnick, who operated his own retail furniture business.

As a part-time student later in life, he studied psychology, philosophy, literature and the art of short story telling at the University of Toronto and took Yiddish classics in translation at York University.

"I am now retired, but by no means idle," he says.

Looking back, he says that unlike other men who have mid-life crises, he studied drama with Dora Mavor Moore, who taught him about therapeutic recreational theatre, which is community rather than commercial theatre.

With gratitude, he says that "[Moore] directed me to the Yiddish literacy theatre."

For more than half a century, Garnick has worked both as a solo performer and with groups.

"Working with amateur groups makes me happy, because I know that the performers are also fulfilling and enriching their lives. But above all, I like to perform because I feel the warmth of an audience."

Yiddish still has great power, he says.

"You can say things in Yiddish that you can't translate into any other language. You can't find an equivalent for *'naches fun der kinder'* or *'ick forgin dir nit.'*"

"Try it!" he challenges.

"I know my parents meant well in trying to eradicate this inborn desire and talent and I'm delighted that they didn't fully succeed.

"When I perform, people have some good laughs, which we all need today."

Garnick, who spends six months a year in Florida, where he also performs and directs groups, is working on making some of his solo scripts into playletts, "so I can work with aspiring actors."

Over the years, he has produced plays for Mount Sinai Hospital, Beth Tzedec Congregation, Skylight Theatre in Earl Bales Park and Leah Posluns Theatre, and he is the founding director of the Heritage Players at the Wagman Centre.

His long list of parody presentations include *Mame Loshen, Amerika Gonef, Bintl Brif, The Joys of Parenthood, Food My Mother Fed Me* and *Laughter is Wealthy.*

Garnick said that, once after one of his Shalom Aleichem programs, a man with eyes red from crying came to him and said, " 'I haven't heard Yiddish spoken like this since I laid my parents to rest. My youth at home all flooded back.'

"This is my reward," he says.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

BOOKER PRIZE BROUHAHA BRINGS BRAZILIAN NOVELIST BELATEDLY INTO SPOTLIGHT

Both the *London Jewish Chronicle* and the New York-based English-language *Forward* devoted feature articles this month to Montreal author **Yann Martel's** triumphant win of Britain's prestigious Man Booker Prize for his novel, *Life of Pi*.

Martel's fanciful tale focuses on an Indian boy who, after a shipwreck, shares a lifeboat with a tiger. What especially interested the *Chronicle* and the *Forward* was Brazilian Jewish writer **Moacyr Scliar's** strident claim that Martel borrowed the plot from his own novel, *Max and the Cats*, which was published 20 years ago.

In an author's note in *Life of Pi*, Martel admitted reading a review of Scliar's novel but not the novel itself. Scliar had initially hinted at legal action but has apparently come to recognize the supreme compliment that Martel has paid him. (Truth be told, Scliar didn't exactly invent the plot either, since one version or another has been floating around since the days of Noah and the ark.)

Martel's British publisher told the *Chronicle* that Scliar had become very magnanimous about the matter and had promised to read *Life of Pi* before making any judgments. He is apparently not suffering a bit from the renewed attention being paid to his work because of the controversy. Indeed, the *Forward* used the occasion to spotlight Scliar's apparently significant contributions to Jewish letters.

Born in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in 1937, Scliar grew up with a strong Jewish identity and wrote a series of novels, including the popular and highly acclaimed *Centaur in the Garden* (1980), which focuses on the "perplexity of being Jewish in Latin America." According to *Forward* reviewer **Ilan Stavans**, *Centaur in the Garden* has inspired lofty comparisons with authors such as **Franz Kafka**, **Philip Roth**, **Mordecai Richler** and **John Updike**. The Martel-Scliar literary bout will have served a noble purpose, Stavans concluded, if it leads new readers to Scliar's door.

A new English translation of *Centaur in the Garden* is due for publication in the United States next spring.

* * *

Pirouetting to Fame: Thornhill teenager **Sarah Clark**, a student of the Koffler Centre's Academy of Ballet and Jazz, has been signed to perform in the Bolshoi Ballet's production of **Mozart's** *The Magic Flute*. Clark, who won out over thousands of others, is a perfect cover-girl for the Koffler Centre, having also appeared on the May cover of *Dancer* magazine. For information about the Academy, phone 416-636-1880, ext. 258.

* * *

Literary *Machlokhet* (Dispute) No. 2: Britain's **Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks** has revised his new book, *The Dignity of Difference*, after some Orthodox rabbis in Britain and Israel complained that several passages were "heretical." Expunged from future editions will be the references to faiths other than Judaism that sparked the controversy.

* * *

At the Galleries

• Toronto artist **Claire Weissman Wilks**, whose works have graced public buildings in Mexico, exhibits selected monotypes. Prince Arthur Fine Arts Gallery. Until Nov. 30. 416-944-2671.

• Works by photographers **Karen Schreiber** and **Steven Toth** are showcased in Beauty Beyond the Limits of Experience. Burlington Art Centre, 1333 Lakeshore Rd. at Brock, Burlington, Ont. Dec. 1 to Feb. 10, 2003. 905-632-7796.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• A combination Chanukah party and book launch for *Queer Jews*, an anthology with contributions by **Joanne Cohen** and **Oscar Wolfman**, takes place at Glad Day Bookshop, Nov. 30.

• The Chrylark Arts and Music presents the **Duke Trio** – violinist **Mark Fewer**, cellist **Thomas Wiebe**, pianist **Peter Longworth** – performing works by the late **Srul Irving Glick** and other composers. Heliconian Hall, 35 Hazelton Ave. $15. Dec. 1, 3 p.m.

Modigliani's Servant Girl.

• The Millennium Youth Orchestra, conducted by **Gabriel Friedman**, performs seasonal, classical and holiday songs with guest pianists **Ori Friedman** and **Konrad Harley**. Adults $17. Vaughan City Playhouse, 1000 New Westminster Dr., Vaughan. Saturday, Dec. 7, 8 p.m. 905-709-4057.

• The Civic Light Opera Co. brings back its original musical version of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, by **L. Frank Baum**, featuring the score by **James P. Doyle** that predates MGM's 1939 film classic. Fairview Library Theatre. Adults $17.50, Thursdays $12.50. Dec. 12 to 22. 416-469-8450.

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Out of Town

•A major exhibition of works by Italian-Jewish master **Amedeo Modigliani** (1884-1920), who became a major figure of the Parisian avant-garde, is on view at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery in Buffalo, N.Y., through Jan. 12, 2003. Web site, www.WholsModi.com.

• The exhibit Einstein, the "most comprehensive presentation ever mounted on the life and theories" of the discoverer of the theory of relativity, opened this month at the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan. The exhibition features many personal and scientific papers, some never public exhibited before. Co-sponsors are the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and the Skirball Cultural Centre of Los Angeles. Until Aug. 10, 2003.

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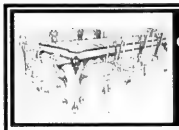
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380 CLOTHING
382 COUNSELLING
385 COMPUTER
386 DANCING
387 DECORATING
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394 EDUCATION
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396 ELECTRONICS
400 ENTERTAINMENT
404 FITNESS & WEIGHT LOSS
405 FURNITURE
406 GARAGE DOORS
407 GIFT SERVICES
410 HEALTH & BEAUTY
412 HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING
415 HOME IMPROVEMENTS
416 HOME INSPECTION
419 INTERNET SERVICE
420 INVITATIONS/PRINTING/CALLIG.
425 JEWELLERY
427 JUDAICA
430 LEASING
431 LANDSCAPING/LAWNCARE
432 LAWYERS
433 LESSONS
434 LIMOUSINE/TAXI SERVICES
435 LIQUIDATION
438 LOCKSMITH
439 MAKE-UP
440 MISCELLANEOUS
442 MUSICAL SERVICES
445 MOVING
449 PEST CONTROL
450 PAINTING/WALLPAPERING
452 PARTY SERVICES
455 PHOTOGRAPHY/VIDEO
460 PLUMBING
465 PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
470 RENOVATIONS
472 RETIREMENT HOMES
475 ROOFING
476 SATELLITE & EQUIPMENT
477 SECOND HAND STORES
478 SCHOOLS
480 SECURITY SYSTEMS
481 SEWING
482 SIGNS
485 SNOW REMOVAL
490 TABLE COVERING
493 TAILORING/ALTERATIONS
495 TILING
496 TRAINING
498 TRAVEL & TOURISM
500 TUTORING
510 UPHOLSTERY
515 WATERPROOFING
520 WINDOW COVERINGS
525 WINDOW REPLACEMENT
530 WINDOW CLEANING
550 WORKSHOPS

Appointment

Forest Hill
REAL ESTATE INC • REALTOR

Les Aaron
Sales Representative
Forest Hill Real Estate Inc.
(Central)
1688 Avenue Road, Toronto
(Just South of Fairlawn)
416-785-1500

David G. Moon, CRB - Managing Partner of Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. is pleased to welcome Les Aaron to the growing team of the company's third office located in the heart of the Avenue Road & Lawrence Avenue community.

Les brings a substantial amount of real estate experience and knowledge to the company that will assist the company in achieving its goal of providing the finest in real estate brokerage service.

Service at it's finest, always!

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STEVEN GREEN
Sales Representative
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Happy Chanukah to all my clients, relatives & friends.
Wishing all of you a very happy & healthy holiday and a year filled with much mazel & naches.
FROM MY FAMILY TO YOURS

REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

HARVEY KALLES
• REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR •

BRIDLE PATH/GLENORCHY $1,329,000
Connoisseur's choice for those who appreciate perfection plus timeless traditional elegance w/updated kitchen & baths. Private south lot with perennial gardens. Cheryl Graff* 416-441-3778

BATHURST/HEATH ST. CONDO
$459,000. 2 bdrm + sol. SW exposure, filled with sunshine, upgraded w/eat-in kit, open living/dining rm, shutters, built-in closets, 1 parking & 2nd available. Cheryl Graff* 416-441-3778

5 BDRM HOME BAYVIEW/YORK MILLS!
$699,900. Wonderful warm and inviting with white eat-in kitchen, cozy fam rm, hdwd flrs and large master bdrm w/ dressing area. Ferne Sherkin-Langer* & Cheryl Graff* Ext. 307

MAGNIFICENT 75' X 150' LOT
549K. 2 stry 5 bdrm + mn flr fam rm, office, lndry rm, powder rm, walk-out from breakfast & fam rm, fin'd lower level, deck and above ground pool. P. Godfrey & K. Rosenberg Ext. 236

*Sales Representative **Associate Broker

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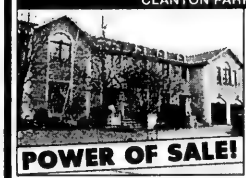
A JOYOUS CHANUKAH חנוכה שמח

CLANTON PARK AREA



Custom built exec. home, gorgeous stone exterior, 5 + 1 bdrms., 6 baths, main floor fam. room, library & laundry room, circular oak staircase, large principal rooms. Needs TLC. Only $699,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — NEW LISTING!
Renovated & decorated! 3 + 1 bedroom bungalow on 45 x 120 ft. lot, gleaming hardwood floors, new ceramic floors, late-model kitchen & baths, sep. entry to in-law suite. Shows beautifully! All this in a prime location, only $385,000. **ACT FAST — WON'T LAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / GLENCAIRN — NEW LISTING!
Detached bungalow on 46 x 134+/- lot, prime central location surrounded by million $ homes. SOLD 9,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

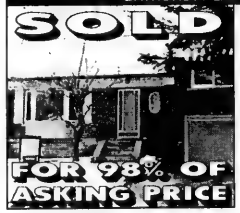
* * *

AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE — RENOVATED & DECORATED!
2 storey home, 3 + 1 bedrooms, fin. basement, modern kitchen, breakfast area / walk-out to garden. **EXCELLENT VALUE — ONLY $399,000. ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / LAWRENCE 6-PLEX
Prime central location close to TTC, shops ++. Call for details! Asking $949,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE



RENOVATED & DECORATED! Charming 3 bdrm. home in prime central location, gleaming hardwood floors, bay window, faces Prince Charles Park, finished basement. **ACT FAST — WON'T LAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

SOLD

AVENUE ROAD / LAWRENCE
Prestigious Otter Crescent, building lot for sale. Build your dream home on this magnificent 3/4 acre property. Country-like setting surrounded by multi-million dollar homes. $1,999,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / WILSON — NEWLY RENOVATED!
Store with 3 bdrm. apartment above, fabulous exposure on high-traffic Wilson Ave., **REDUCED TO $309,900.** Call Richard Cash or Esther Rubenstein, Sales Representatives (416) 787-1712.

* * *

BATHURST / LAWRENCE
Very spacious California-style ranch bungalow, approx. 2700 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, family room, ultramodern kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors, new roof & windows, $499,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

*BROKER

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416-488-2875 Forest Hill Village Office
416-785-1500 Central Office
416-226-1987 Bayview Office

List with us and appear on our Website: www.foresthill.com

Forest Hill Real Estate Inc. wishes their clients and friends a healthy, happy and festive Chanukah

CENTRAL PROPERTIES

EXPANSIVE FAMILY HOME ALEXANDRA WD
Fabulous 6+1 bedroom, 5 bath, huge living room/dining room with soaring ceiling. 5 car parking. Saul Merrick* 416-488-2875

NEW PRICE FABULOUS 50 X 135' LOT
Prime location, 4 bedroom, centre hall, gracious home ready as is, renovate/build. Marilyn Merrick* 416-488-2875

96B ELLERSLIE AVE! NEW 3 STOREY TOWNHOME!
$519K! Off Beecroft! Luxury 3 bdrm, 3 bath! 2 car prkg! Fab cul-de-sac. Facing park! 10+ Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

48 FARRELL AVE! 5+2 BDRM, 5 BATH! $689K!
Bathurst N/Sheppard! Main fam+lib+2 pce! W/o basement! Fab 50 x 131'! Vendor says sell! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1ST AD! 70 HADDINGTON AVE! $619K
Cricket Club! Incredible Cape Cod 4+1 bdrm, 3 bath! Mn fam! Nanny ste! Fab curb appeal! Sandon Schwartzben**416-226-1987

1059 SPADINA ROAD! 3+1 BDRM, 2 BATH!
$539K! N/Eglinton! 2 storey reno! Nanny ste! Fab 25 x 131'! Across from park! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

3 CALDERON CRES! YONGE/N. FINCH!
$314,900! Spacious 1.5 storey, 3+2 bdrm, 3 bath! Nanny ste! Fab 61 x 125'! Walk to subway! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

135 ANTIBES DRIVE! 2 BDRM, 2 BATH! SOLD
$209K! Bathurst/N/Finch! H[illegible]floor! Panoramic skyline views! Move right in! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

FANTASTIC FOREST HILL CONDO $399,000
Approximately 1,300 sq. ft., 2 bedroom, 2 baths, walk to Village. Great Value. K. Bordo* 416-488-2875

BUSINESS PROPERTIES

2811 BATHURST ST! FAB STORE FRONT!
$199K! Not to be missed! Front and rear entries! Private parking! Impeccable condo! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

**Associate Broker * Sales Representative

Larry, Darlene, Lynsey and Tarah Wronzberg

ALAN NEWTON

From my Family to your Family.
Wishing all my clients, friends and family a very Happy Chanukah!
Thank you for your support throughout the year!

חג שמח

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

HARVEY KALLES
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR

Best wishes for a Happy Chanukah to all our clients and friends

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Mollie Rothman

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ALLAN KROCH & BEVERLEY WISE
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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

SEIDMAN
REAL ESTATE LIMITED REALTOR
416-633-7373

SHEPPARD AVE. WEST
2 bungalows, 100' by 143' lot, 3 bedroom, 2 baths, great development location, Don't Miss!

WILSON BATHURST
2 storey, 3 bdrm, den, living & dining room combined, finished basement, garage, Steps to All!

416-633-7373

10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Thornhill, beautiful 4+1 bed., appr. 2800 sq. ft., fin. bsmnt., many upgrades, fab. loc, walk to schools/shuls. MUST SEE! Closing Apr. 2/03. No agents! $489,900. 905-764-1648.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

North York, lux. 3 bdrm. 2½ bath., townhouse, fully equip. kitchen, indoor garage. Avail. immed. $2200/mo utils. included. 416-665-2437.

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

CONDOS BELOW MARKET VALUE!!

90 FISHERVILLE RD.
Bathurst/Steeles - 1400 s.f., 2 bdrm., 2 pkg spots. Very seldom is a condo available in this bldg!! Only $219,900.

131 TORRESDALE AVE.
Bathurst/Antibes - 1600 sf. a spectacular corner unit. Largest in bldg!! Only $299,000.

3555 BATHURST ST.
Across from Baycrest - 1200 sf, 2 bdrm, gorgeous east treed view. Quiet side of bldg. Two huge balconies. Only $169,000.

155 MARLEE AVE.
Glencairn west subway 5 minute walk - 2 & 3 bdrm spacious units. East view, shabbat elevator, gorgeous indoor pool. From $194,900.

2 COVINGTON RD.
Bathurst/Lawrence - Luxurious 2 bdrm corner penthouse. 1120 sf. Best view. Only $310,000.

100 ANTIBES DR.
Bathurst N. of Finch - 3 bdrm, approx 1350 sf corner unit. Lovely view. Only $224,900.

Happy Chanukah!

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TOP TEN AGENT AT SUTTON GROUP TOWER

Bayview/Sheppard
Agreement of purchase & sale (New York), 2 bedroom + 2 bath. Corner unit, high floor, 1 parking and locker. Please call...
Billha Daniel, Sales Rep.
Re/Max Realtron Rlty., Inc.
905-764-6000

Bathurst/S. of Steeles
$225,000 - 1,840 S.F.
Come see this corner unit ...perfect for entertaining with large family room, 2 bdrms., 2 full baths, pantry, floor to ceiling windows, prkg., locker. Please call...
Terry Haas, Sales Rep.
Sutton Bayview
416-483-8000

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

80 Antibes, 2 bdrm. + sunroom, east exposure, avail. immediately. 416-638-0647.

Yonge/Finch
New 1 bedroom + balcony + locker. Asking $1,250/mo. Please call...
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40 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE/RENT

Buying a condo or home in North York? Condos/Homes for Rent $1500+. My proven formula for success in real estate. Buy low! Refinance! Renovate (we'll help)! Lease or move in! Sell High! Call Avi Rosen, 40 yrs. exp. Hebrew spoken, Century 21 Heritage Group Ltd. 905-764-7111.

60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

Bathurst/Lawrence, 3 bed 3 bth condo, 1650 sq. ft. no allerg. to cat. non-smkr. 416-894-2355.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Eldorado, 2500 Bathurst, lux. apts., large suites, reno'd., immed. 416-787-9451.

Bathurst Manor, furn. bsmnt 1 bed., a/c, separate entr. walk to shuls, TTC, smoke & pet free. 416-633-5994.

Downtown, close to University, 2 bdrm. Avail. Jan. 1/03, $1600 mo + hydro. 416-479-7342

Bathurst/St. Clair, Lrg. bsmnt apt., 1 bed., newly reno'd., sep entr., utils. incl., nr. TTC. No smokrs/pets. 416-658-6998.

Bathurst/Steeles, near Bnei Torah, top-3 bdrm, $1300+, new bsmnt, 2 rm. $800+, or full house $2000. 905-771-9406

BATHURST BRIAR HILL
Bachelor & 1 Bdrm. Available immediately in quiet, mature building Close to shops, TTC. From $895/mo.
416-787-5317

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr.
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Bathurst/Cedarcroft, room in apartment. Non-smoker, kosher. 416-665-9967.

123 TIME SHARE FOR RENT

Pto. Vallarta, Krystal Resort. 1 br., 2 bths., living/dining, partial kitch. 905-889-9045 evng.

125 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE

Vacation Living in Florida (Kissimmee) - Brand new 3 bdrm. + 2 baths TH condo. U.S. $127,900. Please call...
Billha Daniel, Sales Rep.
Re/Max Realtron Rlty., Inc.
905-764-6000

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

MIAMI BEACH OCEANFRONT. beautiful brand new, furnished studios, fullly equipped, luxury bldg., pool, spa, tennis, kosher restaurant, Shabbos elevator. $500/wk US. 305-895-3000.

AVENTURA, 2 bdrms., 2 bth. condo., in lux. bldg. Fully equip., 3 mo. min., no children please. Call 305-466-2498.

Hallandale, furn'd. 1 bed. on beach beside new Diplomat Hotel. Oceanview w/balcony. Well decorated. Avail. now by mo. or season. 416-421-1818.

Miami Beach, Triton Tower
Collins Ave. & 29th St., ocean front, heated pool, on boardwalk. Apts. starting US $1,300/mo., utilities included. Min. 3 months. Contact...
TRG Realty 305-531-8628

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

North Miami Beach, Arlen House East and Coastal Towers in beautiful Sunny Isles Beach. 1 bdrm-convertible-2 bdrm completely furnished apts. Bill Kelleher 305-940-6911, 786-486-7328.

Hollywood Beach, Florida, 2 rooms, 2 bths, fully equipped timeshare Feb. 1-Feb. 15. 416-739-6401.

The Ultimate Vacation, lux. villa, huge 3/3. Home theatre, golf, gym, tennis, playgrds., ideal for family/2 couples. Wk/mo./Xmas. 416-445-6200.

Boca Raton, beautiful 2 bdrm., 2 bth. fully furn. condo. overlooking golf course, scrnd. balc., pool, pkg., n/smkr., 1½ miles from ocean. Seas. Avail. Jan. 7/03, min. 3 mos., $1600/mo US. Call 905-508-0919.

West Palm Bch., Century Village 55+ 1 br. 1½ bths. newly reno. $975/mo US. 416-667-8247.

Surfside/Miami Beach, ocean-front, 2 bed., 2 bath., newly reno'd. & furn'd., pool, walk to Bal Harbour shops. Feb. 15th to March 1st. $2200 US. 905-830-9000.

Palm Aire, 1 bed., furn'd., prkng., golf course view, 3 mos. minimum. 416-633-5830.

Lake Worth, Palm Beach. Villa, golf course view, 2 bed + 3rd bed. convert., den. Large! Jan. 3 mo. min. 416-782-9227.

C.V. West, Boca Raton, 1 bdr., 1 bth., mn. flr., safe/clean, fully furn. & equip. 905-625-3189.

Delray Beach, beautiful villa, 2 bed., 2 bth., screened porch, 3 pools, million $ club, furn. $1400/mo US. 905-886-6558.

Hollywood Beachfront. Efficiency unit on oceanwalk. Long or short-term. 416-992-8995.

West Palm Beach, Lands of the Pres. 1½ bed., 2 bth., 3 mos. min. 905-475-3667, ext. 234.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

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150 FLORIDA TRANSPORTATION

Fla. east coast, ride avail. w/prof. taxi driver. Dec. 25, $200/per., 1 way, up to 4 per., 905-886-5099.

155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE

In the heart of Eilat, 2 bed. 2 bath., condo. Avail. immed. Call Dalia, 416-250-5780.

160 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR RENT

2 bdrm. furn. apt. in the heart of Netanya. Wkly or Mnthly. 416-787-2818 for more info.

Ra'anana, 4 bed. house, furn. kosher, newly reno'd. 10 mins. from beach. Weekly/monthly. For info call 416-783-3861.

190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE

PALM SPRINGS
VACATION RENTALS
We have 1-2-3 bedroom condos. Nicely furnished in super locations. From $1250 - $4500 per mo.
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198 SPACE FOR LEASE/RENT

Rooms for rent in the Beth Torah Synagogue. Duff./Lawr. area, immed. 416-782-4495.

220 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

883 16th Avenue at Bayview
• Asking $2.38 million
• Fully Leased • 10% Return
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264 SOCIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

CARTER, Bryce & Tamara (nee Kerner) are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, ***MIKAYLA AVIVA***. Born Nov. 13th, 2002 at 8 a.m. at Oakville Trafalgar Hospital. Big brother Ethan (Dec. 30/01-Jan. 12/02) would have loved to meet his baby sister and will be watching over her. Proud grandparents, Mel & Phyllis Kerner, Lynn Hoiden & Gage Love; great-grandmother, Regina Krengel; ecstatic aunts and uncles, Dena & Geoff Silverber and Sean & Annette Kerner.

Linda and Les Lauer and **Carol and Mel Goldman** are pleased to announce the engagement of their children **MARLENE and JORDAN**. Thrilled grandparents are Norman Speevak, Ada Speevak, Florence Moss and Jack and Marilyn Goldman.

273 INTRODUCTION SERVICES

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275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS

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Suite 205
North York, Ont.
M3B 3K4
Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.
CJN Box #'s are valid for 30 days.

Gentleman, 70+, single needs slim, kosher, balabusta wanting long term relationship, CJN Box #4552.

275 PERSONAL COMPANIONS

THE BACHELORETTE. Very attractive, prof. Jewish female, 35, fit, blonde hair, captivating green eyes, loves travel, dining, comedy, family. Looking for an attractive, fit, prof. male 35-45 who is outgoing, family oriented, down to earth. If you would normally not answer a personal ad then answer this one. Just think of the great stories we can tell our grandchildren about how we met! E-mail response AND photo to **sprintq@hotmail.com** or write to CJN Box #4550.

A classy, beautiful, witty, intelligent, shapely woman in her early 50s, seeks a non-smoking, affluent and generous gentleman for a mutual fulfilling relationship. 416-969-2626.

Female, late 50s, fun loving, enjoys travel, music, dancing & outdoors, very romantic & has a positive outlook on life. Seeks complimentary man for long lasting romantic relationship. Lives in New England. Mail to: P.O. Box 719, Hampton Falls, New Hampshire, USA 03844-0719, photo appreciated.

THE PSYCHIC BUBBY
My intuition & your astrology sign are all I need to find your soulmate. Write me bissel about yourself, your horoscope sign, who you are looking & the rest is destiny. CJN Box #4553.

330 OBITUARIES

REISS, Lilly – on Nov. 10, 2002, late of 36 Fairleigh Cres.
BALILTY, Rachel – on Nov. 10, 2002.
POMERANTZ, Lyusya – on Nov. 8, 2002.
SZYFMAN, Abram – on Nov. 11, 2002, late of 38 Laurelcrest Ave.
BUKOWIECKI, Michael – on Nov. 11, 2002.
DUBCZANSKI, Hersch – on Nov. 11, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
MITNIK, Simon – on Nov. 10, 2002, late of 18 Theobalds Circle.
ROTH, Toby – on Nov. 11, 2002.
EISEN, Edward – on Nov. 11, 2002.

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I'm a man in my 50's w/ blue eyes, dark brown hair, who would like to meet a woman, also in her 50's. She should enjoy travel, museums, the arts & musical theatre. Looking for someone who can share lots of laughs w/ a good sense of humour. Home cooked meals would be a definite bonus. **AD#1234**

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LET'S GET TOGETHER
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Assembly panel dissects anti-Semitism in Canada

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

PHILADELPHIA — McGill University historian Gil Troy said he resented having to talk about anti-Semitism in Canada at last week's United Jewish Communities General Assembly.

"I hate the topic. I resent that 50 years after the Holocaust, that topic is back on the table."

Troy was part of a panel discussion at the three-day conference that also included Canadian Jewish Congress President Keith Landy and *National Post* columnist Robert Fulford.

Troy called himself a "Daniel Pearl Jew," referring to the *Wall Street Journal* reporter who was kidnapped and murdered earlier this year in Pakistan shortly after being forced to admit to his Jewish identity on videotape.

"I can understand that he wandered down that alley because he was told he could be what he wanted to be. He was supposed to be quadruply protected.

"He was an American, he was a graduate of Stanford University, he was a journalist and he worked for the *Wall Street Journal*. Those things were supposed to be his shield," said Troy.

Talking about the recent violent protest at Concordia University that forced the cancellation of a speech by Benjamin Netanyahu, now Israel's foreign minister, Troy said that he was disturbed by his colleagues' silence.

"I expected my non-Jewish colleagues to say that the riot was unacceptable. I expected some kind of statement that [did not originate] with the Jewish community."

He said Concordia's campus moratorium against Mideast related events and advocacy, which was lifted last week by Concordia's board of governors, was a "colossal error that offended free speech. Sometimes you buy peace at the cost of your soul.

"It is a stunning educational failure to have a campus in which students are afraid to express their ethnic backgrounds."

It is unacceptable to be afraid to talk about an issue, Troy said. "We must mobilize students who are not involved. We must take back the campus."

A Concordia student who was involved in planning Netanyahu's speech at the university told the panel that Concordia students clearly do not face terrorism as Israelis do, but they do face it in a different way.

"Our detractors and detractors of Israel seek to terrorize Jewish students. They do not blow us up or physically harm us, but they do try to instill terror in our hearts and minds," he said.

"We planned the event because we refused to succumb to this terrorism. Jewish students do have rights," he added.

Troy said anti-Semitism is a broad and blunt instrument. "There is violent anti-Semitism, there is vulgar anti-Semitism, and there is genteel and elegant anti-Semitism."

It is the latter type of anti-Semitism that we need to focus on, he said. "It usually starts with discomfort, and then it builds quickly."

He said Jews must ask why people hate Israel instead of just disagreeing with its policies. "Why, of all nationalisms, is Zionism singled out?

"Underlying Zionaphobia is 'this thing about Jews.' It comes back again and again to haunt us. We see no other country battered like that."

He is disappointed in Canadian leaders, he said. "I did not hear any support after the Concordia riot.

"Instead of telling our leaders that they must do more, we just increase our security budget and go quietly away."

Fulford said that Israel was supposed to be a safeguard for the Jews, but it has turned into a new way to attack Jews.

"Anti-Semitism changes its shape and context, and it moves, in our case from right to left. The left has taken over the pro-Palestinian cause. It has developed a tremendous affection for victims, and it has decided that the Palestinians are the victims.

"If they look seriously at all their reasons for being pro-Palestinian, they would realize they could transfer those reasons to about 30 or 40 nations around the world," said Fulford.

The key to fighting anti-Semitism, Landy said, is education. "We have to talk to non-Jews and we have to get involved on campus.

"There are others out there, such as the Hindu and Sikh communities, that we need to engage, and we need to engage our leaders."

Jews must also learn the lesson, he said, that evil words lead to evil deeds. "We must always take anti-Semitism seriously. To prevent it from threatening Canada, we have to keep it out of the mainstream, or push it back to the margins."

Sending in a dupe to disarm Saddam

By PER AHLMARK
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

The United Nations weapons inspections chief and Iraq have agreed on tentative terms for the conducting of weapons inspections, which, in theory, could begin in the very near future. But the success of any such deal depends as much on the men who will carry out the inspections as it does on the details of when, where and how they are carried out.

Opinion

Hans Blix will head the UN arms inspectors charged with searching for, finding and destroying Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction. I have known Blix for more than 40 years. In 1960, he was my deputy when I was a leader of the Swedish Liberal Youth organization. Since then, I have followed his career closely. He became Sweden's foreign minister for a year and then served later as director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, Austria.

Personally, Blix is amiable and has a sense of humour; politically, he is weak and easily fooled. I can think of few European officials less suitable for a showdown with Saddam. Indeed, it is with utter disbelief that I watch television news about Blix's negotiations with the Iraqi dictator's henchmen.

The world has been amply warned about Blix's weaknesses because he has a track record of compounded failure. When Blix headed the IAEA before the Persian Gulf War of 1991, he blithely assured the world, after several inspections, that nothing alarming was happening in Iraq. He delivered the clean bill of health that Saddam had hoped for when he began hiding his atomic factories and nuclear ambitions.

Since then, we have learned all too unambiguously that Saddam is obsessed with procuring weapons of mass destruction – chemical and biological warheads, as well as atomic bombs and the missiles to deliver them.

Former experts of Iraq's nuclear weapons program who have fled Baghdad for the West have confirmed this. They have told us about Iraq's determined and costly efforts to obtain doomsday devices. Indeed, it is now clear that Saddam was but a year away from securing his first atomic bomb when the Gulf War broke out.

After that war, UN inspectors found and destroyed huge amounts of chemical and biological warheads, as well as the facilities to produce nuclear weapons. Despite his grave failings as IAEA chief before 1991, Blix once again came to lead UN disarmament inspectors, this time in tandem with another Swede, Ambassador Rolf Ekeus.

Blix, naive and relatively ignorant about technical details – his field is international law – is easily misled. Even after the Gulf War, he failed to realize that the Iraqi officials, who were again assuring the UN that they were hiding nothing, were nothing but consummate liars. Indeed, Blix believed that Iraq had no program at all for nuclear arms. David Kay, perhaps the most effective arms inspector, insisted that he did not trust them. But Blix reproached Kay for his attitude. You must believe in official information, Blix implied.

The turning point came when Kay initiated inspections of suspect buildings, without notifying the Iraqis about his intentions in advance. This new, aggressive inspection strategy had dramatic consequences: Kay discovered material confirming that Iraq was only 12-18 months away from producing a nuclear device.

This historic discovery ended up in a confrontation at a parking lot in Baghdad. The UN cars were surrounded by 200 Iraqi soldiers and a mob, ordered out to the scene by Iraqi officials. For four days and nights, the siege continued, as Kay and his colleagues used satellite telephones to fax crucial documents to the West.

Blix had opposed the raid. Fortunately, Ekeus backed it and supported the inspectors during the siege. I have met a number of experts on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and they often compare the two Swedes: "Ekeus is brilliant," they say. "Blix is terrible."

When the current UN inspection team was being put together in 1999, both Ekeus and Blix were among the candidates being considered to head the new group of inspectors. Friends of Iraq in Paris and Moscow consulted Baghdad to see which of them Saddam would prefer. France and Russia then suggested Blix. Surprisingly, the Clinton administration accepted that decision.

Saddam's chemical and biological arms, and his determination to get nuclear weapons, are a threat to the world. The dictator could use these arms himself or make them available to terrorist organizations. The issue of war and peace depends on a man repeatedly duped by the Iraqi regime.

The Bush administration probably understands Blix's weaknesses. My guess is that the United States will not allow Blix and the inspectors that he oversees to be deceived by Iraq again. But regardless of how this crisis develops from this point, the UN has neglected its duties by asking a wimp to lead the inspectors who are supposed to stand up to the brute of Baghdad.

Per Ahlmark is a former deputy prime minister of Sweden.

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Youth bowling league is fun for all ages

By NEIL BECKER
Special to The CJN

Bowling is not just for birthday parties – it's a popular sport played regularly by young and old alike.

The fine art of bowling presents an opportunity to laugh with new friends and develop the inner confidence that comes from being part of a team, while getting a healthy dose of exercise at the same time.

Every weekend beginning right after Labour Day, Newtonbrook Bowlerama houses the Youth Bowling League, a casual league that welcomes bowlers of all levels between the ages of 4 and 18.

"During the weeks, they set various individual accomplishments and get to feel part of a team, which really boosts their egos," says league supervisor Robyn Weinberg.

The program is divided by age to ensure bowlers compete against kids with skills at their own level.

Those under eight bowl two games per session in the peewee group.

The youngsters get a helping hand from master bowler Bob Stevens, who is more than willing to pass on his wisdom with the ball.

"He walks around, and for those who want it, he will point out where to stand and the form for throwing the ball," says Weinberg.

The second group consists of those between eight and 10 who play three games. They're the bantams.

These bowlers, along with the peewees, can participate in tournaments regardless of skill level. They are paired with various masters to make the experience positive.

Kids between 10 and 14 fit into the junior category. Last but not least are the seniors, who are between 14 and 18.

During the bowling season, which stretches into either late April or early May, Weinberg keeps all the score sheets, which she uses to determine individual and team handicaps. A handicap can be calculated after only two games.

These handicaps, which tell how well a bowler is playing, help them get a fair shake at tournaments.

"I like to be really loud at tournaments, and I always lose my voice at the end of the day," says 18-year-old Stephen Jones, who averages in the 180s and has been bowling for 15 years.

"My family and friends are always cheering me on and I've met a lot of great people."

As with other sports leagues, the bowling league offers a closing banquet at the end of the season, which includes the presentation of individual awards and trophies.

The older teams receive plaques and the younger divisions get medals. Venues changes from year to year and in past years juniors and seniors have partied at places like Canada's Wonderland and Playdium.

Meanwhile, the younger groups dine out at places like Chuck E. Cheese's and then go to the movies.

The Youth Bowling League welcomes new recruits. For more information, Weinberg can be contacted by e-mail at robynweinberg@sympatico.ca.

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Israeli nationals defeat Macedonia in soccer friendly

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

SKOPJE, Macedonia — Israel's national soccer team registered its fourth consecutive victory with a 3-2 win over Macedonia in a friendly international in Skopje last week, maintaining new coach Avraham Grant's perfect record with Israel.

The win came thanks to Eli Biton's late goal in the fourth minute of injury time after the hosts had pulled even from a 2-0 first half deficit and had hoped to end the match with at least a draw.

Two first-half goals by Michael Zandberg and Avi Nimni gave Israel a 2-0 lead at halftime as Israel dominated with a determined defensive performance. But in the second half it was Macedonia, who held England to a 2-2 draw in Southampton last month, that managed to level the score two minutes before injury time through a goal that looked offside.

Buoyed by the equalizer, the hosts tried to push for the winner, but they were undone by a swift counterattacking move as Nimni put Biton through to grab the winner.

Biton was a late substitute for Kfir Udi, coming on in the 86th minute. He collected the ball on the halfway line and charged forward with four Macedonian defenders giving chase. But Biton kept his calm and fired his shot past substitute keeper Jane Nikoloski to give Israel the dramatic win.

Israel's starting lineup was very different from the one that beat Malta in the Euro 2004 qualifier last month as Grant made seven changes.

Maccabi Petah Tikva's 19-year-old rising star Gal Alberman, who played only 16 times for his club and was a surprising addition to the national team, marked his debut by playing in the heart of midfield. Flu-stricken Adoram Keise was replaced by Yigal Antebi, who played only two minutes in Malta and was also making his first start.

In other developments, Maccabi Haifa announced it will not be allowed to play its next home European clash in Israel. Haifa faces AEK Athens in the third round of the UEFA Cup, playing the first leg on Nov. 28 in Greece, with the return two weeks later, probably in Cyprus.

The Israel Football Association sent an urgent request on behalf of the club to European governing body UEFA, but it knew the chances of the ban being overturned were remote.

Israel has been deemed off limits to visiting teams due to the volatile Mideast security situation.

"UEFA is continuously and constantly monitoring the situation in the Middle East. Hopefully, progress will be made within the next few months in order to allow Israeli teams to again play in front of their home crowd," a UEFA spokesperson said.

Haifa, the first Israeli club to play in the Champions League, hosted its three Champions League group matches at the GSP Stadium in Nicosia, Cyprus. Both Haifa and AEK Athens were eliminated after the first phase, but qualified for the UEFA Cup.

Hapoel Tel Aviv and Maccabi Tel Aviv have also been forced to play their home European ties (games) either in Sofia, Bulgaria or Nicosia.

Despite the apparent disadvantage of conceding home ground, Israeli clubs have a good record at the GSP Stadium in Nicosia, having won there on four occasions and lost only once.

Hapoel Tel Aviv beat AC Milan 1-0 in the UEFA Cup last season and Olympiakos and Manchester United both lost 3-0 to Maccabi Haifa this season. Haifa also recorded a 4-0 win over Belshina Bobruisk of Belarus in the Champions League second qualifying round at the same stadium.

ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

שרה, שרה

"הדוד אנרי נושא אלי עינים מצומצמות: רצחו לכם את רבין." אלה המלים האחרונות בספרה של רונית מטלון (הוצאת עם עובד). במקביל לאסון הלאומי מעצבת הסופרת שני מעגלי התרחשות נוספים: העלילה האישית הישראלית והעלילה האישית הצרפתית. מהקורא נדרשת יכולת ריכוז על מנת לעקוב אחר פיתולי הסיפור; לא תמיד יש אצל רונית מטלון מוקדם ומאוחר. על אף מורכבות זו ובזכות כשרונה המבריק של מטלון אנו יכולים לטוות את המבנה העלילתי האישי ואת האנאלוגיה הלאומית-יהודית.

בסצינת הפתיחה, שרה, גיבורת הספר, מלווה את עופרה (מספרת הסיפור) לשדה התעופה. עופרה בדרכה לצרפת להלווייתו של בן דודה, מישל, שנפטר מאיידס. בקטע הצרפתי נמצאת גם הדודה מרסל המזרחית הנשואה לדוד אנרי האשכנזי, ניצול השואה. הפלג הישראלי מורכב מעופרה (עופרי) המזרחית, אמה, שרה האשכנזיה, השמאלנית, אחי בעלה של שרה, מימס, בנם, ומרוואן, המאהב הערבי של שרה.

כל הזהויות ברומן בלתי יציבות ושבריריות. המשפחה הישראלית מייצגת את הישות התל-אביבית. המשפחה הצרפתית היא נציגת יהדות הגולה. דואליזם דומה מאפיין את רוב הסיטואציות בסיפור וכל הסיטואציות השונות מתעדות דילמות מוסריות.

שתי גיבורות (שרה ועופרה), שתי משפחות (ענייה ועשירה), שתי עדות (אשכנזית ומזרחית), ישראל והגולה. בקוטב האחד השקפת עולמה של אמה של עופרה ש"כל אחד צריך לדעת את מקומו", ובקוטב שמנגד השקפת עולמה המרדנית של שרה שאינה נוהגת לקבל מאומה כמובן מאליו. בלשון וירטואזית, פרי עטה רבת ההשגים של רונית מטלון נרקמת מפה סיפורית סבוכה של מצבי סבל ואלימות. הסבל מהווה את נקודת החיבור בין הפרטי והלאומי. כל מערכות יחסי האהבה בסיפור אף הן בפוטנציה קרקע להתפרצות אלימה בין בעל לאשה או בין אשה למאהב, בין אם לבנה או בין אם לבתה וכן בין שתי החברות שציר הסיפור נע סביבן.

על אף אהבתן הכנה, עופרה לא אחת חשה שמעמדה נחות ממעמדה של שרה בשל הפער הכלכלי-עדתי ובשל הבדלי האופי. שרה בעלת דעות נחרצות ואף פעם אינה מהססת להביע דעותיה ולפעול בהתאם. היא רואה עצמה כדוברת השמאל הפעלתני ובהפגנות מחאה ברצועת עזה (כצלמת בזמן האינתיפאדה) מביעה חמתה על "הרוב הדומם הישראלי" שאינו נאבק בתופעת הכיבוש. אם מתוך עמדה פוליטית ואם מתוך כשלון נשואיה היא מנהלת רומן נואש עם מרואן הערבי. שרה חובבת חתולים, לא מצחצחת שיניים ו"משוגעת לדבר הנכון".

עופרה שונה משרה. עופרה שהיא בעצם הדוברת ברומן מתוך היותה כותבת את הביוגרפיה של שרה, שואפת קודם כל לגיבוש אישיות בפני עצמה; "די עופרה, אמרתי לעצמי, מספיק להיות תולעת לחיות חיים של מישהו אחר. תחיי כבר את החיים שלך....".

שתי חברות וסיפורן שובר הלב. שני סיפורים הנארגים זה בזה על רקע שאלות של זהות פוליטית, לאומית, אתנית, מינית ומוסרית.

שרה, שרה הוא הרומן השני של רונית מטלון. ספרה הראשון, זה עם הפנים אלינו, זכה לביקורות נלחבות.

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Cheese Latkes w/Concord Wine Sauce

1 cup pressed cottage cheese	3/4 cup milk
3 eggs	1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup flour	3/4 cup golden raisins, plumped in apple juice
3 tblsp. sugar	oil for frying

Beat cottage cheese until smooth. Add eggs, flour, sugar, milk and salt. Blend well. Fold in raisins. In large heavy skillet, heat 1/4" oil over medium heat. Spoon cheese mixture by tablespoon into hot oil and fry each latke until golden brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels. Yield: 24 latkes.

Concord Grape Wine Sauce	1/2 cup sugar
1-1/2 cup Concord grape wine	1 tblsp. grated orange zest

In heavy skillet bring wine and sugar to boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Add zest and simmer until sauce is reduced by 1/3. Makes about 1 1/3 cups. Serve hot or cold.

THE CAPLAN FAMILY EXTENDS BEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY & HEALTHY CHANUKAH

SEE OPPOSITE PAGE FOR THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS.

About Food

Dear Norene

Levana Kirschenbaum has delighted New Yorkers with her bakery, restaurant, catering and cooking classes for over 20 years. Now she shares her kosher recipes and kitchen wisdom with cooks all over the world in *Levana's Table, Kosher Cooking for Everyone* (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, $55).

The magnificent colour photos and 150 delectable recipes reflect her Moroccan upbringing, including vegetarian dishes, as well as foods for the Jewish holidays and for entertaining.

"I rarely fry anything else," Levana writes, "but there is no Chanukah without latkes! In my catering career and for my friends and family at home, I have made thousands upon thousands of them and always watch them disappear at an alarming but flattering rate. There is no doubt about it: latkes are a heavenly treat, and once we enter a house where the heavenly fragrance of fried foods wafts through the kitchen, even spartan dieters will sheepishly watch their noble resolution not to each such things turn to dust."

Levana's kitchen wisdom: the oil must be hot, or it will seep into your food, making it inedibly greasy. Don't crowd the pan; it lowers the temperature of the oil. If you must fry in advance, fry until 90 per cent cooked through. Store in a shallow pan in one layer. (You can place the latkes standing upright in the pan like a deck of cards.) Cover tightly. Refrigerate or freeze. Reheat uncovered at 350 for 15 to 20 minutes if latkes were frozen.

LEVANA'S POTATO LATKES

1 medium onion
vegetable oil for frying
1 cup flour
4 eggs
pinch of nutmeg
salt and pepper
8 large Idaho or russet potatoes, peeled
applesauce, yogurt or sour cream for serving

In a food processor fitted with a grating blade, grate onion. Heat 1/4 inch oil in a heavy frying pan until very hot. Meanwhile, in a bowl, combine flour, eggs, onion, nutmeg, salt and pepper to taste and mix thoroughly. Grate potatoes in the food processor or by hand and immediately stir them into the batter. Work very quickly so they do not have time to get discoloured.

Form small patties, about 2 1/2 inches in diameter and lower them into the hot oil, or drop the batter into the oil by heaping tablespoons. Fry until golden, about 3 minutes on each side. Remove latkes and drain them on paper towels. Serve with applesauce, yogurt, or sour cream.

Vegetable Latkes: Substitute a mixture of zucchini, carrots and parsnips (about 3 pounds) for the potatoes. Add seasonings of your choice such as oregano, garlic and basil.

Sweet Potato Latkes: Substitute sweet potatoes for regular potatoes and add brown sugar, cinnamon and ginger to taste.

Norene Gilletz is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeaniYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com.*

The Canadian Jewish news — CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 60.)

Chanukah Cheer

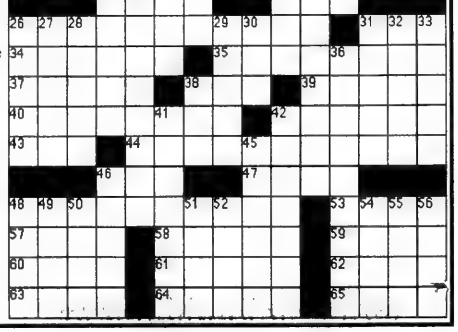
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across

1. Original predecessor
5. Heroic son of 21 across
10. Bubble or hot
14. Fide
15. ____ Eolie, island off Sicilian coast
16. Phobia preceder
17. Norse name
18. _____ women
19. Oft-spoken word, Waiting for Godot
20. Good for babies' bottoms
21. Father of 5 across
23. What "U" follows
25. Sheltered side
26. Farmable soils
31. Rabbi, in Rehovot
34. Sow again
35. Simple computer user . . . advice
37. _____ ahead of the rest
38. Not man,
39. The Shulamite's home turf (var.)
40. Tough, long-lived
42. Home of 21 across
43. Ave.
44. Alms, Syrian-Greek capital
46. Explosive's chemical cousin
47. They rejoiced (Hebrew)
48. Latke recipe may keep it
53. Anyone with this name may be family with 21 across
57. Hebrew name ("I have light")
58. Cell phone leader
59. Abba
60. Melange
61. Gay
62. Gaelic homeland
63. Pilot
64. Captain, in army of 5 across
65. Tennis match parts

Down

1. Help out in a crime
2. She was dumb
3. Dye
4. They redeemed the Temple
5. Opened a door without the keys
6. What some e-mailers do
7. Do's opposite
8. What you purchase for a homesite
9. Announcers, in those days
10. They did it, in the Jordan
11. Monious preceder
12. Horn's blast (var. sp.)
13. Does garden work
22. Examine Roy of McCarthy era?
24. Eleazar slew one in battle
26. North Negev town and namesakes
27. Take a seat again
28. Fall flower
29. Cate preceder
30. Pecan
31. You can listen to Kol Yisrael on one
32. Effort
33. He invented Captain Nemo
36. Prominent party, then
38. What one studies at Bezalel
41. Famed Austin music venue
42. From the land of the Hebrews' predecessors, in Hebrew
45. Baltimore bird
46. South, in Israel
48. First Alka-Seltzer sound
49. First in a lubricant series?
50. Labor
51. Loudness unit
52. As cold, in Hebrew
54. Off-Broadway award
55. Stag
56. Tel-Aviv to Haifa directions



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The Canadian Jewish news

Section B

Happy Chanukah 5763

I'm here!

[Adele Sacks photo]

The young discoverer's proclamation

EDITORIAL

There can be no doubt that the photo above by Adele Sacks captures a sincere, unrehearsed, spontaneous instance of personal excitement and celebration. The word *taglit*, meaning discovery, written boldly in Hebrew and English on her gold scarf, is upside down.

More poignantly, however, the photo also captures an instance of the pure, unabashed, enthusiastic affiliation of this beautifully smiling young woman with Jerusalem.

"I'm here," she proclaims happily, proudly and determinedly to her people from the steps of the Old Jewish Quarter.

"I'm here, a Jew in Jerusalem," she proclaims to a world frequently hostile to Israel and to the Jewish people.

"I'm here, at home, in the only city that has ever been the capital of the Jewish people," she proclaims without equivocation to the enemies of the Jewish people.

On the eve of Chanukah 5763, there could hardly be a more important or a more urgently needed message for us, for the world and for the enemies of the Jewish people, to hear.

What we wrote last year in this space, alas, is still true today. "Israel and Judaism, Israelis and Jews are under siege: a siege that resorts to and revives chilling images of classic, hateful, medieval anti-Semitism."

Thus, our young smiling "discoverer" extending her arms and her soul in wide embrace of Jerusalem is a most timely reminder of our sense of peoplehood and purpose as we approach the Festival of Lights. She, her generation and the generations that will follow are the lights of the eternal Chanukah that will forever illuminate our dark winters.

And as we prepare to light the candles of this year's Chanukah, we hope our readers will reflect on the significance and the timeliness of the young discoverer's multi-directed and multi-messaged proclamation.

We also hope our readers will enjoy the eclectic selection of feature writing that we have assembled in the following pages of the supplement.

Chag Urim Samayach.

Chanukah Food Ideas

See inside

This Chanukah, let us teach our children how to give

By GIL TROY

Jews are preparing to celebrate Chanukah, our festival of lights, during a particularly dark period. The world seems to have gone mad. Islamic extremists declare war on the West, and many, especially in Europe and Canada, deny and dither, afraid to respond too assertively. Palestinians declare a war of terror on Israel, and too many, including Israelis and Jews, are quicker to blame Israel, the victim, rather than the Palestinian perpetrators.

It is precisely during such bleak moments that we are compelled to celebrate. Rejoicing in past victories helps put our current troubles in perspective, reminding us that we have suffered before, and not just survived but thrived. Moreover, with terrorists trying to rob innocents of any joy, and any semblance of a normal life, observing holidays becomes yet another act of defiance, a leap of faith asserting our commitment to stick to the everyday.

Nevertheless, even as we celebrate, it behooves us to reassess the meaning of the holidays and how we observe them. Precisely now, during this time of crisis, we should be rededicating ourselves to Jewish renewal and finding the joy in Judaism, not just the "oy." Such a re-evaluation is particularly necessary in the case of Chanukah, a holiday whose meaning has changed over the years.

While Chanukah's basic plot line has remained unchanged for almost two millennia, the Chanukah we know and love is a 20th-century invention. The central themes we associate with Chanukah, of heroism and power, both physical and spiritual, were Zionist ideas; for centuries, the rabbis dwelled on the miracle of the oil. When the Zionist revolution a century ago re-evaluated Judaism, the Maccabees' story proved that Jewish history was not just about the anti-Semites who hated us and the rabbis who taught us. The Maccabees were home-grown heroes, rooted in Israel's ancient soil, and willing to fight, if necessary, for their homeland, their beliefs, and their freedom. In fact, before World War I, many Jews used Chanukah as an opportunity for giving, not receiving, donating the modern equivalent of the "shekel," the biblical coin, to the Zionist cause.

It is time to rejuvenate the holiday by making it a high point on our tzedakah calendar

At the same time, the other great 20th-century Jewish revolution, the rise of North American Jewry, also transformed Chanukah. As with Passover, the theme of "freedom" resonated, giving the ancient Jewish holiday a contemporary American flavour. But, even more important, the quirk of scheduling, as well as the anthropological linkage to another winter-solstice festival of lights, made for the gift-giving frenzy we see today.

As a delightful holiday of dedication, Chanukah has long been child-centred. Traditionally, Jewish communities used Chanukah to rededicate themselves to their children's Jewish education. In that spirit, parents gave children "gelt," or coins, to sweeten the experience of Torah study.

In the modern world, this festival of gelt-giving and of lights, became the popular Jewish response to Christmas envy, the malady that seized many a Jewish household each December. In fact, with eight nights, and thus eight opportunities for gift-giving, Chanukah became a way for Jews to trump their Christian neighbours.

Tragically, both Chanukah and Christmas have become "festivals of consumption," in historian Daniel Boorstin's apt phrase. A minor sweetener to facilitate Torah study has become the major focus of the holiday, even as this traditionally minor holiday has become a major highlight on the North American Jewish calendar.

This, then, is the year to rededicate Chanukah, and ourselves, to re-orient the holiday. It is time to rejuvenate the holiday by making it a high point on our tzedakah calendar, our schedule of giving, while teaching our children about generosity, not just materialism.

It is not realistic, nor necessary, to declare a gift-giving ban. Most of us, thankfully, do not have to choose between self-indulgence and good works. Moreover, to set up false choices by being too austere defeats the educational purpose behind the gelt-giving. But is it too much to ask for this year, that every family, every school, every Jewish institution, every Chanukah get-together carve out some time to think about others who are less fortunate, others with whom we should share our good fortune? Is it too much to ask that as we teach our children the joy of receiving gifts from loved ones, we also teach them the joy of giving gifts to strangers?

The smallest of gestures can teach this most important of lessons. During the traditional Chanukah grab bag, one additional toy can be thrown into the hopper, and that toy can be designated for a child in need. Similarly, children awash in presents could be asked to give one old toy and one new toy to tzedakah. Relatives from far away who are going to send Chanukah cheques can be encouraged to allocate part of their gift to a charity of the children's choice, or parents and children can agree on a certain percentage of all gifts to be donated. Even more important, acts of loving kindness, good deeds, should be encouraged so we go beyond many Jews' tendency to assume that the only way to help others is materially.

Continued on page B3

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'Let us designate thoughts, prayers, time, talent and money

Continued from page B2

This Chanukah, of all Chanukahs, why not take advantage of the eight nights, the eight candles, to designate our thoughts, our prayers and our gifts of time, talent and money in the following directions:

On the first night of Chanukah, let us dedicate ourselves to the victims of Palestinian terror, hoping to bring a little light into their lives: terrorists have slaughtered nearly 700 people, and maimed thousands. We must adopt families of the victims, embracing them, supporting them, befriending them, sending both love and money. For more information on how your family, school, synagogue or friendship circle, can adopt a family, send a Chanukah toy basket or take any number of initiatives, visit www.walk4israel.com.

On the second night of Chanukah, let us dedicate ourselves to the kidnapped Israelis, honouring their heroism, and that of their families: Since October 2000 the families of Adi Avitan, Binyamin Avraham, Omer Souad and Elchanan Tenenbaum have been caught in a painful purgatory, unsure of what Hezbollah terrorists have done with their loved ones. These four families share a unique bond of anguish with the families of Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz, who have been missing since the 1980s. For more information, including addresses of public officials to whom you should write, visit www.hatufim.com.

On the third night of Chanukah, let us dedicate ourselves to the children of Israel, who deserve to live in freedom, free of fear: Israeli society has proved itself remarkably resilient, but the war, combined with the economic troubles, takes its toll. We must be proactive, not just reactive, and think about how to help improve the quality of Israeli life. One lovely initiative is the Books for Israel Project, an attempt to get new and slightly used English books sent to Israeli schoolchildren to help compensate for budget cutbacks. For more information about this project, including how to set up local chapters, visit http://up.to/b4i.

On the fourth night of Chanukah, let us dedicate ourselves to the institutions of Israel, the well-oiled infrastructure that keeps the society functioning: Even as we champion new initiatives, we need to continue supporting agencies that have laid the foundation for the Jewish state, and help make it thrive. To name only a few, during these difficult times, Hadassah continues to maintain and modernize Israeli medical facilities, the Magen David Adom (the Israeli Red Cross) serves all people in Israel under very trying circumstances and the Jewish National Fund continues renewing and rebuilding the land.

On the fifth night of Chanukah, let us dedicate ourselves to our local Jewish communities, renewing our collective ability to help us renew ourselves and our own Jewish identities: Even while fighting fires abroad, we need to keep our home fires burning, as it were, by supporting our local synagogues, schools, federations and agencies. Let us challenge ourselves by asking not only how much money are we willing to donate, but how much time are we willing to volunteer this coming year.

On the sixth night of Chanukah, let us dedicate ourselves to neighbours in need, bestowing gifts on neighbours who are suffering: Most of us live in cities marked by huge disparities between haves and have-nots. Those of us who have should take the time to help those who have less, both Jews and non-Jews, seeing what we can do to make sure that none of our neighbours go to bed hungry, cold or lonely, and that none of our neighbours are deprived of the joy of this season.

Eight nights, eight new designations

On the seventh night of Chanukah, let us dedicate ourselves to non-Jewish friends and causes, understanding the power of affirming our common humanity, and of helping one another: It is too easy, during these times of Jewish stress, to turn inward. These last two years, we have certainly seen the power of Hillel's teaching, "If I don't care for myself, who am I?" But let us not forget the second part of that phrase: "And if I only care for myself, what am I?" The United Way, Centraide and dozens of other organizations are happy to help us help others.

On the eighth night of Chanukah, let us dedicate ourselves to the power of teaching, of leading our children by example: If every night, we channel our children's charitable impulses, giving a guided tour of the possibilities of giving, on this, the last night of Chanukah, let us ask our children to take the first baby steps in this world of responsibility and great satisfaction, by asking them to pick a charitable deed, a mitzvah for someone else they plan on doing.

The time and resources are limited; the work is great – and overwhelming. Yet our sages teach us that it is not upon us to complete all the work, nor are we free to evade it. No one should feel guilty for failing to carve out a charitable moment on every one of the eight nights, yet no one should feel free to ignore this challenge completely.

For decades now, kids have greeted each other every morning of Chanukah with the question: "What did you get last night?" This year, perhaps, we can also teach our children to ask: "What did you give?"

Gil Troy is professor of history at McGill University and the author of Why I Am A Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today.

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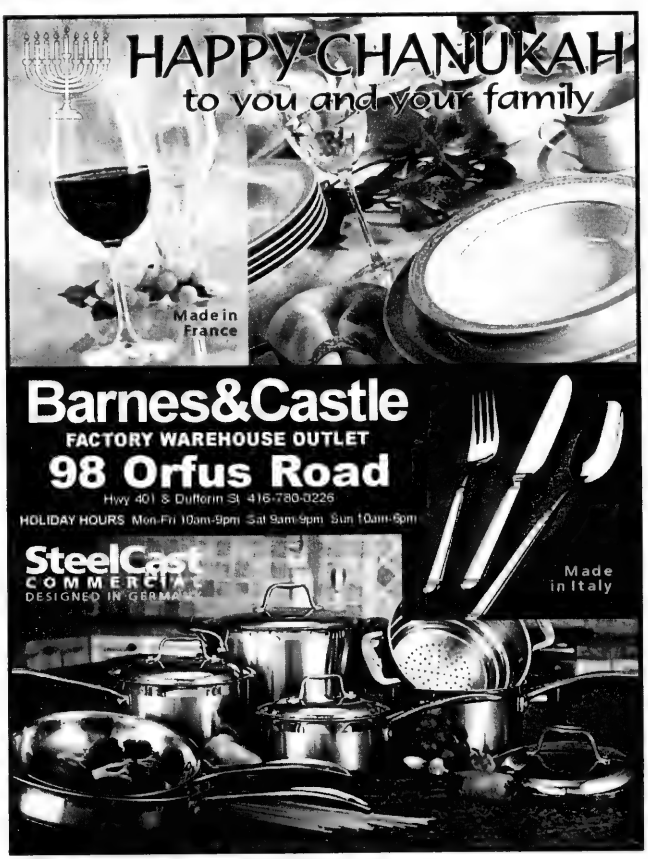
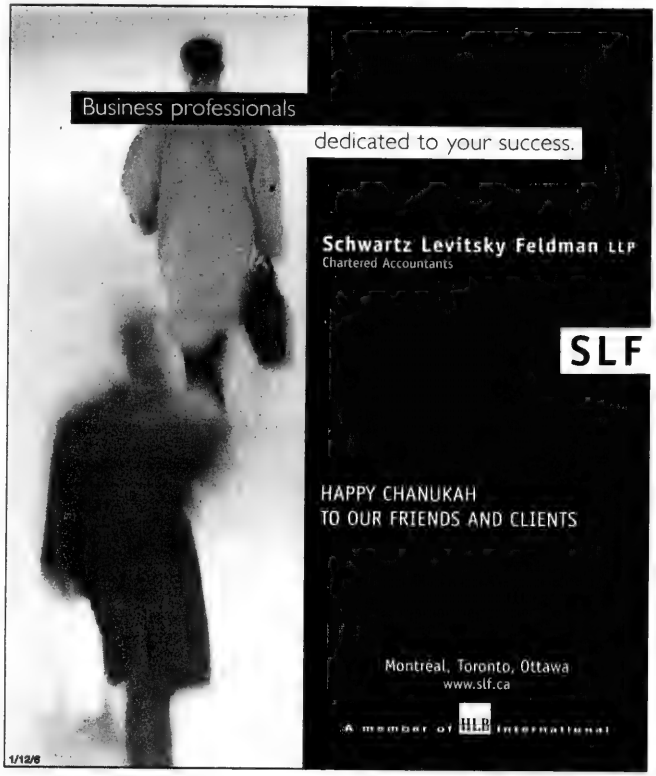
OUR WARMEST WISHES FOR A HAPPY HANUKKAH





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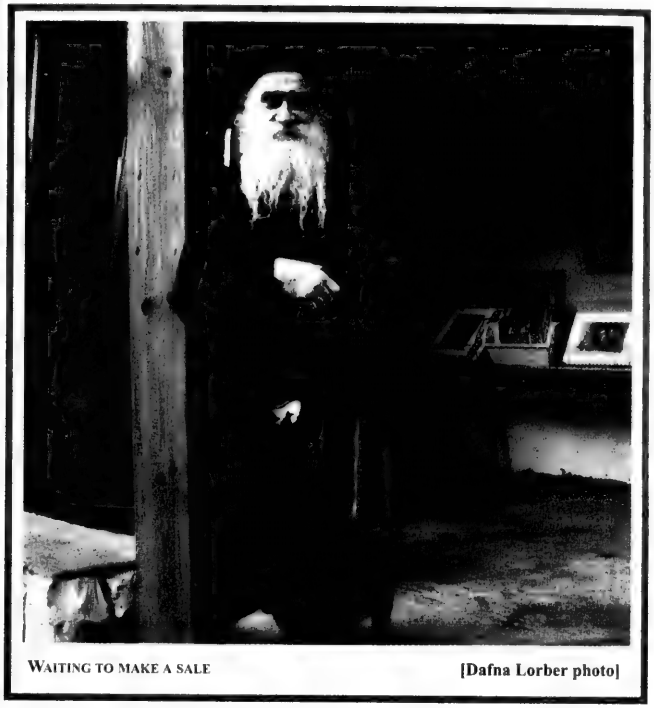

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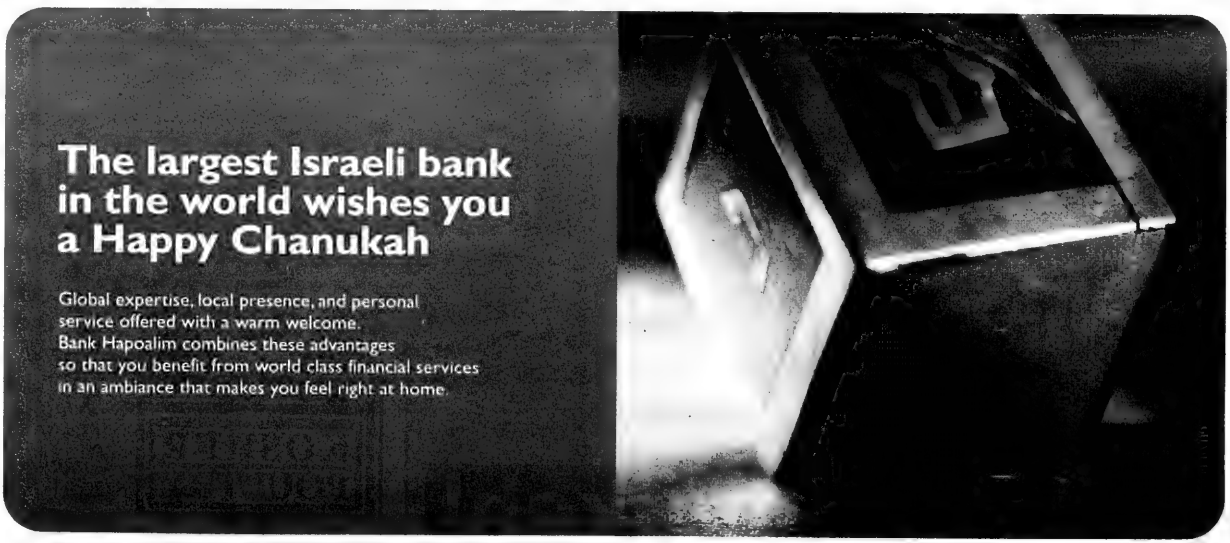
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Off to Israel to experience Jewish life in the 21st century

By RABBI DOW MARMUR

While our neighbours are leaving for Florida, my wife and I are getting ready to go to Israel for the next few months. In past years, snowbirds would tell me they preferred Florida to Israel because Florida was much cheaper and no less Jewish. Today, they tell me Israel is too dangerous. The fact that, historically, living with danger and being Jewish go together escapes them.

As for me, I feel at home in Israel, not least in these dangerous times. For the same reasons, I surmise, I feel less at home among most Diaspora Jews, with their crocodile tears about Israel, their feigned indignation about the media and their "expertise" they've acquired from yet another "solidarity mission."

The crocodile tears: The received wisdom of most leaders of the community, particularly those associated with fundraising, is that Israel is in mortal danger, fighting for its survival. Listening to some of them, I'm at times left with the impression that they believe the Jewish state is the current version of the Warsaw Ghetto in Nazi times.

'I am not very popular with "missions"'

But Israel is not in mortal danger. True, it is under great pressure from homicide bombers and foreign governments which, because of their need to appease their Muslim populations, dump on the Jews in general and Israel in particular. But precisely because there is a Jewish state there will never again be a Warsaw Ghetto. And the ostensibly pro-Muslim noises can easily turn into anti-Muslim riots, particularly in Europe, where loyalties are fickle.

Of course, we must not minimize the menace of terrorism in Israel or the danger of global anti-Semitism. That's why we have to remain steadfast – irrespective of our political orientation – in support of Israel in its determination to defend itself. And we must never let up our vigilance in the face of anti-Semitism in whatever guise it may appear. But that is very different from panic-mongering, which angers Israelis and prevents others from visiting them.

By being in Israel, I feel liberated from the imagined fears, and can concentrate instead on the real issues: the day-to-day problems of existence and the real debates, now heightened by the impending elections. Living one's life is more wholesome than speculating about how others live theirs.

Which brings me to the feigned indignation of media bias. Revelation, in our tradition, comes through the Torah, not through the newspapers. Those who write the columns have their own puny agendas. If we disagree, we could stop reading what they write. The fact that most of us don't, but prefer the mild self-flagellation, suggests, perhaps, that we need to be angry in order to show solidarity and assuage our sense of guilt at not doing something more substantial for Israel.

To do something substantial would mean more than supporting institutions and individuals most affected by the intifadah. It can never be less than giving money, but it must be much more. My sense of realism is strong enough not to advocate total, or even partial, aliyah, but it does mean more than the symbolic and brief "solidarity mission." Exchanging Florida, or a part of it, for Israel may be a good start.

"Solidarity missions": Part of the problems with these, as I have observed them in Israel, is that they feed participants' belief that Israel is under siege and in mortal danger. If all you experience is briefings by fundraising officials and their "consultants" in the unreal environment of depleted luxury tourist hotels, what you thought you knew before you came will be confirmed now. The anecdotal encounter with a distant relative who enlists your help because s/he wants to get out of the country is also likely to confirm your prejudice.

That is why I am not very popular with "missions," even though I am on the spot and a potential resource person. I may tell people what they, and particularly their organizers, don't want to hear.

I may remind them, for example, that the Yishuv, the Jewish population of Eretz Yisrael, has lived in danger for at least the last 120 years or more. At times the danger is more acute, as is the case now. But to predict annihilation is as misleading as seeing peace around the corner. If only Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat were sent into exile, the "transfer" of the Arab population organized, or someone other than Ariel Sharon became prime minister: there is no shortage of unrealistic panaceas. "Solidarity missions" thrive on them.

When, in the past, I would brief Jews and non-Jews alike before travelling with them to Israel, I would promise them only one thing: that they would return more confused than they were now – albeit on a higher level. Such confusion is a necessary prerequisite in the pursuit of truth. Panic-mongers, irate newspaper readers and "heroic" participants in "missions" don't like that message. That is why the debate in our own community is so shallow. By refusing to affirm the complexities and learn from ordinary Israelis, we are being polarized into bigots and dreamers, often both at the same time.

I am on my way to Israel to come closer to the reality – and the truth – of Jewish life in the 21st century.

Rabbi Marmur, rabbi emeritus of Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto, divides his time between Canada and Israel.

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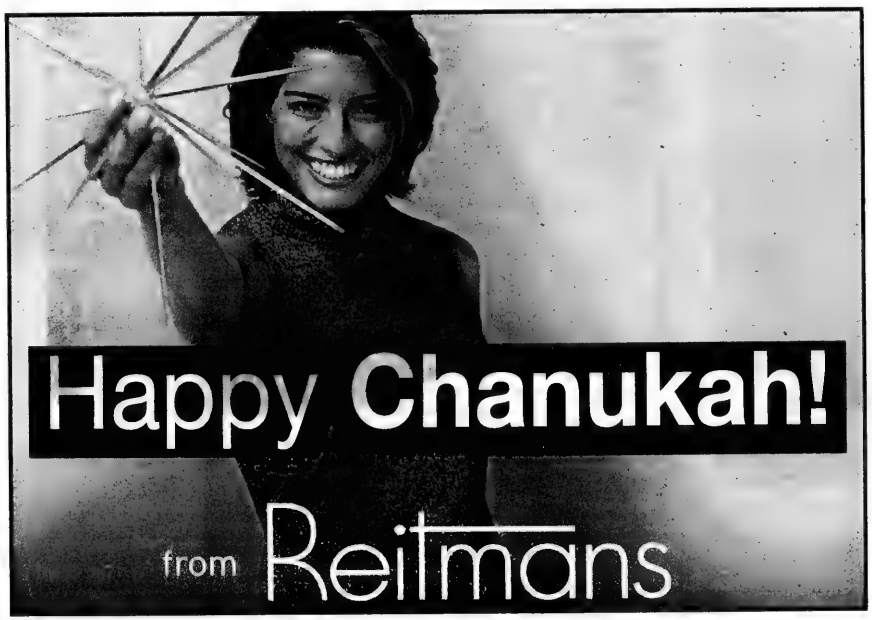

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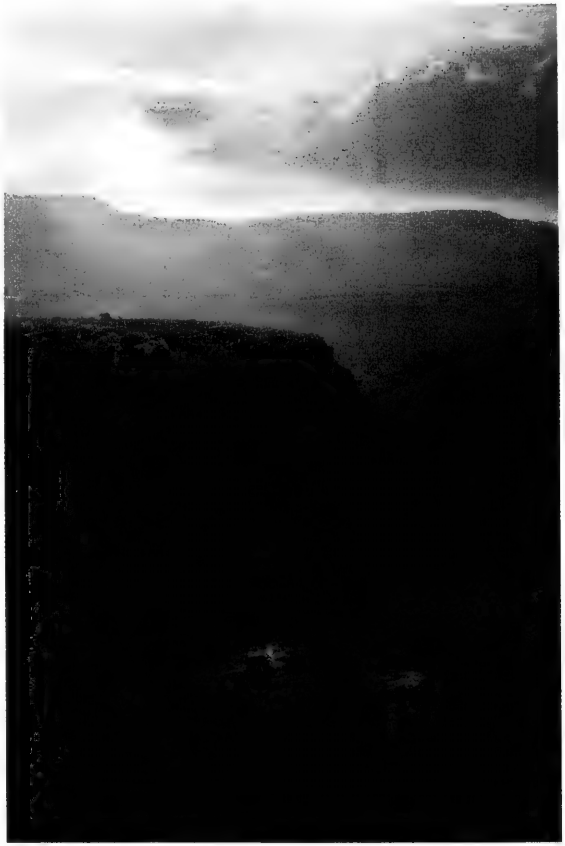
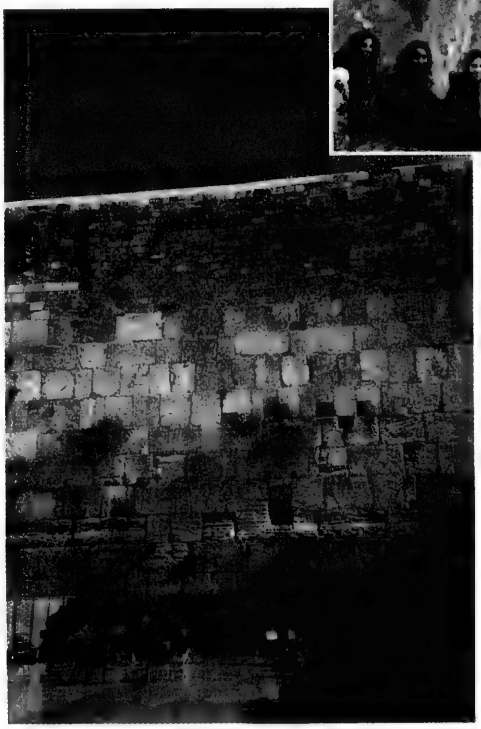


Mount Arbel

Rebecca Achtman photo

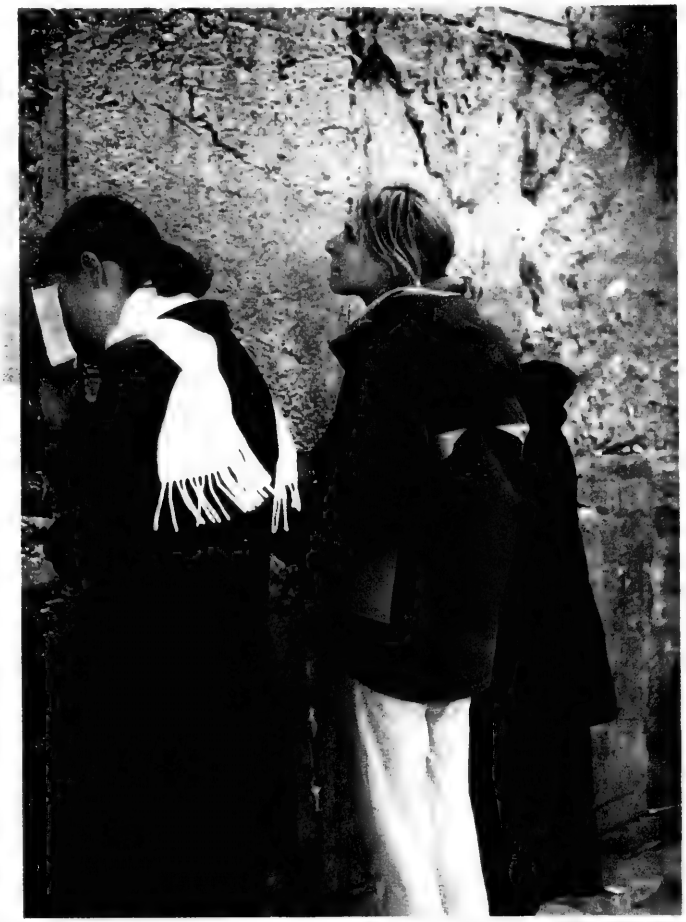
Quick, Don't fall off the mountain

Sharonne Katz photo



Women's Wall

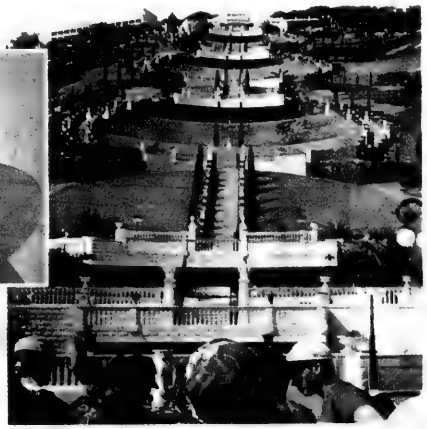
Rebecca Achtman photo



A ray of light at the wall — Sharonne Katz photo

Israel Flag — Adele Sacks photo

Accelerator



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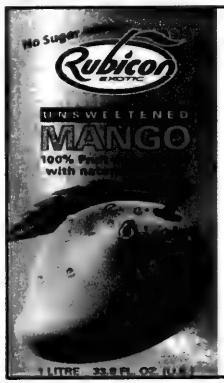
Bottom of Bah'ai

Mount Herzl — Juliette Sacks photo



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Criticism of Claims Conference is undeserved

By ROMAN KENT

The only one who never makes a mistake and cannot be criticized is the one who never does anything. Since the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany has existed for 51 years, and during this period of time has been called upon on a daily basis to execute voluminous decisions and duties on behalf of the survivor community, there are those who find cause to pass judgment on certain actions or inactions pertaining to Holocaust survivor issues.

Understandably, no organization that has existed for this long and has accomplished so much can escape some form of criticism. However, I would like to ask those who have been so critical of late whether the recent disapproval aimed at the Claims Conference is justified or undeserved.

As a Holocaust survivor and someone intimately involved with the Claims Conference for more than a decade, I have never encountered any person connected with, or working for its leadership, who did not have the well-being of survivors at heart. I can state with certainty that the Claims Conference is not our enemy. Some may differ from us in their thoughts, methods and approaches. But let us not forget that even among survivors, we often have different ideas about what is beneficial for us and we question the best means of how to accomplish our goals.

Jewish community must help survivors, survivors must unite to help themselves

In the long run, having a diversity of opinions generally turns out to be quite constructive. Working together, we can achieve our common goal of providing the maximum benefits for survivors, and for needy survivors in particular. As far as I am concerned, we need the input of each and every survivor. Because there are so few of us left, each remaining voice is precious.

We survivors must ask ourselves honestly what we really want from the Claims Conference, and then ask ourselves whether it is in a position to fulfil our needs. I think we could answer this question more easily if we followed the sentiments of Samuel Gompers, a well-known labour leader of yesteryear.

In 1894, Gompers, one of the founders of the American Federation of Labor in 1886, made a comment during negotiations for better conditions for workers that can be summed up into the catch phrase "more justice, less revenge." I think I speak for most, if not all, survivors when I relate the same philosophy to issues concerning our needs.

We need "more": more home and medical care, more health insurance, more social care, more compassion and understanding. And last but not least, we need much more help from the Jewish community.

To achieve the "more," we must take into account the past and the future.

In 1951, when the newly formed Federal Republic of Germany announced its willingness to negotiate compensation for Jewish victims of the Holocaust, there was no one to negotiate on our behalf. States negotiate with states. Most Holocaust survivors were stateless persons, dispersed throughout all corners of the world.

Thus, the Claims Conference was formed from the union of the 23 largest Jewish organizations in the free world to negotiate on behalf of "world Jewry," with the material compensation to be paid by Germany for its damage to individual survivors and to the Jewish people as a whole.

But when the conference was formed, we survivors did not want to be part of anything that had to do with Germany. We wanted to put the past behind us as much as possible, pick up the pieces, start a new life and raise our families. Negotiating with Germany was not uppermost in our mind at that time nor in the foreseeable future.

Although the Claims Conference has been in existence for more than 50 years, interestingly enough, it was only about 12 years ago that two survivors organizations, one from the United States and one from Israel, actually applied for membership. For historical accuracy, it must be said that the two groups – the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and the Centre of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel – were accepted as full members with great reluctance.

Today, much has changed, both in the attitudes of Holocaust survivors and within the conference's structure. The influence of survivors today is at the highest levels in the organization. For example, of the conference's four leaders, two are survivors (myself and Moshe Sanbar, chair of the executive committee). Under president Israel Singer, who is the son of survivors, the eight-member negotiating team consists almost entirely of survivors. In addition, the executive and allocation committees include numerous survivors. There is no doubt that survivors have become an integral part of the management of the Claims Conference.

Yet, we should continue to insist on having an even more influential voice.

Direct survivor participation in negotiations with Germany for compensation for former slave and forced labourers resulted in obtaining hundreds of millions of dollars for individual survivors. I must emphasize that although this was a significant achievement, the German government specified criteria for who would receive payments, conditions by which the Claims Conference must abide while processing the claims.

Having said all that, I cannot help but notice the irony existing today. During the past few years, an increasing number of individuals and organizations have jumped on the bandwagon to criticize the Claims Conference. Up until about 1995, there seemed to be no condemnation of the conference as it secured financial compensation for tens of thousands of survivors with the active participation of a few survivors on the negotiating committee. It was a very different organization than today, with fewer compensation programs and much smaller allocations.

Continued on page B9

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'We survivors must be united'

Continued from page B8

So why has it recently encountered a barrage of what I deem to be unfair accusations? The old adage – "No good deed goes unpunished" – comes to mind.

This axiom can be applied to the Claims Conference because the organization now has funds available for distribution to organizations and institutions that assist needy survivors, funds that were obtained from the recovery and sale of unclaimed Jewish properties in the former East Germany, as well as other compensation funds.

Let us place the source of this newly acquired "fortune" in historical context. During Germany's reunification in the early 1990s, the Claims Conference, with the help of the U.S. government, negotiated for the return of Jewish properties in the former east Germany to their original owners or their heirs. Any property that went unclaimed would revert to the conference.

This was a tremendous accomplishment. If not for the Claims Conference's tenacious negotiations, all Jewish property in the former east Germany would have reverted to the German state and been lost forever to survivors and the Jewish community.

But recovering that property proved to be more than a monumental task. As individual survivors, we could never have accomplished it. Thorough and detailed research was required, and documents had to be properly processed through various German institutions and courts. The exhaustive procedure still continues.

By selling off these properties, the Claims Conference obtains monies for distribution. However, for practical purposes, this is the only source of funds that can be distributed by the conference based on its own guidelines. Other sources, such as the German Foundation and the Swiss Banks Settlement, must be disbursed based on external criteria.

Since 1995, the Claims Conference has distributed about $430 million worldwide from the sale of these properties; these transactions are properly documented and detailed reports and financial statements are available to the public.

Based on a decision by the conference's board of directors, about 80 per cent of these funds are used to provide essential social services to needy survivors, such as hunger relief, home health care and medical assistance. Approximately 20 per cent supports Holocaust education, research and documentation, to ensure that future generations learn of, and from, the Holocaust. A key recipient of this money was Yad Vashem, an institution universally respected among survivors.

But Claims Conference funds alone are not sufficient enough to meet the critical and immediate health and medical needs of the aging survivor population. While I hope that additional funds will be forthcoming from the Swiss Banks Settlement and possibly from the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims, it is my strong conviction that the Jewish community at large must rise to the occasion and provide additional assistance. It has a moral obligation to help resolve this acute problem. For more than 50 years, survivors have supported the Jewish community. During that time, both social and educational Jewish organizations have collected vast sums of money in the name of survivors and the Holocaust.

I believe the time is now for the entire Jewish population, as well as the German government, to step forward and show their support. They must join hands together with the Claims Conference to devise a program that would allow needy survivors to spend the remaining years of their lives in some measure of comfort with the dignity they so richly deserve.

I also believe that we as survivors must be united in order to achieve our goal of protecting those who need our help. We must be unified not only because of our Jewish heritage, but because of our common heritage as survivors of the Holocaust. United we can overcome all adversities; divided we will fail. Let us keep in mind that we cannot, and must not, fail.

Roman Kent is the chair of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and treasurer of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

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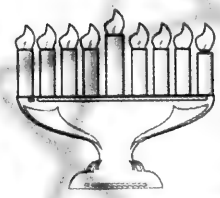

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Jewish leaders focus on challenges that confront Jews around the world

By RUTH E. GRUBER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PRAGUE — The 1990s seemed to be a golden decade for European Jewry.

Jewish communities re-emerged following the collapse of communism, and the Oslo accords appeared to point the way toward peace in the Middle East.

European Jews, celebrating the end of the Communist era, began taking tentative steps to chart their future and develop a role as a third pillar of world Jewry, alongside American and Israeli Jews.

But since then, a grim litany of global challenges has erupted to confront Jews worldwide.

These include rising anti-Semitism, global terrorism, Islamic fundamentalism, Holocaust revisionism, widespread support for the Palestinian side in the Middle East conflict and the consequent demonization of Israel.

What impact do these challenges have on European Jews and their attempt to forge a new sense of pan-European Jewish identity – and how should Jewish communities react and confront them?

These questions formed the focus of heated debate here last week among Jewish leaders from more than 40 countries. The communal leaders were attending a three-day conference of Jewish community presidents sponsored by the European Council of Jewish Communities.

A five-person panel from France, Italy, the United States, Portugal and Russia set the stage by noting specific challenges that have emerged in the two years since the failure of the Middle East peace process and the onset of the Palestinian intifadah.

"What strikes me is the speed with which everything collapsed," said David Harris, executive director of the American Jewish Committee. "It is almost as if Oslo and Camp David never happened. Sadly, perhaps the goodwill we had in the 1990s was broader than it was deep."

Harris outlined 10 specific challenges for the Jewish community. These ranged from attempting to strengthen European Union support for Israel to exposing the "lethal and deadly" anti-Semitism now rampant in the Islamic world.

He also said Europe must encourage democracy in the Arab and Muslim world to create a bulwark against Islamic fundamentalism.

Roger Cukierman, president of the Representative Council of Jewish Institutions in France (CRIF), an umbrella organization for secular Jewish institutions in France, went so far as to speak of a "state of war against the Jews in the world."

The spate of violent attacks on synagogues and other Jewish sites in France earlier this year, he said, was "clearly related to the situation in the Middle East."

French authorities have since cracked down on the violence, and there has been a sharp decrease, he said.

But "the general atmosphere has not changed – we feel it in our schools, on our campuses, in the media."

A spark, he said, such as a U.S.-led attack on Iraq, could touch off a new cycle of violence against Jews and Jewish institutions.

Threats to the Jewish world, he said, come from the traditionally anti-Semitic extreme right, the pro-Palestinian and anti-globalization left, and the growing Arab and Muslim minorities.

"The French people are not anti-Semitic," he said. "The French generally hate the Arabs more than they do the Jews, but they are afraid of taking them on."

Panellists and audience members also debated how to prevent legitimate concern over current events from blurring into paranoia.

"One of the biggest problems is how to maintain our specificity as Jews without closing ourselves into a ghetto mentality," said Portuguese panellist Marta Mucznik, executive director of the European Union of Jewish Students.

"We are concerned how to build a positive Jewish identity that is not just based on the Middle East. This is part of our identity, but it should not be all."

Michael Brenner, a professor at the University of Munich, agreed.

"We still tend to let the others set our agenda," he said. "Shouldn't we get a little beyond bashing Islam or seeing the liberal left as the enemy?

"The situation is much more complex," he said. "Look at Germany. The biggest ally of the Jews and Israel is Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer, of the leftist Greens party."

This complexity was underscored by the president of the European Council of Jewish Communities, Cobi Benatoff of Milan, who noted that in Italy, "We are confronted by the fact that the best allies of the Jews and Israel are the post-fascists. The Jewish community has great difficulty with this."

Benatoff added that the new challenges to European Jewry do not mean that the bedrock issues essential for Jewish survival – internal structure, leadership training, Jewish continuity, religious pluralism – have disappeared.

"These issues have not been resolved and remain at the core of Jewish communal life," he said.

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Romania: Anti-semitism, Iron-Guard-style, on the rise

By BARUCH COHEN

Author and political philosopher Hannah Arendt has observed that "it is hardly an exaggeration to say that Romania was the most anti-Semitic country in prewar eastern Europe."

I believe this statement still applies to today's Romania, the country in which I was born. There is an ever-increasing proliferation of Romanian extremist groups and organizations whose activities are neither censored nor curtailed by the authorities.

The most significant development is the gradual process through which groups openly adhering to the legacy of the virulent, fascist Iron Guard movement are gaining legitimacy.

The number of their newspapers, magazines and weeklies such as *Gazeta de Vest*, *Romania Mare*, *Atac la Persoana*, *Europa*, and *Sfarma Piatra* is growing. This is despite the fact that all Romanian governments since the fall of dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in 1989 rejected and condemned chauvinistic and anti-Semitic publications and demonstrations promoting hatred against the small and elderly Jewish population.

The anti-Semites claim "freedom of speech" and "freedom of the press," and hence the government does not stop these publications.

Last March, the government of Prime Minsister Adrian Nastase issued a special Law of Urgency, Number 31, that outlawed all organizations of a fascist, racist or xenophobic character, as well as the promotion of leaders who incite against minorities.

This law is, however, not being enforced. It is just a show for western governments, in order to ensure Romania's acceptance by the European community as a peace-loving, democratic country.

Meanwhile, the level of anti-Semitism, ultra-nationalism and xenophobia is on the rise. Among eastern European countries, Romania has the largest anti-Semitic groups and the most such publications. In addition, openly anti-Semitic intellectuals and politicians are gaining respectability.

Romania still does not have the courage or the will to face up to its role in the Holocaust, about which there is widespread disinterest and/or dishonesty. The curricula in Romania's schools and universities continue to make no mention of it, though half the country's Jewish population was murdered by the Romanian army, police authorities and other perpetrators.

As recently as May 18, it was reported in *Realitatea Evreiasca* that the synagogue in the small city of Falticeni – in which there are six or seven Jewish families, all elderly and frail – was vandalized. Its Torah scrolls were stolen, and graffiti written on the walls included "Heil Fuhrer," and "Death and Gas for the Jews."

On Oct. 12, the Associated Press (AP) carried this headline: "Vandals deface walls of Jewish theatre in Bucharest with Nazi graffiti." On Oct. 16, AP referred to "Nazi graffiti found scrawled on exterior walls of buildings in northwest Romania."

A Jewish drama festival was set to start on Oct. 17 in the northeastern city of Iasi. Government officials planned heightened security. They ordered the removal of statues and other monuments honouring Romania's war criminals and its wartime leader, Ion Antonescu. Some had been erected as recently as last year!

The images and inscriptions, the graffiti and pictures in all anti-Semitic publications call for the elimination of the Jews. Yet, in a general population of 28 million in Romania today, the Jewish population is only an estimated 8,000, mostly frail, older people.

While the present government understands the dangers of such a situation, its growing political dependence on the extreme right and left (both anti-Semitic) jeopardizes and weakens any significant action against the criminal elements.

Baruch Cohen is research chair at the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research in Montreal.

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The unknown cousin

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

The eyes of the young woman in the picture are luminous below a cloud of dark hair and they follow me.

I first saw this photo of my mother's Polish cousin in 1941 when I was 16. She was youthful and alive – so alive.

I don't know her name; perhaps it wasn't mentioned when my mother placed the picture on the mantel and left it there for a long time.

Today I would ask, "Where was she born? Was she a Grafstein (my grandmother's side) or a Silverman (my grandfather's family)? Did she have sisters and brothers? Was she a student or did she work in an office? How old was she?"

But I was 16 then, not much interested in someone far away whom I would probably never meet. Still, the eyes of that unknown cousin looked out at me.

Eventually, when the war in Europe seemed unending, Mama put the photo away. I found it after both my parents had died. Those eyes were still a challenge.

I ached to know what became of her. Did she disappear in the horror that was, or is she somehow, miraculously, still living?

Of all the Grafstein relatives who did not make it to this country, only one, to our knowledge, survived. When he finally immigrated here, I showed him the photo, but he did not recognize her.

Was she a Silverman? But no Silverman I have questioned, recollects the face.

This was, or is, an individual who had a name, who felt happiness, anger, fear, had dreams. And yet she is unknown.

But I don't want her to have lived and not be known at all. She was my cousin and so I will remember her.

Happy Chanukah
Food Ideas

Chanukah's coming – kick it up a nosh!

By NOREEN GILLETZ
Special to The CJN

When the days are short and the long, cold nights descend early, the festival of Chanukah arrives. This year Chanukah begins on Friday evening, Nov. 29. The flickering lights of the Chanukah menorah (chanukiyah) will join the lights of the Shabbat candles. Once again we recall the miracle that took place over 2,000 years ago, when a small band of Maccabees were victorious over their enemies, and a little jar of oil, enough to burn for only one day, miraculously burned for eight.

In honour of the miracle that occurred with the oil, it is traditional to eat foods fried in oil. Potato latkes and sufganiot (Israeli-style doughnuts) are popular. Dairy dishes are also customary.

For Chanukah, I've chosen two recipes from Marcy Goldman's newest cookbook, *The Best of Better Baking, 175 Classic Recipes from the Beloved Baker's Website* (Random House Canada, $40 Cdn, colour photos). This wonderful collection of recipes is based on her popular Web site, www.betterbaking.com. Marcy collaborated with her Webmaster, Yvan Huneault, to create this appealing cookbook, which is packed with Goldman's expert insight into ingredients, equipment and techniques. This is a cookbook you will be sure to use over and over again. Here are two excellent dairy desserts from her book and one or two others that are sure to bring joy to your table. Mmmm!

MARCY'S BOSTON CREAM PIE DOUGHNUTS (SUFGANIOT)

Dough:
¼ cup warm water
2 tbsp. instant yeast
1 cup warm milk
¼ cup vegetable shortening
2 eggs
¼ cup sugar
1 tsp. salt
3½ to 4 cups bread flour

Custard Filling:
¼ cup sugar
3 tbsp. all-purpose flour
3 egg yolks
1 cup plus 2 tbsp. milk
1 tbsp. unsalted butter
½ tsp. pure vanilla extract
vegetable oil for deep-frying

Chocolate Glaze:
1 tbsp. unsalted butter
2 oz. semi-sweet chocolate, chopped
1½ cups confectioners' sugar
½ tsp. pure vanilla extract
About ⅓ cup hot water

Dough: Hand whisk the water and yeast together in the bowl of an electric mixer; let stand 2 to 3 minutes to dissolve yeast. Whisk in milk and shortening. Stir in eggs, sugar, salt and 3 cups of the flour. Mix to make a soft dough. Knead with the dough hook on lowest speed of mixer for 8 to 10 minutes, gradually adding more flour as required to form a soft but elastic dough. Place dough in a lightly greased bowl, cover the bowl with a damp cloth, and place in a large plastic bag. Close the bag loosely and let dough rise for 30 to 45 minutes, or until almost doubled.

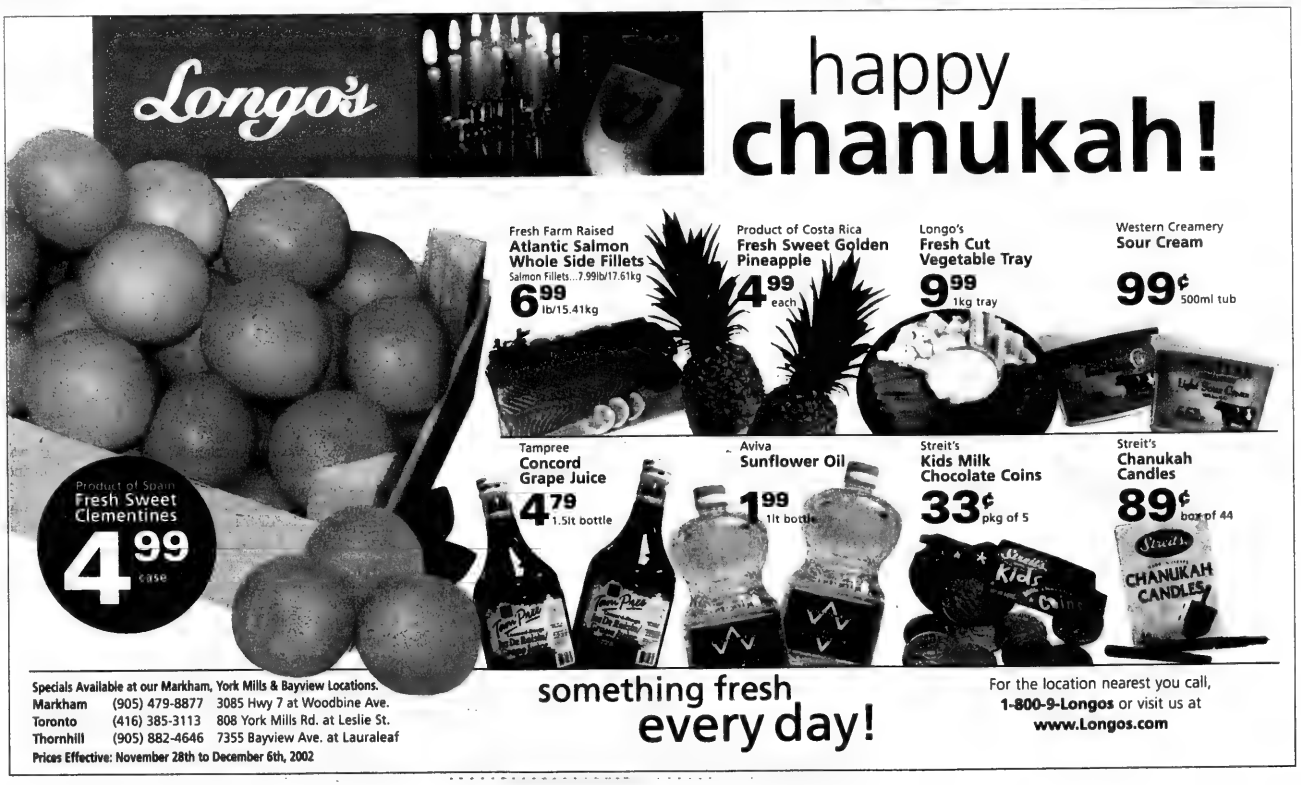
Filling: Whisk sugar, flour and egg yolks together in a bowl. In a small saucepan, bring milk to a boil. Stir 2 tbsp. of the milk into egg mixture to temper the yolks and prevent curdling. Whisk egg mixture into the milk and stir constantly until mixture thickens and begins to boil gently, then immediately remove from heat. Stir in butter and vanilla; let cool. Place in a bowl and cover with plastic wrap, pressing it directly on the surface to keep a skin from forming. Refrigerate.

Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Pinch off pieces of dough and form into small balls about the size of golf balls. Cover with plastic wrap and let rise for 25 minutes.

In a wok or a Dutch oven, heat 4 inches of oil to 375. Add the doughnuts a few at a time and fry for 30 to 40 seconds, until deep brown on the first side. Turn and fry on the second side for 15 to 30 seconds. Using a slotted spoon, transfer to paper towels to drain and let cool.

Continued on page B14

No-Fry Potato Latkes from Norene Gilletz's cookbook *MealLeaniYumm!*, published by Gourmania Inc.



Chanukah's coming – kick it up a nosh!

Continued from page B13

Whisk the custard to smooth and fluff it. Put custard in a pastry bag fitted with a large plain tip. Split each doughnut in half and pipe or spoon in some custard.

Glaze: Melt the butter and chocolate in a double boiler over barely simmering water. Add confectioner's sugar and vanilla; stir until smooth. Add enough water to make a thin glaze. Let cool for 1 minute, then drizzle over the doughnuts. If the glaze gets too stiff, add more hot water to make it workable again. Yield: 18 to 20 doughnuts.

* * *

CREAM CHEESE-APRICOT TART

This is a two-tiered cheesecake that calls for just one pound of cream cheese. Smooth, light and pretty as a picture, it is as good plain as it is garnished with the apricots.

one 7-inch sponge or pound cake, sliced about ¼ inch thick and toasted

First Layer
1 lb. cream cheese
2 eggs
1 (14-oz.) can condensed milk
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
1 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
2 tbsp. all-purpose flour
pinch of salt

Second Layer
2 cups sour cream
3 eggs
⅓ cup sugar
2 tbsp. all-purpose flour
½ tsp. pure vanilla extract

Topping:
1 large can apricot halves, drained
⅓ to ½ cup apricot jam, warmed and sieved

Preheat oven to 350. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Line a 9-inch springform pan or deep quiche pan with the cake slices, cutting and fitting as necessary. Set aside.

First Layer: Combine all the ingredients in a food processor and process until smooth, about 30 seconds. Pour into cake-lined pan. Place pan on prepared baking sheet and bake for 20 minutes.

Second Layer: Meanwhile, combine all the ingredients in the food processor (no need to rinse) and process for 8 to 10 seconds, or until smooth.

Remove the cake from the oven and pour the second layer of filling over the first. Return the cake to the oven and bake for 20 to 28 minutes, or until just set. Let cool in the oven for 30 minutes with the oven off and the oven door open completely. Refrigerate for at least 4 hours or as long as overnight.

For the topping, arrange apricot halves over the top, fitting them snugly together to cover

Continued on page B16

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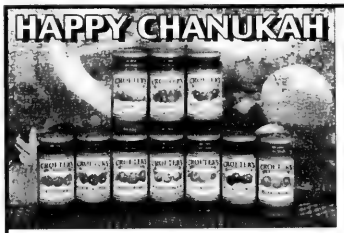
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3 eggs
2-3 tsp chopped fresh dill
1/4 tsp black pepper
2 green onions, chopped
1 can (170 g) Clover Leaf® Chunk Sockeye Salmon, Skinless and Boneless, drained
1/2 cup crumbled light feta cheese
1 unbaked 9-inch (23 cm) deep dish matzoh meal pie shell
• In food processor or blender, process cottage cheese until smooth. Add cream cheese and process until smooth. Add eggs, dill and pepper; blend until smooth.
• Stir in salmon, green onions and feta. Pour into pie crust.
• Bake at 375°F (190°C) 35–40 minutes or until set. Serve warm or chilled.
HINT Instead of feta, substitute other favourite cheeses: cheddar or Swiss. This pie may be prepared up to a day ahead; cover and refrigerate. Reheat at 350°F (180°C) about 20 minutes.
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Happy Chanukah
FOOD IDEAS

Holiday recipes from the Kashruth Council of Canada

As a service to the community, before major holidays, the Kashruth Council of Canada (COR) issues some recipes to enhance the enjoyment of the yom tov. Throughout the year, thousands of homes receive mailings with information on kosher products and services.

If you wish to be on the mailing list, write to 4600 Bathurst St., Suite 240, Toronto, Ontario, M2R 3V2, call 416-635-9550 or fax 416-635-8760.

Here are some recipes from this year's Chanukah flyer.

VEGETABLE AND LOX WRAPS

olive oil
1 medium red onion, thinly sliced
1 large eggplant, thinly sliced
2 fennel bulbs, trimmed, cored and thinly sliced
2 red peppers, seeded, sliced into thin strips

Sauce
1/4 cup chopped flat leaf parsley
1 clove garlic
1 tsp. grated lemon rind
2 tsp. lemon juice
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 tsp. dried basil
2 tbsp. olive oil
6 7-inch tortillas
1/2 lb. thinly sliced lox

Preheat oven to 425. Lightly oil a baking sheet. Arrange vegetables in batches on the baking sheet and brush oil over the tops of the vegetables. Roast until cooked through, about 10-12 minutes. Set aside and roast remaining vegetables.

Sauce: Place all sauce ingredients in a food processor or blender. Puree until smooth. Place the tortillas on a flat surface. Place 2 oz. lox slices on each tortilla. Top with the vegetables, evenly divided. Drizzle sauce evenly down the middle of the tortillas. Tightly roll up and secure with a toothpick. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate. When ready to serve, slice each wrap in half on the diagonal, or smaller if desired. Serves 6.

TURKEY OR VEAL SCALOPPINI

1 1/2 lb. thin turkey or veal cutlets
1 tsp. dried oregano
1 tsp. dried thyme
1 tsp. dried basil
1/4 tsp. pepper
2 tsp. olive oil

Pound cutlets to an even 1/4-inch thickness. Blot dry with paper towels. Season with herbs, rubbing well into the cutlets. In a large non-stick skillet over medium-high heat, heat 1 tbsp. of the oil; cook cutlets in batches, adding more oil as needed for 1 to 1 1/2 minutes on each side until browned or no longer pink in the centre. Serve with sweet potato and orange casserole. Serves 6.

SWEET POTATO AND ORANGE CASSEROLE

6 medium sweet potatoes or yams
boiling salted water
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup orange juice
2 tbsp. lemon juice
grated rind of 1/2 orange
grated rind of 1/2 lemon
1/2 tsp. salt
4 tbsp. margarine, cut into pieces
sprig of flat leaf parsley

Wash the potatoes and cook in boiling salted water to cover for 15 to 20 minutes or until tender but still firm. Drain and cool.

Preheat oven to 325. Peel the potatoes and cut into 1/4-inch slices. Place in a greased shallow 10-inch baking dish in 1 or 2 layers. Sprinkle with the sugar.

Combine the juices, rinds and salt, mixing well. Sprinkle over the potatoes. Dot with the margarine. Bake for 25 minutes or until golden. Transfer to serving platter and garnish with sprig of flat leaf parsley in centre. Serves 6

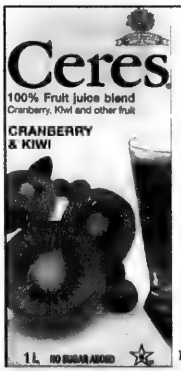
NUTTY CHICKEN WINGS

18 chicken wings, disjointed, tips discarded
2 eggs
1 tbsp. oil
1/4 tsp. pepper
1 cup fine dry bread crumbs
1 cup finely chopped walnuts

Preheat oven to 400. In a shallow bowl, beat together eggs, oil and pepper. In a second bowl, place bread crumbs and nuts; mix well. Dip wing pieces in egg mixture, then in crumb mixture, turning to coat well on all sides. Place on a greased shallow baking pan. Bake for 30 minutes or until brown and fork tender. Serve with Honey Mustard Dip.

Honey Mustard Dip
1 cup mayonnaise
2 tbsp. honey
1 tbsp. prepared mustard
1/2 tsp. pepper

Mix all ingredients together in a small bowl. Serves 6.



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Happy Chanukah

FOOD IDEAS

Chicken perfect as main dish

Continued from page B14

the surface completely. Brush with the warmed jam. Let set for 5 to 10 minutes and repeat. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours before serving. Makes 1 tart; serves 8 to 12.

* * *

Levana Kirschenbaum is passionate about food. Her New York restaurant is legendary and she now shares her recipes in her first book, *Levana's Table, Kosher Cooking for Everyone*. Here is an excellent chicken dish that makes a perfect main dish to serve along with latkes (see Levana's Latkes recipes in my column, About Food, page 59)

OLIVE-LEMON CHICKEN

Don't make this dish without preserved lemon (see recipe below) or you will have a good but ordinary result. With the preserved lemon, you will be transported by the authentic Moroccan flavours and heavenly aromas of this dish.

2 lb. of chicken parts, dark and white meat, or all dark
1 medium onion, thinly sliced
1 tbsp. grated fresh ginger
1/2 cup green pitted olives, thoroughly rinsed
1/4 tsp. turmeric
pinch of saffron
1 cup water
1/4 of a preserved lemon, skin only, rinsed and chopped very fine (below)
2 tbsp. chopped flat-leaf parsley
1 1/2 tbsp. chopped cilantro
freshly ground pepper

Place chicken, onions, ginger, olives, turmeric, saffron and water in a heavy pot and bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-high and cook covered for 1 hour. Add lemon, parsley, cilantro, and pepper to taste, and cook for another 10 minutes.

Using a slotted spoon, transfer the chicken to a platter and check the cooking liquid. If it is too thin, cook it over high heat until it is reduced and thickened. Pour the sauce over the chicken. Serve hot. Makes 4 servings.

According to Kirschenbaum, there is no Moroccan cooking without preserved lemons. They take about 10 minutes to prepare and 2 weeks to incubate. The result is a few months' supply of the single element that will transform many of your dishes from plain to glorious.

Do not let the amount of salt daunt you. Most of it gets washed away, and you can reduce or eliminate salt from the dish you are preparing with the preserved lemons.

PRESERVED LEMONS

8-10 large lemons
kosher salt

Wash and dry lemons thoroughly. Remove any green points attached to ends of lemons. Cut them in quarters almost all the way through, leaving them attached at one end. Enlarge the openings with your fingers and cram them full of kosher salt. Close lemons and place them in a clean, wide-mouth, quart-sized glass jar, pressing down hard on lemons as you go to draw out the juice. Don't worry if juices don't appear immediately; they will soon with all that salt.

Repeat with all the lemons, forcing them into the jar. The lemons should be totally submerged in their own juices. Top with an extra layer of kosher salt to ensure that no lemon skin is exposed.

Place the jar in a dark cool space (e.g., under the sink). Lemons will be ready in 2 weeks, at which point they should be refrigerated. To use, take out a quarter of a lemon at a time. Discard the pulp, rinse the skin thoroughly, and mince. Add to fish and chicken dishes, bean soups, salads and salsas. Makes 1 quart.

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Happy Chanukah
Food Ideas

A recipe adjusted for allergies and food sensitivities

Children and families served by the Brooklyn School for Special Children/Block Institute are often diagnosed with food allergies and sensitivities, many of which affect their developmental progress.

The following recipes for potato latkes and potato vegetable patties, were developed by Brooklyn School director of food services, Todd Adelman, and Jodi Behrend, executive director of CLASP Children's Centre in Great Neck N.Y., who co-authored *Special Foods for Special Kids — Practical Solutions & Great Recipes for Children with Food Allergies* (Robert D. Reed Publishers, San Francisco). They offer families tasty alternatives to help the children enjoy and celebrate Chanukah, the festival of lights.

These recipes are taken from the book. Each has been adjusted for dairy, wheat/gluten, and egg allergies or sensitivities, and includes nutritional analysis.

POTATO PANCAKES

2 cups shredded potatoes, packed
½ tbsp. lemon juice
2 eggs, beaten
2 tbsp. potato starch flour
¾ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. white pepper
oil for frying

Place potatoes in a colander and press to remove excess liquid. Toss potatoes with lemon juice to keep from turning brown. Grate potatoes in food processor, turning on and off until potatoes are coarsely grated (be careful not to over-process). Transfer to bowl, add eggs, stir to mix, add potato starch flour, salt and pepper and stir to combine. Heat oil in skillet. Drop potato mixture, by heaping tablespoons, into hot oil. Fry until golden brown on both sides, flipping once. Drain on paper towels. Serve immediately with fresh applesauce or fruit puree. Yield: 12 pancakes.

Dairy – no substitutions needed; wheat – no substitutions needed; eggs – substitute 1 tbsp. egg replacer mixed with ¼ cup water for eggs.

Nutritional analysis for base recipe, serving size = 2 pancakes: calories, 110.0; total fat, 4.0 g; saturated fat, 0.8 g; cholesterol, 70.8 mg; carbohydrate, 15.8 g; protein, 3.1 g; sodium, 315.2 mg; dietary fiber, 0.8 g.

Weight Watchers modifies some holiday faves

Holiday celebrations are an important part of family tradition, and the food we prepare and eat is a big part of that.

Maria Walls, senior nutritionist for Weight Watchers International, says creating lighter versions of family recipes by replacing high-calorie ingredients with healthier substitutes is a simple and easy way to modernize and cut unwanted fat and calories from a dish.

Weight Watchers offers the following recipes that put a new spin on some old favourites.

ZUCCHINI AND POTATO LATKES

5 tsp. olive oil or vegetable oil
3 8 oz. russet potatoes, peeled
1 medium 6 oz. zucchini, peeled
1 small onion, grated
1 large egg
1 tbsp. all-purpose flour
¾ tsp. kosher salt
⅛ tsp. freshly ground pepper

Preheat the oven to 450. Brush 2 large nonstick baking sheets each with 1½ tsp. of the oil. Cook the potatoes in a saucepan with boiling water to cover, 6 minutes; drain. Cover with cold water to cool.

Meanwhile, grate the zucchini on a double layer of paper towels; let stand 3 minutes. Combine the zucchini with the onion, egg, flour, salt, and pepper in a large bowl. Drain the potatoes, pat dry, then coarsely grate. Stir into the zucchini mixture.

Heat the baking sheets in the oven until hot, about 4 minutes. Drop scant ¼ cup measures of the potato mixture onto the baking sheets, forming a total of 16 (3-inch) pancakes; lightly flatten each.

Bake until browned on the bottom, 8-9 minutes. Brush the tops of the pancakes with the remaining 2 tsp. oil, then turn and bake until cooked through, 5-7 minutes.

Makes 16 servings.

Per serving (1 latke): 55 calories, 2g fat, 0g saturated fat, 13 mg cholesterol, 79 mg sodium, 9g carbohydrates, 1g fibre, 1g protein, 8 mg calcium.

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Happy Chanukah

FOOD IDEAS

Eat healthy while enjoying the holiday

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Chanukah can be particularly devastating for the waistline. Traditionally at this time, we eat a variety of fried foods and dairy products.

Nutritionist Roselyn Fine says it is important to remember that we can eat healthy, traditional foods and still enjoy the holiday.

"To go to holiday gatherings and have an empty plate just doesn't feel right," says Fine, who has a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Western Ontario and a bachelor's degree in food nutrition from Ryerson University. She works as a clinical dietitian, is an instructor at Seneca College and has a private practice, counselling individuals and groups on healthy eating and lifestyle changes.

At Chanukah, we serve latkes and sufganiot, traditional foods cooked in oil as a reminder of the great miracle of the Temple rededication. Fine notes that dairy is often eaten on Chanukah to remember the story of the Jewish heroine, Judith, who brought the governor of the Syrian troops

cheese and wine and helped save the Jews.

To help celebrate this joyous holiday while eating healthy, Fine advises:

- Save the calories for those special holiday foods, rather than using them up by eating candy bars and fast foods available all year round.
- Get plenty of exercise during the holidays. Stick to your regular workout plan, or at least try to sneak in a walk or two during the day. Exercise helps burn off all those extra calories and it's a great stress reliever.
- The holiday dinner itself isn't your enemy but the leftovers are. If you are the host, send them home with your guests or plan your meals with leftovers in mind. If you are the guest, stay away from doggie bags. They are too tempting.

Fine also offers some low-fat recipes.

LOW-FAT POTATO LATKES

3 lbs. Yukon gold potatoes
1 medium onion
⅓ cup matzah meal, or unbleached white flour
½ tsp. baking powder
1 cup egg substitute, or 2 eggs plus 4 whites
3 tbsp. chopped parsley
kosher salt
freshly ground black pepper
olive oil spray (or 2 tbsp. olive oil)

Place two non-stick baking sheets in the oven and preheat to 450. Peel the potatoes and onion and coarsely grate in a food processor fitted with a shredding disk, or on a box grater. Grab handfuls of the grated vegetables and squeeze tightly between your fingers to wring out as much liquid as possible.

Transfer the grated vegetables to a mixing bowl and stir in matzah meal or flour, baking powder, egg substitute, parsley, and salt and pepper to taste. (The latkes should be highly seasoned.)

Spray the hot baking sheets with the oil spray (or drizzle the oil on it and spread with a wooden spoon).

Spoon small mounds of potato mixture onto the baking sheet to form 2½-inch pancakes, leaving 1 inch between each. Bake latkes in the oven until golden brown, 6 to 8 minutes per side, turning once with a spatula. (When you turn the latkes, try to flip them onto spots on the baking sheet that still have oil.) Transfer to plates or a platter and serve immediately with sour cream and/or applesauce. Serves 8.

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Slain Jews of Timkovici finally receive Magen David

By ELIZABETH BEN-ISHAI

Some interpretations of the Jewish symbol, the Magen David, claim that its two triangles represent the reciprocal relationship between the Jewish people and God. In one direction flow the Jews' good deeds or mitzvot, while the other direction symbolizes the flow of goodwill back towards earth.

Dr. Rhonda Wilansky lived up to her earthly part of the bargain when she brought dignity to nearly 1,000 slain Jews in Timkovici with a commemorative Star of David.

Last spring, Wilansky visited Timkovici, a small town in Belarus. She was in Belarus as a part of a delegation of physicians from Holy Blossom Temple who set out to share medical supplies and knowledge with the Belarussian Jewish community.

While in the region, the Toronto doctor decided to seek out her roots. Wilansky's grandfather and grandmother hailed from the small town of Timkovici, where they lived until they immigrated to Newfoundland in 1919 and 1930, respectively.

An interpreter accompanied Wilansky to Timkovici. The town, which Wilansky says was probably "a typical Jewish shtetl" in her grandparents' time, appeared not to have changed much – minus the presence of Jews.

Wilansky recounts, "There were mud roads and there were still horses and carts. Outside the town, [residents] were still plowing the fields with horse and plow. And the houses looked probably like they did in the early 1900s."

"It was a step back in time," she says. "I was very close with my grandparents, so I could just imagine them walking around there. It was very emotional that way."

The monument with the Magen David. [E. Ben-Ishai photo]

While in Timkovici, Wilansky met with a woman who took her to the site of the tragic slaughter of the town's entire Jewish population – 900 of the town's 2,000 people. In 1941, Nazis gathered them and shot them dead over the top of a large pit, where they were then thrown.

The local woman showed Wilansky to the memorial that had been erected over the pit. It bore a Soviet star and words of commemoration in Russian and Yiddish. It referred to the dead as "martyrs who died at the hands of fascists." There was no mention that the 900 dead were Jews.

Wilansky was bothered by this omission.

"I found it disturbing," she says. "It was clearly a Jewish monument and there was no sign of any Jews ever having lived in this town."

So upon her return to Canada, Wilansky decided to explore the possibilities for properly memorializing the slain Jews of Timkovici. With the help of an interpreter

Continued on page B21

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Jewish life of that area had to be commemorated

Continued from page B20

whom she met while in Minsk, Wilansky approached the town's authorities for permission to change the memorial. When they agreed, she financed and organized the replacement of the Soviet star that stood above the monument with a Magen David.

"I really felt that the Jewish life of that area had to be commemorated, and those who had died should be memorialized," Wilansky says, adding that the location of the Timkovici memorial is also important. While other memorials to fallen Jews have been erected in North America and Israel, she feels that marking the very place where innocent people's lives were taken is particularly profound.

Wilansky sees the updating of the monument – it still bears a vague message that does not explicitly refer to the dead as Jews – as a future project, perhaps for other Jews whose relatives once lived in Timkovici.

In the meantime, the memorial, now with the Magen David, will not only honour the dead; it will serve the living. Especially now that travel to the former Soviet Union is accessible, the newly erected Jewish star will offer solace and insight to Jews who may visit this small town where their ancestors once lived.

As Wilansky says, it is remarkable to "go back where your ancestors came from and know what kind of life they had, and realize it was all just erased in a month."

Elizabeth Ben-Ishai is a student at the University of Toronto.

The monument with the Red Star.

A PRIVATE MOMENT AT THE WALL

[Dafna Lorber photo]

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Bringing the Jewish faith back to Cordoba

By SARAH ZELCER

To most of the individuals familiar with the small city of Cordoba, a former large cultural and economic centre of Spain, they know that it is a place uniquely drenched in Jewish, Islamic and Catholic histories. The key to understanding this city, birthplace of the Jewish philosopher Maimonides, known as the Rambam, is the past.

Home to one of Spain's oldest Jewish quarters, including one of the few synagogues to have survived the 15th century expulsion of the Jews from Spain, Cordoba is also home to one of the most significant existing Islamic sites, La Mezquita, a mosque which was transformed into a site of Christian worship in the 14th century. The interlocking reminders of a time when all three cultures were alive and thriving and co-existing, if not always peacefully, have settled into the tourist paraphernalia shops lining every street that offer token remnants of the city's rich past. It was in Cordoba that I felt plagued by ghosts, remnants of a living, breathing, thriving Jewish community, persecuted and driven out of their country or forced to practice their religion in secret, in the shadow of the threat of death and exile, during the Spanish Inquisition of 1492.

Given its history, Cordoba might seem an unlikely spot for a present-day, Jewish experience, but it ended up playing host to one of the few profound Jewish experiences I had during my five-week trip through Spain and Portugal.

My companion and I arrived, by bus, in Cordoba, located in the Andalucia (southern) region of Spain, via a magical route from the enchanting city of Granada, amidst rolling hills of olive trees and orange groves, in a city whose energy seems to be pulled in two directions, that of the present, but more profoundly, that of the past. We arrived on a Friday in the maze of narrow, winding cobblestone streets, having decided at the last minute to come to this city because of our need, after many weeks of travelling through a beautiful, but decidedly not very Jewish country, of a Shabbat for our tired selves. We assumed, given Cordoba's Judaic history, that there would be something for us there – a family to host us for Shabbat dinner perhaps, or *Kabbalat Shabbat* services at La Sinogoga (The Old Synagogue) in La Juderia (the Jewish Quarter). We knew that Cordoba no longer contained many Jews, but the existence of a former Jewish quarter and shul proved to be a drawing force for us. We felt that somehow, though the Jewish community had been eliminated there over 500 years ago, that removal would have been fleeting. We felt certain that, over time, Jews must have filtered back into the city, and taken ownership or control over Jewish areas and holy spaces, and therefore, would be eager to take us, Jewish travellers from Canada, in as well.

Statue of Maimonides

We checked into our *pension*, changed into our Shabbat attire and went walking in the direction of the Jewish quarter, excited at long last of the thought of a service in a shul. The last synagogue we had been in was at the beginning of our trip, in Amsterdam, at the historic Portuguese Synagogue for *Kabbalat Shabbat*, and we were feeling overdue.

However, upon arriving at the heavy, wooden, seriously dead bolted doors, we had a sinking feeling. We spent a few moments knocking, in vain, on the door, and soon realized that no services would be held there this evening. Though I realized in retrospect we should not have been surprised at the closed synagogue door, the reality was still painful. I distinctly remember the sad feeling I had, knocking on the door of La Sinagoga, waiting for a welcome that never came. I realized that the removal of the Jews had not been temporary at all – they really didn't exist in this city any longer.

But this moment did not deter us. Instead, we sat down near the statue of

Continued on page B23

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HOMENAJE Y RECUERDO DEL Excmo AYUNTAMIENTO.
JUDIOS

A sign indicating a home in the former Jewish Quarter.

We felt immensely powerful at that moment

Continued from page B22

the Rambam located nearby, facing East, and davened the *Kabbalat Shabbat* service right on the street. Passersby looked on curiously, some even snapped a few pictures of us, as we sang, trying to be oblivious to their stares.

Our travel book told us that the synagogue would be open the next morning for tourists. We entered the now unlocked gates, siddur in hand, and stopped, unprepared for what we saw upon entering the tiny space. The synagogue gave off the air of a survivor – still standing, but bruised, beaten and faded. Something had been lost in its centuries of disuse. It was, simply, an empty room, with still visible Hebrew letters engraved on its four walls and a small, simple menorah standing in the conspicuous space where the Aron Kodesh used to be. Perhaps it was the presence of tour guides and groups of tourists, cameras hanging around their necks, snapping pictures using flash despite a sign requesting otherwise, oblivious to the fact that they were in what was once a holy space, on the holiest day of the week, that left us feeling almost defeated. Perhaps it was the realization that we were not where we thought we would be – in a present-day, thriving synagogue; rather, we were in a historical relic, now owned and operated by the city, where Jewish communities once prayed and thrived but were no more. Perhaps it was the tour guide, explaining to his group how the synagogue fell into disuse once the Jews left Spain. "They didn't leave!" I wanted to shout. "We were expelled!" But for the moment, I felt crushed with disappointment, and stayed quiet.

That moment was almost the end, until my companion suggested we stand in the back of the synagogue, with our small travel-sized siddur, and daven part of the morning's services, the way we had davened the night before, outside. So we did. Again, tour groups came in and out of the small room, and stared, then ignored us, as the guides did their usual *shpiel*, and filed out again, throwing a few curious stares our way. They were unaware that they had witnessed something incredibly significant to where they were, to the space they were in. They witnessed a resurrection of faith, of culture, of spirit, that had seemed lost forever just a few moments earlier. We felt immensely powerful at that moment. Somehow, we had brought to life a Jewish energy, something resurging in ourselves, that had lain dormant in this old city, and this old synagogue, for centuries.

Sarah Zelcer, a recent graduate of the University of Toronto, is currently travelling.

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When Jaffa comes to Sofia

By ESTHER HECHT

Tel-Aviv-Jaffa Mayor holds aloft the copy of the sign marking Sofia's new Tel Aviv-Yafo Square, which he received as a gift from Sofia Mayor Stefan Sofianski [dark hair, black suit]; Emil Kalo, president of the Organization of Jews in Bulgaria Shalom [gray hair] stands between them. [Esther Hecht photo]

Years after most of Bulgaria's Jews moved to Israel and settled in Jaffa, Jaffa has came to Bulgaria's capital city of Sofia. On a Sunday in late October, a major intersection in Sofia's city centre was named Tel Aviv-Yafo Square. It is just one block away from Beit Ha'am, the Jewish community centre.

"Israelis pay homage to Bulgaria for the way it treated its Jews during World War II," Tel Aviv-Jaffa Mayor Ron Huldai, who came to Bulgaria for the event, told Sofia Mayor Stefan Sofianski. Bulgaria was the only European country besides Denmark that refused to comply with the Germans' demand to deport its Jews to the Nazi death camps.

The ceremony, attended by some 150 local and Israeli Jews, began with a consecration by a Bulgarian Orthodox priest who sprinkled holy water on the mayors of the two municipalities, which are linked by a sister-city agreement, and concluded with an exchange of gifts. Sofianski received a model of the stone monument in a Jaffa park named last year in honour of the Bulgarian people. And he gave Huldai a copy of the street sign that now marks the corner of Todor Alexandrov and Hristo Botev boulevards.

Two recent events mark the close ties between Israel and Bulgaria

This was the second event in three days that marked the close ties between Israel and Bulgaria and between Bulgarian Jews in Israel and the country of their birth. The Friday before the ceremony, both Jews and non-Jews honoured the memory of Dimitur Peshev, deputy leader of the Bulgarian parliament during World War II, who is credited with having saved the country's Jewish population.

The Dimitur Peshev Museum was dedicated in Kyustendil, 60 miles southwest of Sofia, where Peshev was born. It was built with funds raised by the Association of Bulgarian Jews in Israel; some two dozen of its members attended both events.

"We have come to begin to repay the debt that our parents could not repay," association chair Yossi Kiosso said at the dedication of the museum. "The entire Jewish Bulgarian community agreed that the museum was important for the sake of educating the children."

The event was attended by the chair of Bulgaria's National Assembly, the assembly's former chair, residents of Kyustendil, members of Sofia's Jewish community and a delegation of Israeli writers who were guests of the Bulgarian Writers Association. Many of the speakers focused on the lesson to be learned from Bulgaria's example during World War II.

The two dedications coincided with the conclusion of the tenure of Israeli Ambassador Emmanuel Zisman, who is said to have been overwhelmingly successful in opening doors for commercial ties between Bulgaria and Israel.

Continued on page B25

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'Bulgaria's behaviour during the war was not saintly'.

Continued from page B24

There is still controversy over who deserves the credit for saving Bulgaria's 49,000 Jews during the war. Starting in February 1940, Bulgaria instituted anti-Semitic laws patterned after Nazi regulations, and in 1943, King Boris III agreed to deport the Jews. Opposition to the deportations was led by Peshev, though he, too, had voted for the anti-Semitic laws. Peshev presented the prime minister with a petition signed by 42 leading members of parliament. The church, politicians and others joined in, forcing the government to stop the deportations.

But Bulgaria's behaviour during the war was not saintly. It rounded up and deported more than 11,000 Jews of Thrace and Macedonia, which had come under its administration. Only a handful survived. And though the Jews of Bulgaria were spared deportation, they were pressed into forced labour.

Leaders of today's small but vibrant Jewish community in Bulgaria say their country has a tradition of tolerance. They attribute rising anti-Semitism to the political and economic difficulties of the past decade. Graffiti that include a Star of David and the word "genocide" are attributed to Palestinian inhabitants of the capital.

More disturbing is the fact that Hitler's memoir, *Mein Kampf*, and several other anti-Semitic and anti-Zionist books are displayed prominently at the outdoor book market in the city centre.

In December 2001, the Jewish community was alarmed when some 500 posters bearing a likeness of Adolf Hitler appeared suddenly in the downtown area to publicize the Bulgarian translation of *Mein Kampf*. At the time, the publisher told the Associated Press it had sold more than 5,000 copies, making it a bestseller.

Members of the Jewish community – estimated at 6,000 to 7,000 people – say Bulgaria is eager to publicize how it saved its Jews during the war in order to win friends in high places in the West. This southeastern European country of eight million, where the average monthly income is $100 to $150 in the cities and lower in rural areas, is a candidate for inclusion in NATO and the European Union.

But whatever Bulgaria's motives today, its Jews are grateful to have been spared during the war. And they heartily endorse the words of Bill Clinton, who in 1999 became the first United States president to visit Bulgaria: "When you saved Bulgaria's Jews, it was one of the proudest moments in your history."

MUD FROM THE DEAD SEA, THAT HEALS

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The dual nature of Bulgarian policy

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

In 1943, when King Boris III of Bulgaria signed the deportation papers that sent thousands of Jews to their deaths in Treblinka, he began one of the most efficient exterminations carried out in Europe.

The victims came from Macedonia, parts of Thrace (in Greece) and areas in eastern Serbia (Yugoslavia) – territories that were handed over to King Boris III in 1941 by the Germans in return for Bulgaria's participation in the Axis alliance.

Yet, because Bulgaria did not deport its own Jews, that country has been remembered as righteous by Israelis and historians, said Zdravko Sami, the coordinator of the Jewish community in the Republic of Macedonia.

In an interview with *The CJN*, Sami talked about the betrayal felt among members of his community because historians have chosen to remember the Bulgarian Jews who were saved instead of the Macedonian Jews who were massacred.

"The Jews of Macedonia were collected on March 11 and then in three trainloads, on the 22nd, the 26th and the 28th of March, they were taken off to concentration camps and killed off within three days," Sami said.

With Bulgaria on its east, Macedonia is bordered by Greece, Albania and Yugoslavia. The region claims a Jewish presence that some historians date back to the Second Temple period. Sami tells of a synagogue that dates back to the second century BCE.

He also describes a community that settled in the cities of Bitola and Skopje after the Jewish expulsion from Spain and Portugal in the 15th century and participated in all aspects of Balkan life until the onset of Nazism.

In August, Sami said, the Macedonian government announced that it would either return or provide compensation for communal properties claimed by the Jewish community.

In addition, Macedonian Finance Minister Nikola Gruevski announced that unclaimed Jewish property or compensation will go to a Holocaust fund that will, among other things, initiate research projects about the war years in the Balkans, Sami said.

But, he said, the Bulgarians have never officially acknowledged what they did to the Macedonian Jews.

After the war, documents and property held by the Bulgarian government were seized by the Soviets. For political and economic reasons, it has been difficult for the Macedonian community – now comprising of 200 people – to investigate this historical period, Sami said, adding that he would like to see an international symposium established to study this era.

Historians in Israel and around the world, he said, have chosen to focus on the Bulgarian government's positive actions, instead of remembering that King Boris III – the father of the current Bulgarian prime minister – was responsible for sending so many to their deaths.

Clearly, there was an intelligentsia and clergy at that time who put their lives on the line and prevented the government from destroying the Bulgarian Jews, Sami explained.

"They should be remembered as righteous Gentiles."

But Sami said that to honour King Boris III and his government for saving the Bulgarian Jews is to disgrace the memory of those that died in the annexed territories.

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SEARS

Singapore's Jews: small, strong – but single

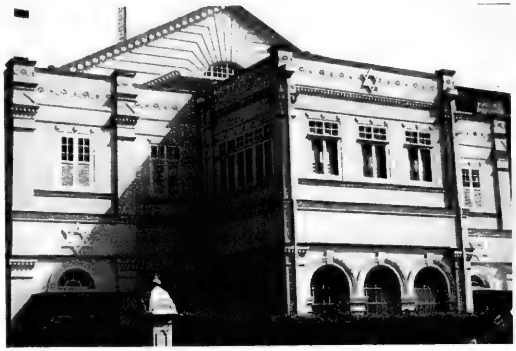
By LAUREN KRAMER

If you're finding it hard to meet your bashert in Canada, consider for a moment the plight of the Jews of Singapore. Sequestered on an Asian island one 10th the size of Texas, with only 180 local Jews and a few hundred expatriates from the United States, Britain, Israel and Australia, the pickings for those seeking partners are slim.

It wasn't always this difficult to find a wife. There have been Jews in Singapore since 1819, and a synagogue since 1824. Some came from India, others from Baghdad, and by 1939, their numbers had swelled to 1,500. During the war, however, the Japanese interned many of Singapore's Jews, and in its aftermath, they began emigrating en masse, leaving only 450 Jews by 1968.

They're small in numbers today, a fact that's conspicuous on Friday nights during the services at Maghain Aboth, one of the country's two synagogues. With 20 men praying beneath us, I joined four women on the top floor of the gracious, old synagogue built in 1905 by Sir Manasseh Meyer, at the time one of the wealthiest men in the Far East.

But despite the small numbers, I found a warmth and soul among Singapore's Jewish community that's hard to come by these days, a vibrancy that's especially remarkable in a community so far away from the epicentre of Jewish activity.



Maghain Aboth Synagogue in Singapore

In a meeting with 34-year-old Rabbi Mordechai Abergel, who hails from Brussels, I learned that the community has a Jewish preschool with 45 children, a Sunday school for Hebrew education, a home for the Jewish aged, weekly movies at the Sir Manasseh Meyer Community Hall and communal meals served at the back of the synagogue after morning services and on Friday nights. There's even a store selling kosher products.

The Singapore Jewish community had just hosted a group of visiting rabbis from New York, who had come to help inject new life into it. And the community doesn't permit its lack of numbers to stand in the way of plans to expand and upgrade their facilities. By the year's end, construction will begin on a new, five-story building adjacent to the synagogue, containing a kosher shop, accommodation for the rabbi and cantor, a kosher cafeteria, a new mikvah and a JCC.

Ask a local Singaporean about the country's Jews and you might hear the name David Marshall, who in 1955 became the first chief minister of the republic. Frank J. Benjamin is another name frequently mentioned, a prominent member of the community and fashion retailer whose company, F.J. Benjamin, has made him highly recognizable in Singapore.

Continued on page B28

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Happy Chanukah
JEWISH WORLD

'There's no shortage of Jewish visitors'

Continued from page B27

I spent Shabbat dinner with other members of the Benjamin family, namely Frank's brother, Joseph, 65, his wife and son. Third generation Singaporeans, whose ancestors came from Iraq in the early 19th century, Joseph Benjamin has a daughter in Sydney and two children who live in Singapore.

"We don't have a problem keeping our kids here, they like Singapore," he confided. "But to make sure I had a back-up plan, I established a company in Sydney."

I asked Joseph what he loved about Singapore. "Everything works click-clock," he responded enthusiastically. "The newspaper is delivered every morning, there are no traffic jams, no strikes, the streets are safe..., there's no concern about bringing up kids here."

That "click-clock" has a lot to do with government control. The newspaper is government-controlled and strikes are against the law. Traffic jams are minimized by toll roads and an elaborate maze of rules and instructions keeps the society orderly, with fines for forgetting to flush, for jaywalking, for eating on the subway and for chewing gum.

Yet from this labyrinth of regulations, Singapore, a country with no natural resources apart from its ingenious people, has become one of the region's most affluent societies. It boasts a highly efficient infrastructure, the world's second-busiest port and status as an international financial and telecommunications hub. And it has achieved all this in 37 short years.

"Singapore is a very healthy environment for kids," Rabbi Abergel agreed. "People are more relaxed here, and the fact that we have Jews from so many different countries is very enriching. It adds flavour to our community."

There are concerns, though. Rabbi Abergel worries about the Jewish education his three children will receive in the absence of a Jewish day school. And Joseph Benjamin worries about the possible future partners his children will encounter in a republic with a remarkable absence of available Jewish women.

Meir Rosh, the community's melodic-voiced cantor, is one of 20 to 30 marriageable men who have not found Jewish partners. For this reason, they remain single. Intermarriage has not reared its head much in Singapore, and according to Rabbi Abergel, that's because "the small number of Jews here triggers a system of loyalty towards the Jewish identity."

The good news for Singapore's singles is that there's no shortage of Jewish visitors who pass through the island through the course of their work in Asia. Inevitably, they land up joining the services and meals at Maghain Aboth and meeting the locals. At the time of my visit, Rosh was happily dating one such visitor who hailed from New York. The problem is what to do when the visitors leave.

"We need to build the infrastructure to our community so that people will want to stay and we can build critical mass," said Rabbi Abergel.

Hence, the impending plans for construction proceed, promising to add a dimension of modernity to the two synagogues that were built in 1878 and 1905, respectively.

One informative platform is the community's Web site, www.singaporejews.com, where introductions are made, service times are stipulated and a tradition of warm hospitality is extended to potential visitors.

"Despite the small numbers, our community has much to offer her members," the Web site says. That includes "a good Jewish education for the youth, weekly discussions, up to the minute gossip and Sabbath luncheons and dinners, which will help to keep the spark burning for generations to come."

I left Singapore with an indelible impression of a community distinguished by its tremendous warmth towards Jewish visitors and newcomers. In the republic for a short week, I was embraced, welcomed and fêted by its members and left with a sense of belonging to a great, international Jewish family.

Lauren Kramer is a travel writer living in Vancouver.

JEWISH WORLD

The new Israel

By BEVERLEY ABRAMSON

Sitting outside at one of Toronto's busy cafés this summer less than 24 hours after returning from Israel, I feel distraught and uneasy in spite of the serene ambience of a protected back patio. I try to deal with my feelings by relating my experiences to my youngest son. He is just a few years older than the hospitalized soldiers whom I have just met in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Ra'anana.

As a photographer who travels to the Middle East frequently, I return to Israel against repeated warnings from my Israeli cousins that "it's not a good time to come." Despite being a travelholic, I find that making the decision to go to Israel during such volatile and uncertain times is not a light one, but I am intent on visiting my family. I want to gain an understanding of, and photograph, current Israeli life, and I join a solidarity group mission arriving from Toronto during the latter part of my stay.

Some of the images that I anxiously leave Toronto to capture on film have been haunting me ever since.

An Israel soldier demonstrates how to handle a gun during a demonstration at the Israel Defence Forces Adam Base near Tel Aviv.

I can't help but compare today's Israel with the one I photographed almost four years ago when the country was jubilantly rejoicing in its 50th anniversary. The beaches and desert, the cities, towns and villages were then bustling with excitement, struggling yet thriving with their sudden prosperity, partly a result of the infusion and integration of so many new immigrants from the former Soviet Union.

Now, as I travel throughout the country exploring how Israelis deal with continual heightened violence and surprise suicide bombings, the dramatic changes fill me with dismay. I don't cry easily – mostly only at weddings, funerals, a great movie or opera – but since my arrival, I am saddened and confused by the new Israel that I quickly encounter.

Barach Ribshtein, in uniform, visits his sergeant and high school friend Tzach Tayer, whom he saved during an ambush two days before this photograph was taken.

In the new Israel, the sun still shines. Trees blossom; trains and buses overflow with commuters. Stunning skyscrapers soar over new housing, restaurants and parks. Sophisticated redevelopment projects boast striking architecture and boutiques. People continue to shop and meet at outdoor cafés; children are escorted on school outings to galleries and parks. Sporting events, concerts, dance and theatre performances are filled to capacity. The beach area from Tel Aviv to Jaffa rivals any Mediterranean seaside resort. In the evenings, the promenade along the sea still attracts lovers and dedicated walkers and joggers that now include Israeli Arab women and men from Jaffa.

On the surface, it is an impressive scene. But it is also a surrealistic one.

The mood is different now. The glorious beaches and hotels are practically empty except for a few businessmen and Israelis coming from abroad to see relatives. Visitors are a rarity except for a few

Continued on page B30

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'Indeed, much has changed in Israel'

Continued from page B29

Canadians and Americans travelling in small groups on solidarity missions. Taxi drivers can't remember the last time they drove tourists. Armed soldiers fill the buses and trains and security guards flank entrances not only to government buildings but also to restaurants, train stations, schools, theatres and backstage doors.

After searching through my camera bag at the train station in Binyamina, the security guard sends me off with a "Have a nice day" and politely warns me that photographing on trains is not permitted. The bus shelter in this idyllic village, a bedroom community for Tel Aviv commuters, was the place last year where two young soldiers were killed while on their day off. In Jerusalem, the bus driver for my group wears a handgun on his back, tucked into his waistband, next to his cellphone.

Indeed, much has changed in Israel. Bombed nightclubs, bus shelters, restaurants and outdoor cafés draw family, friends and strangers who light candles in memory of the dead. These structures are quickly rebuilt and "repeopled," made to thrive as living monuments. Those who are injured or repeatedly "missed" by the attacks are everywhere. Families take turns sitting vigil at cemeteries and memorial sites. During the memorial service at the newly reopened Momento Café in Jerusalem, my hands tremble and my camera breaks when I meet the father and brother who hold pictures of their lost 21-year-old daughter and sister. Carmel, my nine-year old cousin, reads the morning headlines and sees that a family was attacked and killed at home. She cries to her mother, "I thought that you told me we were safe in our own house."

One evening, I walk along Tel Aviv's promenade to Jaffa with Tova, an Israeli shopkeeper, past the Dolphinarium, the disco where 21 teenagers were killed the summer of 2001. The day before, I had visited a memorial site at the high school attended by seven of these children. Business is booming at the nightclub and so is the music. A wedding car is parked out front near the memorial stone which describes the attack in both Hebrew and Russian. We continue on to Jaffa, where Tova spent her childhood, to meet her friends and family, through the empty, dark and mysterious casbah of the oldest city on the Mediterranean Sea. When I finally ask her why she walks there alone each night, she tells me that her friends are too afraid to accompany her.

'In the new Israel, theatre performances are filled to capacity... but the mood is different now': Members of the Israel Ballet rest between performances.

Continued on page B31

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'Four suicide attacks occur during the few weeks that I am here'

Continued from page B30

Dalia Shatz, a tiny woman in her 70s, finds solace in her volunteer work, visiting wounded soldiers in hospitals all over the country. Her telephones are always ringing as calls come directly from the army liaison informing her of the newly injured. Adding the names to her list, she quickly prepares for her visits. She takes gifts, books and pizza, and organizes outings to movies or restaurants where possible. When I accompany her, she also brings gifts of chocolate donated from around the world through an Internet service. But it is her radiance and warm heart that comfort the patients and their families. Even the faces of the hospital staff light up when she arrives.

Through Dalia, I meet Sergeant Tzach Tayar, a new patient, and his friend in uniform, Barach Ribshtein. They grew up together in Ashdod and have remained together in the same army team. Tzach's room is filled with family, friends and balloons in celebration of his 20th birthday and Barach's bravery – he had saved Tzach's life when they were ambushed just two days before. Tzach boasts about his friend, his hero and his concern for Moran, another soldier under his command who is down the hall, recovering from the same attack.

I also meet Zeev Langer, who left his job three months ago when his youngest son Rotem, a paratrooper in the army, suffered serious head injuries while on active military duty. Langer talks about the miraculous work of the doctors and his dedication to his son's rehabilitation. Rotem, who is 20, is relearning to walk. He may never recover his speech. Zeev modestly recounts how the family was invited to Jerusalem the day before, where his son was presented with a medal for his contribution to the country. Zeev lives on hospital grounds, providing emotional support and a sense of humour to his son and others in the trauma unit like Sherri Ben Arroya, a 20-year-old soldier, who was wounded by a bomb at Passover. She not only incurred serious paralyzing injuries, but also lost her father during that attack.

Four suicide attacks occur during the few weeks that I am here, one on a busy morning bus in Jerusalem, not far from where I am staying. Too many are suffering; too many are killed. Many tears are shed. The country is in a state of shock and so am I.

So how do they deal with their fears and losses and keep smiling? How do they leave home to go to the store, take the bus, drive or walk to school, go to work, go to the synagogue, go to the dentist, go to a café, go to the beach, go to the ballet or merely go to meet a friend? All the activities that we take for granted have become a test for them – a test of the will to live a normal life.

But the reality is that normalcy in Israel has become akin to playing Russian roulette. Israelis don't focus on danger. Instead, they celebrate life with weddings, birthday and anniversary parties, by travelling, volunteering in community services and visiting patients in hospitals. And they send their children, grandchildren, husbands and grandfathers into the army because they believe that these horrors – this war against terrorism – will end. They have endured nightmares intermittently for generations. They are confident that the calm they once experienced will return. And the buses keep filling up.

Continued on page B32

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Carl DeFaria, M.P.P.
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Garfield Dunlop, M.P.P.
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'We know there'll be a better tomorrow'

Continued from page B31

Israel's Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, exemplifies the Israeli spirit at an army base outside Tel Aviv during an evening where hundreds of soldiers and international guests wait patiently for his late arrival. He shakes hands with his guests and delivers a stirring speech of gratitude to his soldiers, even though while en route to speak, he has been informed of the terrorist attack on a civilian home in Itamar that killed a mother, her three sons and a neighbour. The audience is not told about this until after he thanks the young soldiers for their bravery and exceptional work in protecting the country. After his quick departure, he conveys the message through his spokesperson to continue with the event and award celebration. And dance they do. It is an inspiring sight to see both male and female soldiers whose faces represent so many nations dancing with their guests from around the globe.

A girl prays in the Tunnel Walls of the Western Wall in the Old City of Jerusalem in memory of her uncle who was killed in a suicide bombing the day before this photograph was taken.

It is a privilege to meet such determined and remarkable people who share their stories and permit me to photograph them. On the last evening of the mission, when our group discusses our thoughts and emotions about our experiences, Ezra Eini, our dedicated and knowledgeable Israeli guide, tells us how isolated his country feels and expresses his appreciation to visitors who he says give him strength. With tears in his eyes, he discloses how he deals with his own personal tragedy – the loss of his youngest son, "Moishela," an IDF captain who was ambushed and killed in a terrorist attack just three months prior.

"We know there'll be a better tomorrow because we have each other," says Ezra.

Resilience, endurance, zest for life, humour and love for each other and their country seem to be the Israeli's antidote to terrorism. I learn much from them. Their courage gives me courage. I hope to return soon to the old Israel.

Beverley Abramson is a freelance photographer who lives in Toronto.

Anna Vashbein, a 25-year-old former gold medallist in acrobatics and the mother of an 18-month-old, was paralyzed by the suicide attack last Passover at the Park Hotel in Netanya while working there. She is undergoing treatment in the Neurological Rehabilitation Centre in Bet Levinstein, Ra'anana.

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Canada

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and
City of Toronto residents
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Councillor Mario G. Racco
City of Vaughan
905.832.8585 x8342
e-mail: mario.racco@city.vaughan.on.ca

Happy Chanukah
GIFTS

Change the World With A Sound

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

The first time you hear RebbeSoul will be a revelation; at least it was for me.

Within minutes of sliding his new album into the CD player, I realized that here was a type of contemporary Jewish music I had rarely heard before.

Melodious and musically rich, *Change the World With A Sound* does more than just pulsate with sizzling rhythms and sensuous sounds. It seems spiritually alive.

Melding Carlebachean melodiousness with Chassid-like exuberance, the music seems a loving and appealing tribute to the spiritual inheritance of the Jewish people.

The dozen songs blend eastern or Mizrachi musical stylings with rock and world-fusion sensibilities. The sound is simultaneously as ancient as Abraham and as up-to-the-minute as Madonna.

Droning prayers heard repeatedly in Kaddish

This American artist, whose real name is Bruce Burger, weaves part of his magic in the studio, splicing in many extraneous beats and sounds such as the droning prayers heard repeatedly in Kaddish. Yet all of the technical wizardry, along with the impressive musical artistry, seems in service of a higher purpose.

RebbeSoul adds to the exotic musical mix by playing mandolin and balalaika, but the real soul of the music lies in its exploration of Judaic themes and mystical traditions. The lyrics are in English and Hebrew, intermittently.

Many of the lyrics were penned by Kings David and Solomon and the great composer known as Traditional. Four songs were composed by RebbeSoul.

According to the liner notes, the song *Esa Enai* is a collaboration between Reb Shlomo Carlebach and King David, with additional lyrics by Prophet X, and arranged (beautifully) by RebbeSoul. The track also features Toronto's own Neshama Carlebach, daughter of the late Reb Shlomo.

Other selections include *Tzamah L'Cha Nafshi*, *Rock of Ages*, *Kol Dodi*, *Qaafilah* and *Shmelke's Nigun*, the latter a creation of Reb Shmuel Brazil. The penultimate track features the mellifluous voice of Reb Zalman Schachter-Shalomi reading the I.L. Peretz story, *Reincarnation of A Melody*.

The final selection is *Avinu*, RebbeSoul's irresistible rendition of part of the Avinu Malkeinu prayer, which helped launch his musical career. He first recorded his arrangement of the song about eight years ago in Los Angeles, and it soon won instant airplay on radio stations throughout the city. Since then, Avinu has become his calling-card and he's put a version of it on all of his four CDs.

RebbeSoul's music is so closely associated with religious devotion that he's had to explain to journalists that he was never ordained into his higher calling.

"The thing is, I am a professional musician who makes Jewish music that sounds good," he told an interviewer recently. "I'm not a singing rabbi. I'm a real musician with an inspiration for this music."

RebbeSoul is one of a growing number of youngish contemporary Jewish artists who are neither afraid of nor alienated from our spiritual traditions. But unlike many other such artists, he vigorously celebrates our shared Judaism without a trace of cynicism. Perhaps it's this quality that I find the most refreshing.

Rebbesoul

Best wishes for a Happy Chanukah

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Don Valley West

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Leader, Ontario NDP
NDP

Chanukah Sameach

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Best Wishes for a Healthy and Happy Chanukah

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City of Vaughan Councillor

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The Mayor and Members of Council of the Town of Richmond Hill
wish you and your family a Happy Chanukah

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Happy Chanukah
GIFTS

A unique Chanukah gift: a new Jewish baseball card series

By MARK BENSON
The Jewish Advocate

BOSTON — During the annual convention of the Society for American Baseball Research here this past summer, Martin Abramowitz of Newton, Mass., invited convention attendees to his home for brunch and a discussion on baseball players from years past, like Greenberg, Koufax and Reese.

However, the Reese mentioned was not Brooklyn Dodger shortstop Pee Wee Reese, but Jimmy Reese, another middle infielder who played some 70 years ago.

The lesser-known Reese shares a special distinction with Hank Greenberg and Sandy Koufax – he is one of just 140 Jews ever to play major league baseball, and will be featured in an upcoming set of baseball cards Abramowitz created to celebrate this fascinating aspect of the Jewish experience in America.

Abramowitz is the founder of Jewish Major Leaguers, a non-profit organization based in Newton (actually, in Abramowitz's home) that is collaborating on the project with the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) and a card manufacturer to be determined. He hopes that the first set of cards will bring attention to men like Reese, a second baseman for the New York Yankees during the 1930 and 1931 seasons who roomed on road trips with none other than Babe Ruth. (Though, as Reese often quipped, he spent more time in the hotel with the Babe's luggage than with the Bambino himself.)

Abramowitz, the vice-president of planning and agency relations with Combined Jewish Philanthropies, Boston's Jewish federation, has become a baseball historian through his efforts to help honour Jewish Americans who appeared in the major league game from 1871 to the present.

During baseball's early years, Reese and other Jews sometimes concealed their religion. The story of how Reese revealed his Jewish identity is quite amusing.

No one knew that he was Jewish when he broke in with the Yankees in 1930

"Reese changed his given name to Jimmy Reese, and no one knew that he was Jewish when he broke in with the Yankees in 1930," Abramowitz said.

Reese batted .346 in his rookie year with the Bronx Bombers, and was an astounding 10 for 20 that season as a pinch-hitter.

One day, in an exhibition game, Reese stepped into the batter's box against a Jewish pitcher and Jewish catcher who communicated their signs in Yiddish. Reese feasted on this pitcher in the past, and the catcher was perplexed.

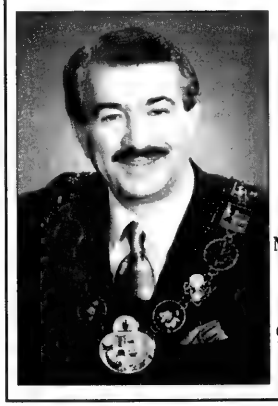
"You are hitting the ball extremely well against us – it's as if you know what we're going to throw before the ball comes to the plate," the catcher said to Reese, according to Abramowitz. "We're giving each other signs in Yiddish – there is no way that you could know that."

"Reese paused, then he told the catcher, 'My name is Hymie Solomon.'"

Reese and the other Jewish baseball players honoured in this card set are taken from an official list compiled by the Jewish Sports Review in Los Angeles. The list includes Hall of Famers such as Greenberg, who challenged Ruth's single-season home-run record in 1938 when he hit 58 of them for the Detroit Tigers, as well as today's legends-in-the making, such as Los Angeles Dodger Shawn Green, who hit four home runs in a memorable 6-for-6 performance last May.

The historical society hopes to be able to release this set by Opening Day 2003, but the release is pending final approval of Major League Baseball, the Major League Baseball Players Association, the Major League Players Alumni Association and the players themselves. The society is currently in discussions with these organizations about licensing issues.

Continued on page B35



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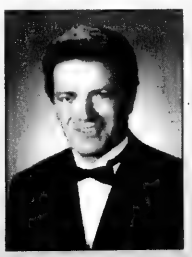

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Happy Chanukah
GIFTS

Significant, highly readable, and well-researched contribution

Continued from page B34

It is estimated that 10,000 sets of the cards will be produced and sold at a price of $36 (US) per set. The cards will be marketed primarily through a network of Jewish congregations, gift shops, museums, bookstores, catalogues and the Jewish media. The National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., has expressed interest in selling the cards as well.

The process of documenting player achievements, learning their stories and locating pictures has significantly advanced scholarship on Jews in baseball. In a letter to AJHS, Timothy Wiles, director of research at the Baseball Hall of Fame, wrote glowingly of the Jewish card series.

"This card set is a significant, highly readable, and well-researched contribution to the documentary record of both baseball and the participation of Jews in the game," Wiles said.

Abramowitz, whom Wiles invited to speak at the Hall of Fame about his efforts to put together the card set, is proud of what the project will accomplish.

"When we issue the Jewish Major Leaguers set, it will be the first major-league card for about 50 players and the first card of any kind for about 40 players," said Abramowitz, who noted the official title of the set will be American Jews in America's Game, 1871-2002.

"The first Jewish player to use his obviously Jewish name was Andy Cohen, a second baseman with the New York Giants in the 1920s, and the total number of Jews in major league baseball comprise one-tenth of one per cent of all who made it to the majors."

Abramowitz tapped into an eclectic network of baseball afficionados to create the cards, including the late George Brace, a Chicago-area photographer who took at least one picture of every major leaguer who passed through the Windy City to play either the Cubs or the White Sox from the late '20s until the early '90s. While the Hall of Fame provided some photographs, Brace furnished Abramowitz with all but a handful of the pictures needed.

To obtain the remaining photos, Abramowitz and his colleagues added to the record of Jews in the major leagues with some original research. Hours and hours were spent poring through obituaries and newspaper archives to locate the families of these players in the hopes of getting a picture for the front of their cards. During this effort, Abramowitz discovered another Jewish baseball player initially omitted from the Jewish Sports Review's list – Sam Fishburn, an infielder who made his debut with the St. Louis Cardinals in 1919.

For Abramowitz, the opportunity to issue cards for Fishburn and other Jewish major leaguers who were never recognized for their unique distinction motivated him to see the project to fruition.

"I really wanted these guys to have cards, to have a slice of immortality," said Abramowitz, whose teenage son, Jacob, encouraged him to create the set and sketched the design for the card logo.

"Baseball cards represent an American sports icon, and I wanted these guys to be memorialized in some clear way. I feel very responsible for their image and seeing that their names live on in the history of baseball."

Abramowitz has advanced $25,000 (US) of his own money so far into the project, which has paid for design work, rights to photos, research and pre-marketing expenses.

AJHS has stepped up to the plate to repay Abramowitz for his initial investment; when issued, the cards will be an AJHS product. The society is also seeking to raise about $45,000 (US) to pay for the actual production costs.

For more information on "American Jews in America's Game, 1871-2001," e-mail jewishmajorleaguers@rcn.com. AJHS plans to host an exhibit of the cards and associated memorabilia in the spring. Contact <ajhs@ajhs.org> for details.

My Best Wishes to the Jewish Community for a Happy, Healthy Chanukah

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The Mayor and Members of Council of the Town of Markham wish you a happy and healthy Chanukah.

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This Week

National

Failure to list Hezbollah as a terrorist group prompts court action. *Page 3*

Peace Now thriving in Canada despite intifadah. *Page 6*

CJ Kids

The Battle: A first-hand account of the Chanukah period. *Page 35*

Arts & Travel

Resistance fighter play is only half a great Dane. *Page 36*

Business Profile

Software company manager is a born salesman. *Pages 40*

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Kenya attack Al Qaeda ploy?

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — If Al Qaeda operatives were behind last week's deadly terror attack on the Hotel Paradise in Mombasa, Kenya, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's vow to bring the perpetrators to justice could prove difficult.

Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz told Sunday's cabinet meeting that no concrete evidence has yet been discovered proving the involvement of Osama bin Laden's terrorist network.

However, Israeli and U.S. officials suspect Al Qaeda or al-Itihaad al-Islamiya – Arabic for the Islamic Union – a Somali Islamic group suspected of having links to Al Qaeda.

They voiced the suspicions even though a previously unknown group calling itself the Army of Palestine claimed responsibility for the attack on the hotel, which is partly owned by Israelis.

Globes online, the Web site of Israel's business newspaper, reported that the Paradise Hotel is owned by Kenyan and British investors, but hundreds of Israelis had bought time-share apartments in the building.

Driving a car packed with explosives into the hotel compound, three suicide bombers killed 13 people – three Israelis and 10 Kenyans.

The attack – as well as another deadly assault that day in Israel – took place as the Likud party held its leadership primary.

Minutes before the hotel blast, two surface-to-air missiles were fired at an Israeli charter plane taking off from Mombasa's airport with 261 passengers and crew members aboard. The missiles missed the plane by a matter of feet.

There were no injuries or damage to the Arkia Airlines plane, which later landed safely at Ben-Gurion Airport.

Continued on page 31

It's still Chanukah!

Despite the fact terrorists struck again last week, it is important to remind ourselves that we are still celebrating Chanukah. The photos of this young boy at the Schneider Children's Hospital in Israel enjoying his sufganiyah remind us that ignoring the holiday is to surrender to the terrorists. We will not, therefore, ignore the holiday.

[Israel photos]

'Important to help encourage others'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Barry Sherman says he is a driven man. "My father died when I was 10. My mother had to work hard to support us. We really had nothing."

Fast forward 50 years. Sherman, now 60, and his wife Honey are giving a $50-million endowment to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, the largest the organization has ever received.

Sherman's early life experiences made him "driven to succeed and to do things as quickly as possible. I realize how short life is."

Barry and Honey Sherman

In a phone interview last week, the chair and CEO of the pharmaceutical company Apotex Inc. – who was named earlier this year by the *National Post* as the seventh-wealthiest person in Canada – said he feels it's important "not only to do our part, but to help encourage others to do likewise."

Sherman feels a particular obligation as part of UJA Federation's leadership. "I'm out there often trying to get others to contribute." He and his wife have given the largest annual UJA contribution of all donors for about the past decade, he said.

There was no particular significance to the $50 million amount, according to Sherman. "It's a level we feel we can honour." Half the amount will be in the form of a bequest, and half is to be paid over the next few years.

30

Shabbat Chanukah: Miketz
Candlelighting: 4:23
Havdallah: 5:28

Greater Toronto Area

Sharon defeats Netanyahu for Likud leadership — please see page 32

The News in Brief

CANADA

Shop Israel Event

VANCOUVER — Some 2,000 people turned out last month to a weekend Shop Israel event at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver to buy such items as Judaica, artwork, cosmetics and kippot directly from 17 Israeli merchants. The goal was to help the retailers, who have been hurt by declining tourism due to Israel's ongoing conflict with the Palestinians.

ISRAEL

AIDS on the Rise

JERUSALEM — The number of AIDS cases in Israel is growing by 10 per cent a year, Israel's Health Ministry reports. There are more than 3,500 AIDS cases in Israel, the ministry says. Of the 300 new carriers each year, one-quarter are foreigners.

Palestinian Threat

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian legislator has threatened suicide attacks against the United States, according to Palestinian Media Watch. U.S. President George W. Bush's policies toward the Arab world will leave Arabs so isolated in world opinion that they will have no alternative but to carry out suicide bombings, Nahed Munir Alrayis wrote last Monday in the Palestinian Authority's official daily *Al-Hayat Al-Jadida*.

Aid Request Made

JERUSALEM — Israeli officials asked for $10 billion (US) in loan guarantees from the United States during a meeting last week in Washington, D.C., with U.S. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, the Prime Minister's Office said. Israel is also seeking $4 billion in special military aid from the United States to help fight terrorism and prepare for a possible U.S. war against Iraq.

Arabs Targeted

JERUSALEM — There have been several apparent revenge attacks near the site of the recent suicide bus bombing here. In one, an Arab pharmacology student was stabbed in the lower back. In another, three female Arabs were targeted in an attempted stabbing.

WORLD

Poet Reinvited

BOSTON — Harvard University's English department has reinvited a controversial Irish poet who once said West Bank settlers should be "shot dead." One week after his appearance was cancelled because of his anti-Israeli comments, department members met for two hours and voted to reinvite Tom Paulin. "Free speech was a principle that needed upholding here," Harvard Prof. Peter Sacks said.

Rabbi Spared Death

FREEHOLD, N.J. — A jury has spared Rabbi Fred Neulander the death penalty for hiring two men to kill his wife. Rabbi Neulander was convicted Nov. 24 of murder and conspiracy to commit murder in the death of his wife, Carol. His formal sentencing, when a judge will give him a jail term of 30 years to life in prison without the possibility of parole, is slated for Jan. 16.

Patriot Missile Promise

BERLIN — Germany will provide Israel with Patriot missiles for defence against Iraq because it has a "moral duty" to protect Israel, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder told the weekly *Die Zeit* newspaper. Israel Defence Ministry officials said they asked for the missiles more than a year ago and renewed the request during recent talks with their German counterparts.

Abraham Cleared

LOS ANGELES — Biblical patriarch Abraham was found not guilty of agreeing to sacrifice his son Isaac. Jurors at a mock trial last week at the University of Judaism here voted 225-216 to clear Abraham of agreeing to sacrifice Isaac after God asked him to. TV Judge Joseph Wapner, who presided over the trial, said, "Under California law, I don't think intent was proven beyond a reasonable doubt."

Peace Shirt Includes 'Palestine,' Omits Israel

MONTREAL — YMCA Canada officials say they weren't trying to make a political statement with a T-shirt promoting world peace that listed Palestine but not Israel among countries involved in the struggle for world peace.

On the front of the black shirt is a quote from Gandhi: "We must be the change we wish to see in the world." On the back is a list of more than 100 countries that host Ys worldwide. The shirts were handed out at YMCAs throughout Canada to mark World Peace Week, Nov. 17-23.

"The T-shirt could have mentioned Israel as a place trying to have peace," said Sandy Kogut, a music instructor at the YMCA in the Montreal suburb of Westmount, who, along with several colleagues, has refused to wear the shirts. She noted the International YMCA is in western Jerusalem.

Mary Stobbe, YMCA Canada's manager of communications, said "Palestine" was included because the Ys in Palestinian areas identify themselves that way.

Silvana Anania, the YMCA's director of international development, said in a statement that the Y in western Jerusalem is a branch of the American YMCA movement.

"We're not trying to make a political statement, except to say we are trying to promote peace, not conflict," Anania said. The list simply represents countries with YMCA organizations, she added.

The YMCA has been issuing these T-shirts for years, but this is the first year Palestine has been included as a country, Anania said. But Kogut noted that a similar T-shirt last year mentioned a Y in "Gaza, Palestine."

Anania promised next year's shirts will include Israel.

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Failure to list Hezbollah prompts court action

Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad added to list of outlawed terrorist organizations

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

The federal government has omitted Hezbollah from its newly expanded list of illegal terrorist groups, despite earlier warnings from its own spy agency that the organization has been active in Canada.

Ottawa last week revised its list of outlawed terrorist organizations to include Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which have both claimed responsibility for suicide bombings against Israelis. Four other radical Islamic groups have also been added to the new list, but Hezbollah's absence has been blasted by Jewish groups, the Opposition and one Liberal MP as outrageous and inexplicable.

While membership alone in the listed groups is not illegal, providing them with material assistance now carries a penalty of up to 10 years in prison.

The government said raising money for Hezbollah's military wing has been prohibited in this country since last year's passage of Canada's anti-terrorism law, Bill C-36. "So it is, in fact, listed," Solicitor-General Wayne Easter said last week in announcing the revised List of Terrorist Entities.

But with Hezbollah's exclusion, Canadians can still assist or finance the militant Shiite group's so-called social wing, which is said to conduct charitable and humanitarian activities. (By contrast, the United States has criminalized support for all of Hezbollah's activities.)

B'nai Brith Canada announced last Friday that it is taking the government to court over the new list. At a press conference in Ottawa, B'nai Brith senior legal counsel David Matas said he had filed an application in Federal Court seeking to overturn the decision because it is wrong in law, discriminatory and violates several international statutes.

In drafting the new list, the Liberals ignored repeated pleas from Canadian Jewish Congress to abandon what CJC has termed a "specious" distinction between Hezbollah's military and socio-political arms. Congress and others have long argued that funds flow freely between Hezbollah's various arms.

Apparently, the government has also ignored a 1997 warning by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) that Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Party of God, had established an infrastructure in Canada "that can assist and support terrorists seeking a safe haven in North America. Hezbollah members in Canada receive and comply with direction from the Hezbollah leadership hierarchy in Lebanon."

Those allegations were made in a 19-page summary of evidence filed in Federal Court to support the government's efforts to deport Hani Abd Rahim al-Sayegh, who was accused of helping carry out the 1996 truck bombing that killed 19 Americans in Saudi Arabia.

Published reports have also shown extensive fundraising by Hezbollah in this country. As recently as two years ago, agents in Vancouver, Montreal and Toronto reportedly moved hundreds of thousands of dollars through various Canadian banks and purchased a range of military supplies that were then shipped to Lebanon.

Canadian Jewish officials are also keeping a close eye on the case of Fawzi Ayub, a senior Hezbollah operative who has been in Israeli custody since June. Ayub, 38, is a Canadian citizen who is alleged to have planned the Nov. 15 terrorist attack in Hebron that killed 12 Israelis. He reportedly flew to Athens on a valid Canadian passport, and then to Tel Aviv using forged American documents.

Continued on page 20

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A visit to Germany (3)

From the editor's desk

Historians trace the first arrival of Jews to the territory that would centuries later be known as Germany, to sometime in the fourth century AD. For, in edicts published in 321 and 331 by the Roman Emperor Constantine, in relation to the imposition of duties and taxes, the Jews of Colonia (Köln, Cologne) are specifically mentioned.

Thus, historians surmise, Jews came to the area, along with or just following the Roman armies who settled throughout central Europe in the years preceding the fall of the Roman Empire.

Those early Jewish travellers to the Roman outposts of central Europe would ultimately evolve, through more than a millennium of wandering, settlement, persecution, exile and return, into scores of hundreds of thriving, vibrant, pulsating Jewish communities throughout the European continent that would permanently and profoundly influence the entirety of unfolding western civilization.

But that would end, brutally, in the fourth decade of the 20th century A.D., when the leaders of National Socialism in Germany organized and saw to the implementation of the destruction, effectively, of the Jews of Europe.

In an effort to better understand the history of European Jewry before the advent of Germany's National Socialism, and to better understand myself as a member of a people whose influence on western civilization hearkens back to the beginning of counted time, I visited the country. Through the sponsorship of the Goethe Institut, Inter Nationes and the Press and Information Office of the federal government, I travelled there last month on a brief tour.

In this, the third of four installments of my reflections from that trip, I shall share part of my experience at one specific site I visited: *Raschihaus* (Rashi's house) in Worms, in west-central Germany.

The community in Worms (pronounced *Vorms*), along with its companion communities of Speyer (pronounced *Shpeyer*) and Mainz, all situated on the banks of the Rhine River, formed one of most famous Jewish districts in medieval Europe. It was known by the name *Shum*, which in Hebrew, means garlic: "sh" from the first letter of Shpeyer, "u" from the first letter of Worms (for the letter *vav*, which, in Hebrew, would be the first letter of the word) and "m" from the first letter of Mainz. In fact, drawings of Jews from that area and period of time often depicted a man holding a clove of garlic in his hand, to identify him as a Jew from the Shum community on the Rhine.

Rabbi Shlomo ben Yitzchaki, acronymically and affectionately known as Rashi, one of the most formidable and most important of all biblical and talmudic commentators in Jewish history, lived for a period of time during the 11th century, in Worms. Most Jews who have lived on Earth since the 11th century and who have ever studied a page of the Bible will likely have heard of Rashi.

The place where Rashi lived and studied is now part of a four-structure complex that houses a museum depicting former Jewish life in Worms, including its original synagogue, yeshiva and mikvah. Of course, the entire complex had to be rebuilt after its destruction, along with all the other synagogues of Germany, on Nov. 9, 1938. But today, the complex receives visitors and the synagogue is used on rare occasions.

To the North American visitor, most of the artifacts of former Rhineland Jewish life that are on display will not be especially evocative, for they are intended, primarily, to educate a non-Jewish population of the unique Jewish culture that once existed there.

But there was also on display, under glass, beyond the trembling touch of an emotional visitor, evidence of the destruction of this community wrought by the Nazis.

Near one end of the room was the correspondence, preserved, copied and translated into English of Dr. and Mrs. Friedrich Gernsheim written in 1938 in elegant, sorrowful, but unapologetic German. It was a letter of suicide explaining to their friends and to the world that death at their own hands was preferable to the death that they were certain awaited them at the hands of the Nazis.

As my eye lifted from the letter neatly arrayed in the display case alongside photos of the Gernsheim family and citations of commendation, it caught on a display case in the corner of the room.

My heart sank.

I was staring at burnt, singed and torn sifrei Torah. I moved slowly toward the display, disbelief dragging my steps. Never in my life, living in the freedom of post-war Canada, had I seen such desecration. Never in my life had I imagined I would.

Though I have read countless texts and seen countless images of the Shoah, I was not prepared for my reaction to the sight of the desecrated Torah parchments. I inwardly crumbled. I could not stop the tears and turned away from the guide who obviously understood the import of the moment and desisted, for the moment, from her presentation.

After a few moments by myself, the tour resumed. My guide and I walked the relatively short distance to the Jewish cemetery of Worms, the oldest Jewish cemetery in Europe.

—MBD

SeeJN

SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY FOR ISRAEL:

The Old City of Jerusalem was alive last week with visible, vocal, and musical expressions of solidarity for Israel by Jewish and Christian visitors from Europe and North America.

[Isranet photo]

Islam needs to be reformed, says commentator

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

Can Islam ever accept Israel?

With Muslim clerics lauding suicide bombings, the short-term answer seems to be no, according to conservative U.S. intellectual Norman Podhoretz.

But if Islam undergoes an internal reformation, just as Judaism and Christianity have experienced, then acceptance of a Jewish state in the Muslim world is possible.

"Islam cannot be reformed overnight or by force of arms," Podhoretz told hundreds who packed Holy Blossom Temple's sanctuary on Nov. 20.

"But an American-led victory [in Iraq] would inevitably [lead to] regime changes throughout the Middle East. That could [spark] new political and economic situations... which could open the path for the reform of Islam."

Podhoretz, who was the long-time editor of *Commentary* magazine and has authored nine books, said that since Islam began in the seventh century, it has been "stuck [with the same] theology and legal traditions."

That includes the Qu'ran's stipulation that Jews and Christians are subordinate.

Islamic philosophy also teaches that the lands of the Arabian world, including Palestine, come under the realm of *Dar El-Islam*, meaning it is the will of God that they should be ruled by Muslims.

In more recent times, Podhoretz said Islam has been "infected" by European anti-Semitism.

For instance, the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, a fraudulent Russian Czarist forgery that alleges a sinister Jewish conspiracy to rule the world, was translated into Arabic in the early 20th century.

A 41-episode dramatization of the book is currently being broadcast n Egypt.

While *jihad*, or "holy war," is depicted in Muslim texts as an inner struggle for religious perfection, Podhoretz said many Muslim clerics say suicide bombings are "a legitimate [form of jihad] according to Islamic law."

Podhoretz also poked holes in U.S. President George W. Bush's statements about fundamentalists "hijacking" true Islam.

"Indeed, there is something in Islam which breeds and legitimates the likes of Osama bin Laden," Podhoretz said.

Although the present situation seems bleak, Podhoretz said he is optimistic about the future.

He said citizens in oppressive Muslim regimes yearn for reform and are eager to adopt western practices of freedom and tolerance.

"Muslims, no more than anyone else, like being pushed around," Podhoretz said.

"The first thing the people of Kabul, Afghanistan did [when the Taliban regime fell] was dig up their VCR's and rent movies. They saw nothing in this that contradicted the Muslim faith."

The trigger for this reform, Podhoretz said, "is a decisive victory in the war against terrorism.

"But it's not up to the Jews or anybody else to tell Muslims to reform their religion. It's for them to do this themselves."

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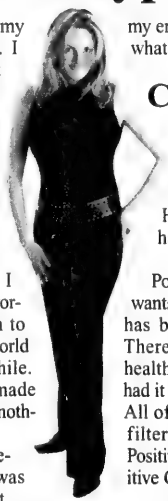

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Peace Now thriving in Canada despite intifadah

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

The collapse of the Oslo peace talks followed by the Palestinian intifadah have dealt a body blow to Shalom Achshav, Israel's Peace Now movement, with disillusioned members leaving the group in droves.

Yet the organization's affiliated group in Canada, Canadian Friends of Peace Now, shows no signs of a similar sort of hemorrhaging. In fact, says the group's policy director, Sheldon Gordon, "we're very much a thriving organization."

Organized as a loose voluntary group of supporters, Gordon said the "level of support has remained pretty much the same. We were worried that with the outbreak of the intifadah, we'd suffer a decline, but that didn't happen."

Instead, organizers were pleasantly surprised to see supporters stay the course. Gordon believes Peace Now's fundamental analysis of the political situation continues to attract supporters who, contrary to the "Now" in the group's name, are willing to give the peace process more time to develop.

"People want to make an investment in peace," he said. "Although efforts in Israel dimmed and Shalom Achshav's influence diminished, so it would have been natural for people to conclude we'd not be effective. But people took the long view."

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Israelis, on the other hand, "are perhaps more volatile in their political views. They get disillusioned and enthusiastic more readily than Canadian Jews."

Israelis felt burned by the Palestinians' resort to violence, even after they had committed themselves to a peaceful resolution of the conflict, he said. For their part, Canadians realize "there will be setbacks along the way, but ultimately, Peace Now's position is so sensible and came so close to being adopted, that its time will come again."

For Gordon and the Friends' group, that solution remains two states, side by side with Jerusalem as a shared capital.

Polls in Israel show the public is ready to give up territory and close down settlements in exchange for peace, even while they are likely to vote for Likud. An Israeli withdrawal, he predicted, would lead to "a drastic reduction of terrorism," because it would satisfy Palestinians' desire for their own country.

Asked about critics who have said that Israel's unilateral withdrawal from Lebanon did not bring peace while it encouraged Palestinian violence, Gordon acknowledged the withdrawal may have "emboldened" the Palestinians.

"But it brought Israel a much greater degree of de facto peace on its border," he added.

Taking his analysis one step further, Gordon suggested that even if his group is mistaken and Palestinians remain irredentist, "Israel is at its strongest, morally, militarily and politically defending its own land and people rather than retaining another people's land and ruling over another people."

Kibbutzim within pre-1967 Israel, like Kibbutz Metzer, where terrorists killed five people, are "defenceless" because the Israeli army "is busy defending settlements. That's really an intolerable situation," he said.

Settlements, he continued, "are a strategic dead weight."

Turning to the Jan. 28 elections, Gordon said the Labor Party remains "the underdog in the election. [Labor leader Amram] Mitzna, because he carries the colours of the peace camp, is at a distinct disadvantage."

Early polls show Likud winning a decisive victory over Labor but "we're hoping that Mitzna's common-sense approach to dealing with the intifadah can take votes away from Sharon."

In past months, Canadian Friends has continued its programming, inviting a series of guests to discuss the prospects for peace in the Middle East, and it recently concluded a fundraising drive. Although the final numbers are not in, "the exit polls are encouraging," Gordon said.

The Canadian group can be expected to send tens of thousands of dollars to help Shalom Achshav get its message out during the upcoming election campaign, he said.

It also plans to hold a post-election panel in early February to discuss the results of the vote.

A Peace Now rally in Israel earlier this year.
[Israeli photo]

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Greater Toronto Area

Education key to Ethiopian integration into Israel: educator

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In 1984, Shula Mola began a journey from her village in Ethiopia with a pack on her back and a vision of a better life in the holy city of Jerusalem.

Now Mola lives in the city of her dreams and has taken up a new challenge: her people's struggle not to become a permanent underclass in her Jewish homeland.

According to last July's edition of *The Israel Equality Monitor*, there are approximately 85,000 Jews of Ethiopian descent in Israel – including 23,000 who are Israeli born.

In an interview with *The CJN*, Mola spoke about statistics that show that 70 per cent of Ethiopian families have no incoming salary, only 28 per cent of Ethiopian high school students pass their matriculation exams (less than half the national average) and that there was an increase of 255 per cent in Ethiopian youth arrested between 1995 and 1996.

Shula Mola

Mola, who has a master's degree in education from Hebrew University, is director of the Israel Association for Ethiopian Jews (IAEJ). She speaks passionately about the need to reverse the Ethiopian community's downward cycle, saying the Israeli government must change the educational process that Ethiopian children go through when they first come to the country.

IAEJ is a non-profit organization in Israel that works for the full integration of Ethiopian Jews into mainstream Israeli society. Its primary focus is education, which Mola stresses is the key to Ethiopian absorption.

At a recent talk at Holy Blossom Temple, Mola said her journey to Israel began when she convinced her mother to take her two younger siblings and join a group of 200 villagers planning to immigrate to the Jewish state through the deserts of Ethiopia and Sudan.

Mola described the four-week walk during which some members of the group were raped, others robbed, and most fell ill. Outside a refugee camp near Khartoum, Sudan, Mola, who was then 12 years old, and her family were finally met by a group of men and flown to Tel Aviv via Paris.

Others, including her father, stayed behind and arrived in Israel later, when thousands of Ethiopians were airlifted in Operation Moses and Operation Solomon.

As the Ethiopians began to arrive, Youth Aliyah boarding schools were on the verge of being shut down because of a decline in immigration.

"In order to prevent their closure, thousands of Ethiopian teenagers were taken away from their families and placed into these institutions," Mola said.

While the Ministry of Absorption intended to help these teenagers, the inadvertent message sent to the children was "our parents are no longer capable of raising us," said the soft-spoken mother of two.

"Unfortunately, our parents heard this message as well."

The young immigrants were placed in boarding schools with children whom other schools had expelled and rejected. Often, these were "children whose parents were criminals, alcoholics or violent."

Because many of the immigrants had very little education when they first arrived, "the government officials, teachers, and social workers responsible for our absorption did not believe in our potential," Mola said. "They thought we were only capable of becoming menial workers."

The Ethiopian community has also been negatively affected by the creation of ghettos because, she said, "we were placed in close proximity to one another in disadvantaged neighbourhoods within a small number of cities and towns."

Because the assumption was that we couldn't accomplish anything for ourselves, a staff was created to look after our needs, forcing us to become dependent on others, Mola said.

But, she said, we took care of ourselves in Ethiopia and overcame enormous obstacles to come to Israel.

It's important to raise expectations for this community because "when we are given the chance, we can work hard, and accomplish great feats," she said.

Mola says that now, "we want to return the mandate to our parents to educate their own children," adding that more resources should be allocated to various educational programs, including programs in early childhood education.

Developing educated and successful black citizens is beneficial not only to the Ethiopian community, but also to Israeli society as a whole, she said.

The "Ethiopian Jewish community could become [the] spokespeople for Israel" and prove that colour is not a barrier to building a Jewish homeland, she said.

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Dry Bones

THOSE INCREDIBLE JETS WERE DESIGNED IN THE WEST.
AND THESE INCREDIBLE MISSILES WERE DESIGNED IN THE WEST.
BUT THE INCREDIBLE HATRED WHICH MOTIVATES US...
IS PURELY HOME GROWN!
©02 Kirschen

The West should beware

The unrelenting, perverse persecution of Israelis and Jews like hunted prey, by murderous Islamists, last week entered an even darker dimension. In the suicide bombing of the Paradise Hotel in Mombasa, more Kenyans than Israelis were killed. No doubt the planners of the terror simply considered the non-Israeli victims to be inevitable "collateral damage," unworthy of an apology or even of a fragmentary, if feigned, expression of regret.

And though no one was killed in the failed missile attack against the civilian Arkia airliner, something did indeed die, or should have. That was the illusory sense of immunity felt by many western apologists who believe that the "struggle" of the "freedom fighters, militants, guerrillas" – any noun but terrorists – for whom they apologize and find excuses, would be directed only at Israel, and possibly its American "sponsor."

But now, all civil aviation worldwide has been put at risk by the terrorists' all-consuming hatred of Jews.

The pathological nature of this hatred and its dangerous implications for the world were expounded upon by noted *Ha'aretz* commentator Ze'ev Schiff in an article that appeared Sunday. Schiff disclosed that a statement titled "Letter to the American People," allegedly written by Osama bin Laden, had been disseminated over the Internet, days before the Mombasa bombing last week.

"The creation and continuation of Israel is one of the greatest crimes, and you [the Americans] are the leaders of its criminals," the letter said. "The creation of Israel is a crime which must be erased. Each and every person whose hands have become polluted in the contribution toward this crime must pay its price and pay for it heavily."

Investigators have not yet determined who was responsible for the missiles launched at the Arkia airplane. Most reports, however, suggest a strong Al Qaeda link, if not direct involvement.

"America's crime," the letter continues, "is not merely the present conflict... but rather a crime that has lasted for more than 80 years, ever since the British handed over Palestine... to the Jews, who have occupied it for more than 50 years."

The violent forces of anarchic, hate-filled Al Qaeda and its violent, Islamic confederates will strike at anyone, in order to bring down Israel and open, tolerant, western democracy, of which Israel is the unwelcome vanguard in the Middle East.

The West had better beware.

In the same article, Schiff also reported: "A similar claim [to that of the claim by Al Qaeda] was broadcast over Hezbollah's television station, al-Manara, immediately after the Mombasa attacks."

The government of Canada should take note. Its stubborn, illogical refusal to include Hezbollah in the list of banned terrorist organizations, brings upon it only great shame and scorn. It also makes a mockery of its publicly proclaimed joining in the campaign against terror.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farhad Saleh, Dani (Hamid) Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

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BJCC finances

Paul Lungen's article of Nov. 7 ("Bathurst JCC 'in great shape,' says president"), is heartening to say the least, especially in view of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre's (BJCC) previous financial difficulties. It is gratifying to learn that many adults and children use its facilities.

But could it be that these laudatory plaudits are, to a limited degree, premature?

Considering that the BJCC is financed to some extent by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, would it not be valuable to know how many children cannot use the BJCC's facilities, such as the drama section or the camp, because of their parents' financial difficulties, and who must thus seek relief through the Jewish Family & Child Service?

This observation is not meant in any way to belittle the excellent work the BJCC does.

Charles Abshez
Toronto

* * *

Why do Jews vote Liberal?

For years, I have puzzled over why most Jews continue to vote for the Liberal party. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's disgraceful behaviour on his recent trip to the Francophonie Summit in Beirut is just the latest embarrassment. Foreign Minister Bill Graham's refusal to label Hezbollah a terrorist organization is another example. The Liberal government has consistently voted against Israel at the United Nations. It was a Liberal government that kept Jews from coming to Canada in the 1930s, in their hour of greatest need.

So I ask again: Why do we keep voting for them?

Stephen Stern
Ajax, Ont.

* * *

Disbelief with government

I am writing to express my disbelief and outrage that the government has still not seen fit to outlaw Hezbollah, an active terrorist group. Canadian law enforcement officials have long said that these "fundraisers" are involved in all sorts of criminal activity as well as purchasing equipment for terror cells.

Is this what we want our beloved Canada to become? A haven for criminals and terrorists? This not the legacy that Prime Minister Jean Chrétien wants to leave behind. The ample evidence is in. It is time for Canada to take a moral stand. Chrétien, as a man who has always taken the moral path, must lead the way.

I respectfully urge the government to ban Hezbollah immediately and to order the RCMP to freeze their assets before it is too late.

Michael Lebovic
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

What Svend lost

What was gained and lost by New Democrat MP Svend Robinson's speech outside Concordia University on Nov. 15?

Robinson gained, once again, easy media attention for a bit of self-righteous chest pounding. Some pedestrians gained a bit of diversion on what might have been a routine walk to the nearby metro.

What was lost was a window of opportunity for a rather charismatic parliamentarian to initiate a discreet, dispassionate, off-campus dialogue between a few members of the parties polarized on issues relating to the Mideast. Instead, Robinson chose to preach sanctimoniously to young people.

Also lost was even more of Robinson's credibility as a social democratic spokesperson within the arena of international conflict resolution.

Let's hope the NDP's new leader, whoever he or she may be, will be able to remedy damages already done.

Jeff Itcush
Montreal

* * *

It's anti-Judaism, not anti-Semitism

It is time to stop using the euphemism "anti-Semitism" and call it by its real name: "Judaism hatred." Why should we use a term coined by a hater of Jews, Wilhelm Marr, who tried to define us as a race, and apply it to the Arab world's antipathy toward us? Besides, Arabs would say, "We can't be anti-Semites, we are Semites ourselves."

"Anti-Semitism" is a politically correct term that is ultimately meaningless. Judaism – that is, our understanding of God, His ethical demands and the collective history of the people who have experienced the revelation (however it actually occurred) at Sinai – is hated. Israel's existence as an outpost of western civilization that is symbolic of these values is also hated.

As American columnist Cal Thomas has said: "The world continues to hate the Jews, not so much because of things they have done, but because their very existence is a rebuke to the inability of cultures and nation-states to deal with their own failures – most especially the failure to overcome their own bigotry. So they take it out on the Jews, because Jews are convenient and they are small in number compared to their oppressors and few will condemn them for doing so."

One need only look at the attacks by Muslim extremists everywhere to see this Judaism hatred in action.

David Burstein
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Memories of a moment's greatness

Fifty-five years ago last week, on Nov. 29, the United Nations General Assembly voted to partition the territory that remained of Mandatory Palestine into a Jewish and an Arab state. Under the plan, Jerusalem was to be a corpus separatum, an international city. The Jews of Palestine accepted the vote; the Arabs did not. The day after the vote, the Arabs attacked Jewish settlements throughout the country.

Jews of Mandatory Palestine celebrate the news of the Partition vote.
[Photos from Encyclopedia Judaica]

Excerpted from Abba Eban's autobiography, Random House, New York, 1977.

The die had been cast and there was very little that most of us could do, except to accompany the forthcoming verdict with our prayers. Nevertheless, last-minute efforts had to be made to avert complications and to secure the decisive vote. The Arab delegations, led by Camille Chamoun, decided on a show of moderation in order to prevent the partition judgment from being adopted. The political committee, in adopting the partition plan, had appointed a commission of three to see whether an "agreed solution" could be found. We knew that this was impossible. After all, if an agreed solution had been feasible, there would have been no need of an Assembly discussion at all. The members designated to explore an "agreed solution" were Australia, Thailand and Iceland. The Icelandic delegate, Ambassador Thor Thors, was to be the rapporteur. By the morning of Nov. 29, the Thai delegate, Prince Wan, had prudently departed for Bangkok on the Queen Mary, ostensibly on the grounds that a revolutionary situation existed in his country, but actually in order to avoid having to cast a vote against partition. There was still some apprehension in Jewish Agency circles lest the Assembly seize on an optimistic remark by the Icelandic representative in order to defer a partition vote and explore the figment of an agreed solution. At any rate, Thor Thors would be the first speaker on that historic day, and it seemed urgent to ensure that he would set up a positive momentum. Accordingly, I began my day on Nov. 29, 1947, with a visit to him at the Barclay Hotel.

I found my position quixotic, and I thought it best to tell him so frankly. The Jewish people were at a turning point. If we succeeded, we would realize a millennial dream. If we failed, that dream might be extinguished for generations to come. The key to this turning point in the first part of the UN meeting would lie in the hands of a small island country in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean with a population of less than 175,000. It is a quality of multilateral diplomacy that governments may sometimes determine great issues in which they themselves are only remotely involved, but which are of desperate consequences to others far away. Our future as a people depended on its most decisive day on the momentum or atmosphere which would be created by a representative of Iceland. I invited Ambassador Thors to reflect on the historic mystery involved.

He replied with disconcerting emotion. He said that Iceland was far less remote from Jewish destiny than I presumed. In its culture it was deeply impregnated with biblical memories. Moreover, it was a stubborn and tenacious democracy, guarding its national particularity within its rain-swept island boundaries for century upon century – a people determined to be itself, sharing its language and literature with no other nation, and refusing to abandon its remote island outpost for warmer and gentler climes elsewhere. Such a people could be relied upon to understand the perseverance with which the Jewish people clung to its own specificity and to the recollection of its own patrimony. Ambassador Thors accepted my argument that what was needed now was "decision," not the vain pursuit of "agreement" …It was only because all prospects of an agreed solution had been exhausted in the three decades of Mandatory rule that the matter had come to the United Nations Assembly…

I made for the United Nations General Assembly headquarters, which was in a ferment of tension. Newspapermen, television and radio correspondents from all over the world were concentrated in the lobbies, while the delegates' seats and visitors' gallery were crowded as they had never been before. The United Nations was facing a momentous opportunity at a very early stage of its career. On the podium, pale and solemn, were the president of the Assembly, Oswaldo Aranha, Trygve Lie and the equally well-nourished assistant secretary-general Andrew Cordier. Aranha called the meeting to order and invited the representative of Iceland to the rostrum. Thors, to my relief, was magnificent. He stated with firm conviction that despite every examination of all avenues, he and his committee were convinced that an agreement in advance was impossible. The only hope of conciliation lay in an act of judgment and decision. If the world community was firm in support of partition, then partition would come into existence and those who opposed it now would have no course but to acquiesce.

From that moment on, the debate went inexorably our way…

Finally the speechmaking came to an end, and a solemn hush descended on the hall. Aranha announced his intention to call for a vote in alphabetical order. Some of us who were present still retain a memory of the tone in which Cordier recited the votes. "Argentina?" "Abstain." "Afghanistan?" "No." "Australia?" "Yes." "Belgium?" "Yes." "Bolivia?" "Yes." "Byelorussia?" "Yes." And so it went on. When France loudly said "*Oui*," there was an outbreak of applause in the hall, which Aranha sternly suppressed. By the time we had gone halfway through the alphabet, we knew that we were safely home…

I went out into the lobby, where the Jewish delegation was caught up in the embrace of an enthusiastic throng. There were Jews in tears, and non-Jews moved by the nobility of the occasion. Nobody who lived that moment will ever lose its memory from his heart…

It was evening in Jerusalem. Crowds had gathered near the Jewish Agency building in Rehavia to hear the recitation of the vote. They burst into song and began dancing in the street. Alone in his office, Ben-Gurion sat at his desk with his head buried in his hands. He understood the greatness of the moment, but he could not join the spirit of the dance. He, more than anyone, knew that the charter of Jewish freedom was also the signal for a savage war. In fact, when the partition vote was announced in the General Assembly, the Arab delegates got up and walked out of the hall, openly threatening violence. "The partition line shall be nothing but a line of fire and blood," was Assam Pasha's ominous warning…

At midnight, I went out into the New York streets to buy the next morning's papers. The headlines were strident, and for us, victorious, but they already carried the news of the first assaults on Jewish homes and shops in Jerusalem. The tide of murder was in full spate.

Few of us in New York had any illusion about the gravity of our prospect. We knew that the judgment recently given by the General Assembly would be a mere scrap of paper unless it was ratified by sacrifice and toil. And yet we had the intuition that the date would never lose its meaning.

The final vote on that fateful day was tallied as follows:

In favour of partition: 33. Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Byelorussia, Canada, Costa Rica, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Haiti, Iceland, Liberia, Luxemburg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Phillipines, Poland, Soviet Union, Sweden, Ukraine, Union of South Africa, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.

Against: 13. Afghanistan, Cuba, Egypt, Greece, India, Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Yemen.

Abstained: 10. Argentina, Chile, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Honduras, Mexico, United Kingdom, Yugoslavia.

Opinions

The myth of the ultimate culprit

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Like most of my readers, I begin the day with glancing at the newspaper headlines and then reading a few articles that catch my imagination.

Lately, there has been a dangerous undertone in a lot of the news, especially when it concerns the Mideast. The news is usually bad, and when something bad happens, it is usually traced to Israel. This kind of journalism is, of course, just an updated version of the old anti-Semitism that ascribes all evil in the world to the Jewish people. The new anti-Semitism is not quite as crass, but its underlying tone is not much different.

Readers will ask how they should face the new anti-Semitism of our time, and my answer is not complicated. Everyone must belong to a Jewish organization and support it. There must be an area in our lives that is devoted to the support of our people. We must choose what appeals to us and what we believe is important and will advance the health and welfare of Jews and of Israel.

Where do you belong and pay your dues? If nowhere, then you are amongst the gravediggers of our people. That sounds very harsh, but in the broad context of Jewish history, that happens to be the truth.

The one thing you must not do is nothing except to criticize others. Everyone has to contribute something to the welfare of the community. Doing nothing injures all of us.

There's an old saying that the people most responsible for our ill fortune are those who stand aside and criticize others. This kind of "participation" is a plague on our house, and I hope that none of my readers participates in this non-activity.

The old historical attacks on Jews, which have lately re-emerged and intensified, are a part of a serious battle against western values, which include the values taught by Judaism. I do not know when this battle will come to an end; I only know that it is being fought out right now in many parts of the world, and North America is an important locus.

I have no interest in scaring my readers, but neither is it my desire to keep them shielded from the realities of our situation. We are under attack, and our defence depends on our willingness to sacrifice time and substance and to stand together.

We do not live in pleasant times. The truth is harsh, and to act upon the challenges that lie before us requires from each of us some degree of sacrifice and participation. Stand aside, and you will be joining our enemies.

A new face for the left

Shira Herzog in Toronto

When I wrote several months ago of potential new faces in the Israeli political arena, it was not clear which – if any – of the three men I profiled would actually jump into the murky waters of national politics. Former Shin-Bet head Yaacov Peri stayed in the corporate sector; former naval chief and Shin-Bet director Ami Ayalon devoted his time to drafting a joint Israeli-Palestinian statement on the two peoples' future, while Haifa Mayor (and former general) Amram Mitzna took the plunge – and swam ashore Nov. 19 as the Labor party's new leader.

Mitzna's election is unlikely to herald a change of national leadership next Jan. 28. Israelis prefer the avuncular Sharon at the helm at a time of uncertainty and terror against civilians, even though in the polls, many hold political positions more in line with Mitzna's: He believes that for the sake of its future, Israel must negotiate now, be prepared to withdraw from the territories and to evacuate settlements.

But even if Sharon remains prime minister, these clear-cut statements on the Palestinian issue will revitalize the clear opposition voice that Labor lost when it joined Sharon's government nearly two years ago. On the left of the Israeli political spectrum, Mitzna's leadership of Labor creates a dramatically different reality than that of his predecessor, former defence minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer.

Mitzna's votes came from the middle-class elite and thousands of new, "yuppie" members who joined the party to guarantee his election. He was not the candidate of the periphery, development towns. In this regard, Mitzna perpetuates Labor's tradition of "left-wing" positions on the priority issue of security matters, while on economic and social affairs, it remains firmly on the centre-right. Israel still lacks a social-democratic voice with a coherent position on security and socioeconomic issues, and to this extent, Labor remains alienated from the country's disadvantaged pockets. "A Different Israel," a new, populist movement of community activists, has emerged as a pressure group for this very reason.

With Mitzna at Labor's helm, Yossi Sarid's Meretz will weaken in the polls. Labor's dovish wing will now remain within the party rather than bolting to Meretz. Sarid is an effective parliamentarian, but Israelis are disenchanted with his predictable, tired voice. Given the clarity of Mitzna's positions, many voters on the left will prefer his fresh, new voice to the familiar Meretz team.

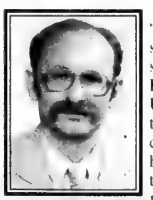
In contrast, Shinui, which burst onto the scene just a few years ago on a strong, anti-Orthodox platform, may gain in strength – almost in spite of its anti-religious stance. In a different response to Mitzna, some voters on the centre-left will actually prefer Shinui's somewhat equivocal position on the Palestinian issue – "fight terror, then talk."

Mitzna's election may have the greatest impact on Israel's Arab voters, who comprise 17 per cent of the population. Their traditional support for Labor faded in 2000. Then, Israeli Arabs stayed at home rather than voting for Barak, who had done nothing to improve their civil status in spite of their overwhelming support for him in 1999. They had no intention of coming out to vote for Ben-Eliezer, who was identified with Sharon's policies in the territories. Now, this trend may be reversed. Already in the last two weeks, there have been calls for active participation by Arab voters, lest they disenfranchise themselves.

But the most important factor in this election will be the return to the one ballot per voter parliamentary system. In 1996 and 1999, Israelis went to the polls for Knesset elections in which they cast two separate ballots: one for prime minister and one for a Knesset list. The split vote allowed smaller parties to gain in strength at the expense of Likud and Labor. This short-lived electoral reform will end with January's election, when the system will revert to Israel's traditional parliamentary, proportional representation.

This will undoubtedly cause confusion at the polls, since 30 per cent of Israelis still believe they will vote with two ballots. But more to the point, it will likely result in stronger showings for the large parties and a less fragmented Knesset. Ironically, the return to the old system may lead to a more stable – if overly homogenous – government. But two months before election day, any such speculation is hazardous at best.

Lubavitchers and liberal democracy



Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

It has long been recognized that devout religious groups or sects pose one of the greatest challenges to liberal democracies such as Canada and the United States. All liberal democracies include freedom of religion as a key element of their legal and constitutional framework.

But liberal democracies have had to wrestle with the place of religion in their societies. In the private sphere, there should be, and there generally is, scope for extensive freedom of religion. People are free to practice their faith as they wish, as long as they don't commit a crime.

While this is true of law, it's not true of the cultural climate, as reflected in public schools and popular media. For example, some of the more devout branches of Christianity, Islam and Judaism have traditions that seemingly render women subordinate to men. Such families can choose to raise girls differently from boys. While the prevailing secular cultural norm of gender equality frowns on that approach, devout families and communities can choose to reject this majority perspective. Indeed, for some, nonconformity with prevailing lifestyle defines their faith.

The problems become more acute in the public sphere. Most liberal democracies adhere to some form of separation of church and state. Of course, this adherence is uneven. Under the Canadian Constitution, Catholics and Protestants enjoy legal rights in public funding of religious schools that Jews, Muslims, and Hindus do not. But by and large, liberal democracies have evolved to a point where they all try, often via the courts, to "reasonably accommodate" religious minorities. (Remember the debate about whether Sikhs could wear turbans when serving in the RCMP.)

In general, however, devout or "fundamentalist" religious groups are seen as inimical to both the letter and spirit of true liberal democracy. Jan Feldman, a political scientist at the University of Vermont, challenges that position in a provocative forthcoming book. Using Lubavitchers as her case study, Feldman, herself identified with that community, argues that Lubavitchers make excellent citizens.

Her argument revolves around separating the principles of liberalism from those of democracy. Liberalism, according to Feldman, is based on an Enlightenment world view. It is rooted in a kind of "critical rationality" in which reason and scientific or empirical evidence should always trump religion as the basis of our beliefs. In addition, liberalism is rooted in the supremacy of the autonomous individual and his or her self-interest over the community.

Democracy, in contrast, is a process of choosing, and interacting with, political leaders. Free elections, voting rights, the rule of law, an independent judiciary and a free press are cornerstones of modern democracies. Citizens, from this perspective, are encouraged to vote, run for office, lobby governments, etc. Her book suggests that democracy can exist without liberalism.

Feldman argues that, in fact, Lubavitchers, and indeed other members of Chassidic groups, are in many ways model democratic citizens. They have very high rates of voter participation and members often seek elective office. They are not shy about mobilizing support for various candidates and lobbying governments on behalf of their interests and values.

Ironically, argues Feldman, many liberal critics of so-called fundamentalist religious groups attack them from both ends of the citizenship spectrum. At times, they are said to be too uninvolved in political life, but at other times they are said to be too involved. Indeed, their involvement is often greeted with suspicion, as somehow less worthy than that of other groups, since they often support non-liberal objectives.

Sept. 11 has increased the importance of the issues Feldman raises. North American Muslims, many of whom are devout, face problems comparable to the Chassidim in navigating a course between the dangers of liberalism, as they see it, and the benefits of democratic participation.

One question Feldman does not address is how this dilemma might change if non-liberal groups, either alone or in coalition, achieved a demographic, and thus a political, majority in democratic elections.

In such a case, the liberal secular group would become the vulnerable minority in need of protection. True believers might feel compelled to use the democratic political process – from amending the constitution to controlling Supreme Court appointees – to limit the reach of secularism. If this seems far-fetched in North America, it may be a real dilemma facing Israel in the decades to come.

The Kirshner File

The case for invading Iraq - soon

The first wave of United Nations arms inspectors arrived in Baghdad on Nov. 24 with a strong Security Council mandate to seek out and destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq has promised to co-operate, but due to its poor record of compliance with earlier UN inspection teams, Iraq's pledge cannot be taken at face value. The first moment of truth will come on Dec. 8, when Saddam Hussein is obliged to hand over a full and unambiguous accounting of his chemical, biological, nuclear and missile arsenal. If he waffles or lies, or if he obstructs UN monitors, chances are that the United States will attack Iraq, with regime change as its main objective.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Even in the unlikely event that Saddam co-operates, who can be certain that the inspectors will find Iraq's caches of weapons? Since the departure of previous UN teams in 1998, Saddam has had plenty of time to artfully conceal his poisonous chalice. Say this for him: he is a master of deceit and prevarication. And his burning desire to cling to his terrifying and frightfully expensive toys, at whatever political or economic cost, means that he will be an unending source of aggression and instability in the Middle East. He invaded Iran in 1980 and Kuwait in 1990, and he has threatened to destroy Israel.

Do we wait complacently until Iraq rearms and morphs into a clone of North Korea? Or do we nip the looming danger in the bud?

Kenneth Pollack, a former analyst at the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and now director of research of the Brookings Institute's Saban Center for Middle East Policy, argues that the only course left open to the United States is military action to depose Saddam.

As he puts it in *The Threatening Storm* (Random House): "... the option that makes the most sense is for the United States to launch an invasion of Iraq to topple Saddam, eradicate his weapons of mass destruction, and rebuild Iraq as a prosperous and stable society..."

In this brilliantly researched and persuasive book, Pollack concedes that such a war will neither be "cheap" nor "easy" and would probably embroil the United States in nation-building for years to come. But he warns that the United States – and its regional allies – are likely to face "a much worse conflict" with Iraq down the road if Saddam's brutal, Stalinist regime is left in place.

"An invasion of Iraq in the near term, when Saddam has only a limited stockpile of weapons of mass destruction and his conventional forces remain weak, is likely to seem effortless and cost-free compared to a war with Saddam after he has crossed the nuclear threshold," Pollack writes. "Given Saddam's propensity to miscalculate, his penchant for aggression, and his willingness to absorb horrific punishment, it would be a terrible mistake for the United States to allow him to acquire such capabilities and risk war with a nuclear-armed Iraq."

In an analogy that some might find far-fetched, but which is really apt, Pollack compares the present moment to 1938, when Adolf Hitler was riding high and Germany was on the cusp of swallowing up Austria and Czechoslovakia. If Britain and France – which were stronger than Germany – had acted with resolve, they could have stopped Hitler in his tracks. Instead, much to their subsequent regret, British and French leaders appeased Hitler, with all its terrible consequences.

"Just as France and Britain should have taken up arms in 1938, I believe that the United States should take up arms against Iraq to end the threat from Saddam's regime once and for all," Pollack observes.

The single most important reason why the Bush administration has no alternative but to topple Saddam and his Ba'athist clique is that Washington's post-1991 Gulf War policy of containing Iraq through economic sanctions and military pressure is eroding and will ultimately fail.

Thanks to the connivance of neighbouring and distant states, the supposedly water-proof sanctions have become extremely porous, as Pollack explains at some length. Besides, there is no meaningful support for a truly tough containment policy, and Pollack also doubts whether the flip side of containment, deterrence, will actually work.

The no-fly zones, established by the United States, Britain and France in 1991 and 1992 to keep the Iraqi air force in check, may not last long due to Arab discomfort with the idea of U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf. Lest we forget, Osama bin Laden's crusade was, in part, inspired by his antipathy toward the American military presence in Saudi Arabia. In any case, the no-fly zones do not prevent Saddam from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

The notion of solving the problem through Saddam's assassination, raised fleetingly by Ari Fleischer, U.S. President George W. Bush's press secretary, is basically a non-starter. Saddam is surrounded by rings of loyal bodyguards and security services, and he employs doubles. As for coups, they have been tried before with a singular lack of success.

What about regularly bombing Iraq's weapons sites? During the Gulf War, the United States and its allies bombarded Iraq mercilessly, but the air campaign eliminated merely a fraction of Saddam's weapons program. As UN inspectors discovered, only three of Iraq's seven major nuclear plants were destroyed during the war, and Saddam's chemical and biological programs were bigger than they had imagined.

In light of these bitter experiences, and the allies' four-day bombardment of Iraq in December 1998, why would anyone presume that air power alone is a silver bullet?

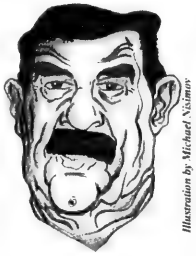


Illustration by Michael Nisimov

Saddam Hussein

That leaves full-scale regime change – a solution originally formulated by the Clinton administration – as the only viable option.

As Pollack suggests, Saddam is both weaker and stronger today. He is weaker because he was partially defanged by the Gulf War; because he lost northern Kurdish areas; because he was deprived of full sovereignty by the UN's oil-for-food system and the no-fly enclaves. Yet, he is stronger because the sanctions have given him strangleholds over aspects of Iraqi society he never previously possessed, and because his defiance of the West, as well as his financial support of the Palestinian uprising, have turned him into a hero in some Arab quarters.

In Pollack's estimation, Saddam is working assiduously to rebuild, even enhance, his armed forces. Since Saddam's conventional forces are not as powerful as they were prior to 1991, Pollack theorizes, his weapons of mass destruction programs loom larger today than in the past.

Despite the efforts of UN inspection teams, which obliterated far more of its illegal weapons than Iraq had bargained for, Iraq was able to hang on to vital equipment and stocks of potent chemical and biological weapons. Saddam's nuclear program was degraded both by Israel's 1981 raid on Iraq's reactor and by the Gulf War and its aftermath. Saddam learned a lesson from these setbacks, Pollack says. With billions of dollars in oil revenue at his disposal, he built duplicate nuclear facilities, all guarded and buried. Add to this the fact that Saddam can still call upon the knowledge and expertise of his Western-trained scientists.

Since Saddam has no intention of relinquishing his arsenal, given his ambition to dominate the region and to be a new Nebuchadnezzar (the conqueror of biblical Israel who took Jews into captivity in the Babylonian exile), the United States has no choice but to invade Iraq and unseat Saddam.

The United States can do the job itself, but Pollack, rightly, believes that an international coalition would legitimize an invasion.

Tallying up the possible costs, Pollack concludes that a campaign lasting several weeks would result in a few hundred U.S. combat deaths. A two-month war could cost the United States 500 to 1,000 soldiers. In a war of three to six months, the United States may sustain as many as 10,000 fatalities. "That said, although we must prepare the worst case, the best case is a more likely outcome."

Pollack says the United States cannot afford to fail. It must use all of its capabilities to ensure a swift and relatively painless victory. "The sooner we move against Iraq, the weaker Saddam will be in terms of both his conventional and non-conventional capabilities and therefore the lower the potential costs of an invasion."

There are vocal voices who oppose a war. At a recent "Stop this War" rally at Queen's Park, a procession of speakers denounced U.S. plans to remove Saddam. A Jewish academic equated a war with "mass murder." An official from the Canadian Labour Congress claimed it would be a war "for resources." The president of the Canadian Arab Federation urged the UN to send arms inspectors to Israel.

All of them willfully ignored the most salient and relevant issue: the urgent need to overthrow a dangerous, megalomaniac dictator who will, if left unchecked, sow misery and death in Iraq and the rest of the Middle East.

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Chanukah reminds us of our greatness

By RABBI AARON FLANZRAICH

What is Chanukah? our sages asked. What is its miracle? Is it the incredible military victory of the Maccabeans? Is it that the Holy Temple was re-consecrated by the Jews (hence the name "Chanukah," which means "to consecrate"), or the amazing miracle of the oil that burned for seven more days than it should have?

As it says in the Talmud, the conclusion of the rabbis was this: "As the Greeks had entered into the Sanctuary, and defiled it, the Maccabees proved victorious over them. As a result, one pitcher of all was found to bear the seal of the High Priest, and this oil, although it should have only burned for one day, by a miracle lasted eight days. The next year, that time was established as a day of festival and rejoicing."

Is Chanukah a "Jewish Christmas"? Is it a chance to light up the menorah and have family over? Is it yet another hollow, secularized celebration of Jewish tradition that has little to do with God? But before we answer this question, let's deal with the nitty gritty.

On Chanukah, we pour olive oil in the menorah and, with the help of a wick, it burns until the oil is exhausted (or we use candles to make our light). We place our menorahs in view of the public. It is a mitzvah to publicize this miracle, to make it known to all the amazing history of this event.

We are told to do this and nothing else for the entire eight days of Chanukah, one of the most ritually simple holidays in our calendar. There is no mention of giving presents or having lavish parties. Over the thousands of years since the miracle of Chanukah, other customs have been adopted, such as gelt giving, playing dreidl and eating latkes.

But if this narrow requirement for observance – all we need to do is light a candle after sunset that lasts for a minimum of a half hour – seems small compared to the rituals associated with Passover or Sukkot, why is it that Chanukah has become so big in our lives? Some say that Chanukah is an opportunity to share a common festival with our non-Jewish neighbours, or that Chanukah competes with the commercialism of Christmas.

But I see in Chanukah, with all of its smallness, a greatness that supersedes simply what we see.

Pure olive oil has a likeness to the Jewish people. It is drawn and created through a process of pressing the seed or olive that obtains all the oil. So too it is with our people: our finest qualities come out under pressure. The light cast by olive oil is superior to all others for it carries the brilliance of care, love and sacrifice. This idea of sacrifice is the foundation of Chanukah.

It's easy to forget what was given up for us as the latkes are passed around the table and the dreidels are spinning. It is easy to forget the religious oppression the Jews suffered from the Hellenists while we live in freedom. It is also easy to forget the overwhelming odds the Jews faced when they went to war against the mighty Greek military machine.

But as we pour the oil, we are reminded of this sacrifice for the survival of tradition. Indeed, as we learn from the Talmud, only the burning of the oil for those seven extra days was called a miracle; the military victory wasn't. It was only through the efforts of the Maccabees that the divine miracle occurred.

Yet even if we forget from time to time why we light these lights, this year let us remember. With the terrible situation Israel is facing, we need to believe that we will survive because Chanukah teaches us about our power. Through this wonderful holiday, we learn not to say, "It's all in God's hands." When it comes to the future of the Jewish people, it is in our hands.

Rabbi Flanzraich is the senior rabbi of Beth Sholom Synagogue in Toronto.

An ancient dialogue

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

As we light the Chanukah candles, Jewish law states that we begin by lighting one candle and add another each night until we light eight in total. There is an argument in the Talmud involving the House of Hillel and the House of Shammai disputing the order in which we light the candles.

The House of Hillel believes we should light one candle on the first night and add subsequent candles each night. The House of Shammai believes we should do the opposite: light eight candles the first night and reduce the number by one each subsequent night, ultimately ending Chanukah by lighting one candle. As is traditional, the Jewish world follows the ruling of the House of Hillel.

However, the Talmud continues by questioning the reasoning behind these two opinions. The opinion offered by one of the sages to explain the ruling of the House of Shammai involves a connection between Chanukah and a major Jewish holiday: Sukkot.

This view models the lighting of Chanukah candles on the sacrificial offerings of Sukkot, in which we began by offering many sacrifices and reduced the number each day.

This connection between Chanukah and Sukkot is not an artificial one. In fact, our record of events shows that upon rededicating the Temple, the community celebrated Sukkot, although it was months late. Affirming our victory included not allowing the enemy to rob us of an important holiday.

To maintain this connection between Chanukah and Sukkot, the House of Shammai paralleled the ritual observance of the candles and the Sukkot sacrifices.

The House of Hillel, on the other hand, is believed to be making a philosophical statement. In matters of holiness, the position holds, one should never reduce observance. Rather, the goal is to always expand it. Therefore, one would increase the number of candles each night rather than reduce the number.

Both these opinions speak to a broader worldview. The House of Shammai maintains that Chanukah should be modelled on Sukkot – that our past inform our present. The House of Hillel maintains that one should always proceed by advancing in matters of holiness – our focus should be toward the future. In effect, it is not a ritual practice that is being debated, but a worldview, a Jewish approach to life.

Both arguments have merit.

As with any debate between Hillel and Shammai, the Talmud has informed us that "these [opinions] and these [opinions] are the words of the living God." In other words, both Hillel and Shammai reflect the truth.

But how can we maintain both worldviews in our Chanukah ritual?

The holiday of Chanukah lasts for eight days. One of the reasons given for this is that Sukkot is an eight-day holiday and therefore sets the time frame for Chanukah. Our past has framed our present. Yet, we also light the candles by starting with one and adding a candle each night, so our focus is also on the future.

Both worldviews have merged into one ritual. As we light the candles for eight days, we are stating that our history speaks to us today. As we add a candle each night, we affirm that both our past and our present will inform our future.

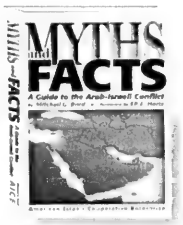
Building and demolishing in the West Bank, Gaza Strip

MYTH:

The demolition of Palestinian homes is an example of the barbaric policies of Israeli oppression.

FACT:

Israel does not decide willy-nilly to demolish the homes of Palestinians. The army usually decides to take this drastic measure only after extreme provocation, and to ensure the security of soldiers and civilians. Palestinian homes in the Gaza Strip, in particular, have been used as bomb factories, to provide cover for snipers and to conceal tunnels used to smuggle weapons from Egypt.



Homes are also sometimes demolished when they are built illegally, without government approval or the proper permits. This practice is not only applied to Palestinians; Jewish homes have also been torn down when they were built illegally. Efforts by Jews, for example, to create new outposts or to illegally expand existing communities often result in the new structures being demolished.

MYTH:

The peace agreements Israel signed with the Palestinians prohibit settlement activity.

FACT:

Neither the Declaration of Principles of Sept. 13, 1993, nor the Interim Agreement contains any provisions prohibiting or restricting the establishment or expansion of Jewish communities in the West Bank or Gaza Strip. While a clause in the accords prohibits changing the status of the territories, it was intended to ensure only that neither side would take unilateral measures to alter the legal status of the areas (such as annexation or declaration of statehood).

Source: Myths & Facts Online – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict *edited by Mitchell G. Bard, http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org.*

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Tzedakah – part 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Though Rosh Hashanah is well behind us, the other new year draws near and with it, the last-minute impulse to donate to charity. Over the next couple of weeks, I'd like to look at some of the sites on the Jewish Highway where you can pick up a good background in charity and perhaps, even leave some tzedakah behind.

Actually, charity really isn't a very good translation of the word "tzedakah." According to Albert Vorspan, tzedakah "literally means 'righteousness.' Tzedakah is not an act of condescension from one person to another who is in a lower social and economic status. Tzedakah is the fulfillment of an obligation to a fellow-being with equal status" **[http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/7077/tzedakah.html]**.

In a very interesting overview of The Economics of Tzedakah **[http://swfs.org/58_GBG_erh.htm]**, Rabbi Gary M. Bretton-Garanatoor of New York's Stephen Wise Free Synagogue looks at the example set by Abraham. "We know little of Abraham's early life, and one might wonder why Abraham was singled out to become God's partner in the Covenant. We learn from the text that, "*Vayach'shveha lo tzedakah* – God considered Abraham on account of his righteousness" (Genesis 15:6) **[http://bible.ort.org/books/torahd5.asp?ACTION=displayid&id=368]**. Throughout the Torah, tzedakah, acts of righteousness, are tied to the Hebrew term *mishpat* – legal justice, so that we learn that doing what is right and just is a legal obligation."

One of the most thought-provoking articles that I came across didn't address the giving of tzedakah but the taking of it. In *When Good Money Comes From Bad People*, three professionals look at Jewish sources to help grapple with the ethics of accepting donations from morally questionable sources. What would you do? **[http://www.jtsa.edu/news/ jtsmag/6.3/forum.shtml]**.

Roger David Carasso asks a couple of other difficult questions in *Directed Tzedakah: A Torah Look into Where Tzedakah Should be Given*. As he explains, "In the Sh'ma, we are directed to love HaShem with all our might and all our possessions. Giving the right amount of charity means nothing or is even harmful if we do not direct it well. When the poor are not properly supported, they risk death; when Jewish education is not properly supported, it also risks death. It also shows a lack of respect to property when money is given away so whimsically."

Carasso then examines what the Torah says about tzedakah, how much and to whom **[http://shlk.com/2 44]**.

The Just-Tzedakah Web site also has a detailed look at giving from a Jewish point of view. While the *theoretical* halachic minimum for giving is about $2, this only applies to someone who is living in poverty him or herself. The site suggests that most people contribute 10-20 per cent of that year's net income. Other tzedakah recommendations from the site: calculate your obligation with care, don't brag, avoid delay, give cheerfully and with compassion [**http://just-tzedakah.org/guidelines/introduction .html]**.

Take a look at Arthur Kurzweil's *Brother, Can You Spare a Dime: The Treatment of Beggars According to Jewish Tradition* **[http://www.ajritz.com/jew/brother.htm]**. Kurzweil says that although "the organized Jewish community has gotten the mitzvah of giving tzedakah down to a virtual science," he has always been confused and inconsistent in his treatment of beggars. He poses 15 questions, including, "What if they are all fakes or frauds?", "Shouldn't these beggars be supported by official agencies?" and "Should I buy them a cup of coffee because they'll probably spend it on booze anyway?"

Kurzweil, who is not a rabbi but a well-known Jewish genealogist, clearly spent a great deal of effort sifting through traditional sources that clearly demand compassion for the needy.

Finally, kudos to the Solomon Schechter Day School of Greater Boston. Its students have created an informative and colourful series of web pages about the halachot of tzedakah. What I really love about these pages is that the students have not only included quotes from our sages but have also shared their own thoughts on giving and loving-kindness. *Kol hakavod*! **[http://www.ssdsboston.org/tzedakah/zdk00.htm]**

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway @rogers.com.

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Greater Toronto Area

Conservative rabbis discuss role of women in shul ritual

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbis Wayne Allen, Baruch Frydman-Kohl and Steven Saltzman – who attended the Jewish Theological Seminary together 25 years ago – now lead mainstream Toronto congregations affiliated with the Conservative movement and operate within the framework of what they consider to be traditional Judaism.

"We're – relatively speaking – close," said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl. But there are aspects of Jewish practice on which they don't agree, including women's role in synagogue ritual, a topic that recently drew a crowd of about 130 people to hear him and Rabbi Saltzman discuss their views.

In the recent "conversational debate," held at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl of Beth Tzedec Congregation and Rabbi Saltzman of Adath Israel Congregation discussed their respective views about the Changing Role of Women in Synagogue Ritual.

The event, moderated by Beth Tikvah's Rabbi Allen, was the first in a series of three such "conversations" as part of the synagogue's adult education program.

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl and Rabbi Saltzman agreed on the importance of boundary-setting by congregational rabbis, but diverged on their definition of what those boundaries ought to be.

"I object to aliyot for women and women being counted in the minyan because that goes the full gamut toward obliterating whatever roles are different for men and women," said Rabbi Saltzman.

Traditional Conservative Judaism has "gone an incredible way" toward affirming women's equality, he said, citing bat mitzvah ceremonies, baby naming and singing in the choir.

But men and women are different, he stressed, adding that it is not a question of inferiority or superiority. "And I believe the synagogue has to reflect those differences."

At Beth Tzedec, however, women may receive aliyot and other Torah honours. They are not counted in a minyan.

"We are trying to maintain what I think are some traditional borders," said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl. At the same time, he added, sometimes borders are not clear-cut.

"Differences are part of how we define ourselves," Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said, agreeing with Rabbi Saltzman. But he added that for him, "trying to articulate the idea that even as there is distinctiveness, we should look at how we can use those openings because the larger social context is such that people want to find ways to be included.

"If that can be done in a way that's sensitive to the Halachic mandate, even if it goes across some of those borders, then we have to take a good look at them."

Sometimes, he said, "you react to [an outside trend] not because you buy into it," but as a result of looking at how that cultural trend will affect Jewish life and whether something can be done to take it into account.

In the American congregation that Rabbi Frydman-Kohl served before becoming senior rabbi of Beth Tzedec eight years ago, he said he was considered "slightly centre-right" with regard to issues of women and synagogue ritual.

Here in Toronto, he said he finds himself "all the way on the left." Of the seven GTA synagogues affiliated with the Conservative movement's United Synagogue, only one, Beit Rayim, is fully egalitarian. Of the others, Beth Tzedec is the most liberal regarding the role of women.

Rabbi Saltzman said he believes traditional Conservative Judaism recognizes "that the future of the Jewish people lies in the complex balancing act between what we're prepared to accept from the modern culture and what we need to reject to ensure we survive as a Jewish people."

Likewise, Rabbi Frydman-Kohl said that, for him, "anything new has to pass some sort of test."

Changes shouldn't be made, he cautioned, in order to attract more people to services or to increase personal commitment. "I can make the case for introducing some sort of ritual change... not based on trying to sort of save the Jews, but because this is part of the culture or part of a moral vision of what you want a community to be."

In Toronto, said Rabbi Saltzman, there is a "very vibrant liberal Orthodox community, which in effect sets a standard for traditional Judaism.

"We ought to take from Orthodox Judaism that which we can live with as Conservative Jews," he said.

Rabbi Saltzman said he aims to focus on "trying to define for my congregation what it is I believe in, in a careful and considered way... and to bring our congregation to... define ourselves. It doesn't fit for everybody. It has boundaries.

"Thank God," he said, "in our community there are [other] options" for people who are not comfortable with those boundaries.

Not initiating change is also difficult, said Rabbi Saltzman. "It's much easier to give in than to stand up for what you believe in," he said. "I'm standing up for your children, for your legacy."

Torontonians shouldn't be defensive about their traditional Conservative Judaism when they are in more left-wing Conservative communities, said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl. "We do have something quite precious in Toronto."

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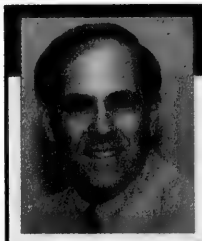


This is a new feature from the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto's Professional Advisory Committee (PAC) to help you with financial and estate planning issues. We welcome your questions.

Barry S. Corbin
Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP

Q Dear PAC:

When my husband died recently, he left me a significant sum of money in the form of a registered retirement income fund. While I will need the RRIF money for financial support during my lifetime, there will likely be a considerable amount remaining on my death which I would like to leave to a charity. What is the best way to do this?

Sincerely,

H.S., Thornhill, Ontario

A Dear H.S.:

There are two ways to make a gift of your RRIF to the charity on your death.

Firstly, you can designate your estate as beneficiary and include in your Will a bequest of that RRIF to the charity. Secondly, you can sign a RRIF beneficiary designation form which names the charity. Either method will result in a generous tax credit which your executors can use to apply against your income in the year of your death. Furthermore, any unused portion of the tax credit can be used to shelter your income for the year preceding the year of your death.

While either method gives the same income tax result, making the charity a direct beneficiary of your RRIF offers several advantages over making a bequest of the RRIF through your Will. Firstly, there will be no provincial probate taxes payable on the value of the RRIF. Secondly, depending on the financial institution and the province where you live at the time of your death, your RRIF may enjoy a degree of protection from your creditors. Finally, the charity's receipt of the RRIF money will not be held up by any problems arising from the administration of your estate.

Making a direct beneficiary designation is easily done by completing a form provided by the financial institution which administers your RRIF. However, as with all tax and estate planning issues, you would be wise to consult a lawyer knowledgeable about these matters to avoid any problems.

Note: *"The material in this article is provided for general information purposes only and does not constitute legal or other professional advice. Readers are advised to seek specific advice from their own legal and financial advisors in relation to any decision or course of action contemplated."*

Send your questions to: "Ask PAC" c/o the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto, 4600 Bathurst Street, 5th Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M2R 3V2, via fax: 416.631.5701, via email: jewishfoundation@ujafed.org or call us directly at 416.631.5703.

legacy of life — Irwin Gold 1919 – 2001

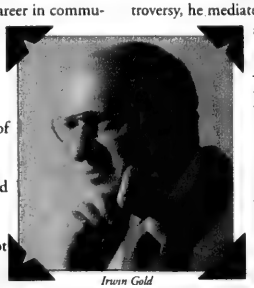
Who would have thought that a part-time job teaching children to swim could set someone up for a lifetime commitment to the Jewish community?

That's precisely what happened to young **Irwin "Sonny" Gold**, the Harbord Collegiate basketball star, Bloor JCC swimming instructor and decorated U.S. soldier who grew up to become one of the great leaders of North American Jewry.

Driven by a passion for the Jewish people, a flair for problem solving, and an ability to put people at ease, Irwin was the kind of leader who made things happen because he truly believed that in what he was doing. His postings took him to Cleveland, San Francisco, Denver, New York and finally back to his hometown of Toronto, where as director of Toronto Jewish Congress he spearheaded its merger with the United Jewish Welfare Fund. He also masterminded the community's effort to unite all its Jewish agencies under one roof at the Lipa Green Building on Bathurst Street and saw it built during his tenure.

Ronnie Appleby, Chairman of UJA Federation's Campaign 2003, says there was a gentleness about Irwin "that made him a pleasure to deal with." With his devotion to fundraising, to community building, to volunteer training and development, and to Jewish values and their transmission to the next generation, adds Ronnie, Irwin was truly an inspirational leader.

Irwin hadn't planned a career in communal life. Rather, he studied psychology at the University of Toronto and worked part-time at the Bloor JCC pool. After graduating as a social worker from the University of Pittsburgh, he volunteered for the U.S. Army and saw heavy action overseas. A hand wound forced Irwin to take up archery as therapy, and after the war he earned a spot on the army's G.I. Olympic Team. He also mastered his poker skills in the army and played bridge with a vengeance his entire life.



Irwin Gold

Irwin's father **Harry**, a member of Workmen's Circle, taught his two sons the importance of Jewish continuity and both Irwin and his older brother **Bertram** became Jewish community leaders in their own right. Irwin got his start in 1947 at Cleveland's Jewish community centre, where he met his wife **Beverly**. They were married for 53 years.

"Irwin was calm, kind, and extremely dependable," she says. "He made decisions easily and knew how to keep things from getting out of hand. Even when there was controversy, he mediated well and was exceptionally fair in his judgment. He admired the Toronto Jewish community leadership tremendously and was devoted to his staff."

Irwin was a mentor to many. **Lisa Morrison**, Campaign Director at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, remembers "Mr. Gold" as extremely encouraging and credits him with setting her up for "a rewarding career and an opportunity to live a rich Jewish life in this great community."

"Irwin's training and reputation in the field of social work, his experience in the United States, and the network of professionals with whom he stayed in touch enabled him to bring a wide range of perspectives to the job and provide that expertise and leadership to his laypeople," says **Mark Gryfe**, president of Baycrest Centre Foundation. "He was the consummate professional and had a unique ability to convey vision. The Toronto community benefited tremendously from his wisdom."

When Irwin retired in 1994, he agreed to serve as director of UJA Federation's Jewish Foundation and consultant to United Israel Appeal. He also set up the Irwin and Beverly Gold Scholarship Fund to encourage young people to become Jewish community centre professionals.

Irwin's son **Larry** says his father taught him to "bend with the wind but don't break" while daughter **Lisa Gold** says she hears the voice of her Dad's wisdom inside her all the time.

Adds daughter **Donna Rothstein**, a social worker and community volunteer in Westfield, N.J.: "My dad taught me to accept people from all walks of life and to contribute what I can. I'm a bit of an idealist like he was."

Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto — UJA Federation

Greater Toronto Area

Jerusalem revealed as biggest city in ancient Judah

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Jerusalem was a great metropolis – the biggest city in the ancient kingdom of Judah – before its conquest by the Babylonians in 586 CE, the Biblical Archeology Society was told at its recent annual convention.

In the conference's keynote, closing address called The Size and Borders of Jerusalem during the First Temple Period, Israeli archeologist David Ussishkin described the Jerusalem of that epoch as a cultural and religious centre with thousands of inhabitants.

Heavily fortified to ward off invaders, and with its monumental buildings, Jerusalem was an impressive sight, suggested Ussishkin, who holds the Austria Chair in Archeology at Tel Aviv University.

Ussishkin, whose specialty is the Land of Israel in the biblical period, was once a visiting professor at the University of Toronto.

A member of the Israel Exploration Society's executive committee and the editor of the journal *Tel Aviv*, he has co-directed excavations in Jezreel and Megiddo since 1990.

In a lecture supplemented by slides, he said the City of David, where settlement of Jerusalem took root, emerged after the discovery of water in a spring adjacent to the Kidron Valley.

Five years ago, the area near the spring was excavated, he said.

Hidden in a cave today, the spring was Jerusalem's primary source of water during antiquity.

It was attached to an elaborate water-carrying system, a tunnel discovered by British archeologist Charles Warren in the 19th century.

Inside, Warren stumbled upon a tablet, now in Istanbul, with an inscription celebrating a conversation of workers who built the tunnel.

Ussishkin said that if more inscriptions are found, archeologists may gain a better understanding of Jerusalem during that era.

In the meantime, archeologists are studying the ruins of a massive tower and examining Babylonian arrowheads unearthed near its base.

In Silwan, a Palestinian village abutting Jerusalem, archeologists are poring over pottery salvaged from ancient tombs in which high officials and aristocrats were buried, he said.

While he said archeologists know very little about today's hotly-contested Temple Mount, revered by Jews and Muslims, he speculated it's possible that King Solomon constructed a royal palace on its grounds, and that a smaller version of the first temple was built there.

Replying to a question from the audience, Ussishkin said the Palestinian Authority has begun excavating the land around the Temple Mount without proper archeological supervision.

"I hope they didn't do any damage, but I think they did."

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York University Prof. Newman is a scholar and teacher who enjoys sharing her love of Jewish literature with her students and members of the Jewish community.

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בית צדק

BAYCREST GALA: Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care recently held its annual gala at the Sheraton Centre and raised $1.3-million for care, research and education. Pictured at the event are, from left, Paul Douglas, managing director of investment banking with TD Securities; Sue Douglas; Fran Sonshine, chair of the Baycrest Centre Foundation; and Edward Sonshine, president and CEO of Riocan Real Estate Investment Trust, the gala's benefactor.

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Greater Toronto Area

Group for widows, widowers celebrates 10 years

By HEATHER CHEIFETZ SHERMAN
Special to the CJN

Ten years after its creation, the mandate of Widows or Widowers (WoW), a 72-strong group of Jewish men and women between the ages of 50 and 65, has not changed.

"We are not a bereavement group," insists Beverly Bobkin-English, one of the group's founders. "We are all about having a good time, having fun – together."

Members are invited to twice-yearly executive meetings and pay $30 annually to receive mailings and telephone calls about upcoming events.

Activities range from monthly brunches or dinners, bowling nights and trips to the racetrack, to theatre and casino outings, ceramic and cooking classes, party cruises and square dancing socials.

"Our annual Chanukah party [this coming Dec. 7] is very popular too," says Bobkin-English excitedly. "We really go all out."

Friendship – not courting – is the top priority for WoW members, many of whom say that setting these conditions takes a lot of pressure out of meeting new people, already a difficult thing for widows and widowers.

"It's really a comfort to know that the other members understand what you've been through and can relate," say Phyllis Fraser, a member since 1997. "It makes a big difference."

It's recommended that potential new members wait at least a year after the death of their spouses before joining, in order to give themselves enough time to come to terms with their loss and feel ready to socialize again.

"In the first year or so, your family and friends give you a lot of support," remembers Pearl Brodie, a nine-year member and past-president of WoW. "After that, they see you behaving normally and feel relieved. But, still you find yourself sitting home on a Saturday night, wishing you had someone to talk to."

Bobkin-English had been widowed eight years in 1993 when she summoned up the courage to place an ad in the *Toronto Star* with the goal of organizing a social group for Jewish widows and widowers.

Eleven people answered the initial ad and word-of-mouth spread from there.

"I had read so many of those self-help books after my husband died, but I found them depressing," Bobkin-English recalls.

"That gave me the idea of starting up a group, but I never had the time – or the inclination – to pursue it," she says. "Then one day, I decided I was just going to try it."

From then on, the group grew, at one time reaching an all-time high of more than 100 members.

Although her intention was never to meet men through the group, Bobkin-English admits she was intrigued when Norm English joined WoW in September 1993, two years after his wife passed away.

A short time later, they started dating, and eventually they married. "We hit it off right away," English remembers.

One or two other couples have met and married through WoW, but opted not to stay members. Beverley and Norm remain active in the group and work hard to maintain the relationships they have made.

"It never occurred to me to leave," Bobkin-English says, shaking her head. "These are my friends."

"And Norm is just one of the girls!" pipes in Louie Salmons, another past-president, at a morning brunch organized by Bobkin-English.

The ratio of women to men in the group is roughly 9:1.

"Men used to stay longer and there used to be a lot more of us," English recalls. "But, maybe, for the ones who left, the group served its purpose."

There are currently eight men in WoW, and a few more who have recently called to inquire about upcoming social events.

The group has been asked in the past to include divorced or single people, but the members won't have it.

"Their priorities are different," says Annette Hess, WoW's treasurer, adding that it just wouldn't work.

"A lot of divorced people are bitter, some come with baggage and are out to meet someone immediately, not to make friends," says Brodie. "Most of us have good memories of our husbands and our marriage and want to keep it that way."

A few of the group's members seated (from left) Honey Hellreich, Annette Hess, Phyllis Fraser, Helen Linetsky, Bev Bobkin-English, Pearl Brodie and Norm English.

Going alone to social events such as weddings and bar mitzvahs seems to be one of the most difficult things for widows and widowers.

"It's tough to go by yourself and watch everyone dancing," says Brodie. "I get emotional."

Helen Linetsky, who joined WoW in 1996 and is currently its president, feels "lucky" that she and her husband, who died eight years ago, had separate social lives.

"So, it never felt strange to join a new social group, or to go out on my own."

But for others, WoW has helped them adjust to life on their own.

To find out more about WoW activities and membership, call Helen Linetsky at 416-633-9414 or Penny Hart at 416-739-9157.

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Mr. Nachman Sokol Z"L

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Shomer Shabbas	December 7, 2002	Rabbi Yosef Blau	Mashgiach Ruchani, RIETS of Yeshiva University
Torah Emeth (Viewmount)	December 7, 2002	Rabbi Yosef Blau will speak at Seudah Shlishit	Mashgiach Ruchani, RIETS of Yeshiva University
B'nai Torah	December 14, 2002 Parshat Vayigash	Rabbi Kenneth Auman	Rabbi, Young Israel of Flatbush, Brooklyn
Beth Jacob	December 14, 2002	Rabbi Shlomo Gemara	Rosh Yeshiva Or Chaim / Ulpanat Orot
Machzikei Hadas (Clanton Park)	December 14, 2002	Dr. Shnayr Leiman	Author & Professor, Yeshiva University, Brooklyn College
Shaarei Shomayim	December 14, 2002	Rabbi Bernard Rosensweig	Rabbi Emeritus, Kew Gardens Adath Yeshurun
Shaarei Tefillah	December 14, 2002	Rabbi Moshe Rosenberg	Rabbi, Eitz Chaim of Kew Garden Hills
Kehilat Shaarei Torah	December 14, 2002	Dr. Martin Lockshin	Director, Center of Jewish Studies, York University
Kehilla Centre	December 21, 2002 Parshat Vayechi	Rabbi Marvin Pachino	Headmaster of CHAT - Retired
Or Chaim Minyan	December 21, 2002	Rabbi Yitzhak Witty	Director, Latner Jewish Public Library

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Greater Toronto Area

Computer program unites Jewish youth

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Oded Golan's vision is to connect Jewish youth from around the world.

President and director of Eternity, an Israeli-based software company, Golan has developed My PersoNet, a computer program intended to be the foundation for creating a national archive for all Jewish people.

Speaking at a recent executive meeting of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, Golan said that with fewer North American students studying in Israel, it is more important now than ever to unite them by computer with Israeli students.

Although his company's goal – to present all information related to Jewish families – "sounds a bit ambitious, it can be achieved quickly," he said.

Golan, born and raised in Israel, was trained as an engineer. Known for having the largest collection of biblical antiquities in the world, he is the owner of the ossuary, the limestone box some believe contains the remains of Jesus' brother James that was damaged during its recent voyage to the Royal Ontario Museum.

Golan said My PersoNet provides users with a personal site on their own computer as well as on the Internet.

Since it has been installed in several pilot schools throughout Israel, he said, students have uploaded over 25,000 pictures and assignments.

"The program allows users with little knowledge of computers to store visual materials. When connected to the Internet, they can search for material on other members' sites.

"For example, if a student is preparing a research paper on a specific historical event, one click can lead him to other members' papers on the same topic."

The program also allows for students to chat with each other, he said.

At a time when Israel's educational system is suffering from budget cuts, he said, this system could help students, and he would like to see "Jewish communities in the Diaspora help boost the system."

In other business, Ed Morgan, CJC Ontario region chair, said that since its last meeting in June, one of the organization's main concerns has been the anti-Semitic activity on university campuses.

"It has been particularly acute in Montreal, but it has spilled over here."

CJC Ontario challenged the University of Toronto's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE/UT) after representatives of the centre of anti-racism studies circulated anti-Israel material, he said.

OISE/UT "disassociated itself from the private activities of the faculty," he said.

At York University, Morgan said, a visiting professor, Aijaz Ahmad, accused Israel in a recent speech of dictating policy to its "patron," the United States, on a consistent basis. He went further to suggest that both Israel and the United States are to blame almost entirely for the world's problems.

In at least two magazine articles, he also blamed Israel "for engaging in Nazi-like tactics."

"[When approached about it] York has been less forthcoming than University of Toronto, but we are working on it," Morgan said.

Bernie Farber, executive director of Ontario region, said they are extremely concerned about Ahmad's presence on campus. "What is a man like that doing at an important university such as York?"

With regards to Benjamin Netanyahu's recent speech here, Farber said he owed congratulations to the Metro Toronto Police Force for ensuring that there was no violence.

NEW ISSUE LAUNCHED: Writers featured in the latest *Parchment*, Canada's only Jewish literary journal, recently gathered at the Books & Bagels launching of the new issue at the Miles Nadal JCC. Seen here (from left) is Adam Fuerstenberg, the editor; Pearl Adler Saban, Daniella Adler, at 15 the youngest writer to ever appear in the journal; Ron Ruskin, Sharon Abron Drache, Avner Mandelman, Ellen Jaffe, Seymour Mayne, Elana Wolf and J.J. Steinfeld. [Gloria Fuerstenberg photo]

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Cotler: Hezbollah decision is 'unconscionable'

Continued from page 3

The Canada-Israel Committee took the government to task not only for failing to include Hezbollah on the list, but also for omitting the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigades and Tanzim arms of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement.

"All of these groups are directly responsible for the murders of scores of innocent Israelis and have publicly proclaimed their determination to continue to use terror [to destroy] the Jewish state," the CIC said.

While welcoming the inclusion on the list of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, Congress said it finds the government's reasoning on Hezbollah "more and more perplexing."

In a statement, Stockwell Day, the Canadian Alliance's foreign affairs critic, said the "decision to allow this terrorist organization to carry out its CSIS-documented activities in Canada is outrageous."

Mount Royal Liberal MP Irwin Cotler called his government's failure to name Hezbollah "inexplicable and, given [its] murderous ideology, unconscionable."

Cotler said the first group on the list should be Hezbollah.

Hezbollah and its affiliates have been linked to a lengthy series of terrorist attacks against the United States, Israel, and other Western targets. These include:

- a series of kidnappings of Westerners, including several Americans, in the 1980s;
- the suicide truck bombings that killed more than 200 U.S. Marines at their barracks in Beirut in 1983;
- the 1985 hijacking of TWA flight 847;
- and two major attacks on Jewish targets in Buenos Aires: the 1992 bombing of the Israeli embassy, killing 29, and the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community centre, killing 95.

Irwin Cotler

Over the past few months, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham has argued that an outright ban on all Hezbollah activities would hinder the work of many innocent doctors, lawyers and social workers in Lebanon, where the organization has 12 members in parliament and runs clinics, schools and charities. Outlawing all the group's activities would also harm Canada's role as a neutral broker in the international political arena, Graham has said.

"We're not going to take that step" of an outright ban, "as it would interfere with our ability to conduct peace negotiations in the Middle East," Graham said recently in the House of Commons.

In placing Hamas on the list, Ottawa has concluded that money donated to social charities operated by the group had "leaked to the terrorist apparatus," which apparently distinguishes it from Hezbollah.

Easter refused to explain the decision on Hezbollah, but called Canada's list a "work in progress." In any event, he said more groups would be named under Bill C-36.

Being named under the law "is a very, very serious matter," Easter stated. "They can have their assets seized and frozen."

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- Jewish Émigrés from Slavic Lands, their Mentality and Culture

Prof. Moskovich will give this course only once, in the spring term of 2003. Don't miss the opportunity to study with a leading scholar in this field.

Teefy Hall (59 Queen's Park Crescent East), Room 203 – WEDNESDAY 3-5
For registration purposes call 416-926-2075

Join Prof. Hanoch Dagan at Beth Tzedec

Thursday, December 12, 2002 – 7:30 p.m.

Beth Tzedec Congregation, 1700 Bathurst St., Toronto

How Jewish Tradition can Inform Contemporary Jewish Law – The Case of Unjust Enrichment Law

Does our Jewish heritage belong to all of us or just to the Orthodox? An admittedly secular Israeli professor from Tel Aviv University relates how he finds innovative and appealing law in our Jewish sources.

Lecturer, writer, editor-in-chief, *Tel Aviv University Law Review*

Co-sponsored with Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University

בית צדק

Free Admission

3 CINE-FORUM MOVIE NIGHTS hosted by **Rabbi Aubrey L. Glazer**

At Beth Tzedec Congregation, 1700 Bathurst St.

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"The Waking Life" (2001) **Directed by Richard Linklater**

Through the technique of rotoscoping, Linklater's dream of a film recognizes that the fabric of reality can stretch and tear under the weight of ideas, and that this is part of what gives value to both film and dreams.

Sun. Dec. 8, 7:30 pm
DOOR CHARGE: $5

"Minority Report" (2002) **Directed by Steven Spielberg, starring Tom Cruise**

Based on a Philip K. Dick short story. In the future, criminals are caught before the crimes they commit, but one of the officers in the special unit is accused of one such crime and sets out to prove his innocence.

Sun. Jan. 12, 7:30 pm
DOOR CHARGE: $5

"Baraka" (1992) **Directed by Ron Fricke**

Stunning worlds are explored with an emphasis on wonders in the natural and constructed environment. Live musical accompaniment to this innovative time-lapse, luscious cinematography.

Sun. Feb. 2, 7:30 pm
DOOR CHARGE: $7

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Diet Chanukah favourites to help you keep slim

By JUDY BART KANCIGOR
Special to The CJN

I've never understood the reasoning. Against all odds, the Maccabees overthrew the enemy. In re-dedicating the Temple, a tiny drop of oil that should have burned for a single day miraculously lasted for eight.

And we've been frying our brains out ever since.

Where's the miracle in consuming eight days' worth of oil in one sitting? Wouldn't it be more in the spirit of Chanukah to use a tiny drop of oil to feed crispy latkes to eight hungry people? Now that would be a miracle!

At this time of year the world is divided into two kinds of dieters: those that plan to start after the holidays and those that struggle to get through the holidays. I propose a third: those that enjoy the holidays no matter what their diet regimen.

At this writing, I've lost 20 pounds on Weight Watchers and am five pounds from my goal. But mine is no overnight success story. And, believe me, if I can get through the holidays – oops, I mean enjoy the holidays – you can too.

Weight Watchers and I have had an off-again, on-again romance for 36 years. In January 1966 (after the holidays!) three months after delivering my first child, I huffed and puffed my way up the stairs to my first Weight Watchers meeting in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Sophie, our lecturer (as they were called back then) was one of the original group of friends who had sat in founder Jean Nidetch's garage where Weight Watchers was born. And what a revolutionary concept they concocted. Imagine! Losing weight while eating real food!

Previously the wonderful world of weight control was a Technicolor wonderland of diet pills and starvation. (Those pills were amphetamines, and I had been taking them since I was 12!)

Sophie began every meeting with: "Welcome, pilgrims, your search has ended!" But for me it had only begun.

Sure, I lost my 52 pounds, reached my goal and wore a new dress with the size-12 tag hanging out of my armpit for all the world to see. But like all honeymoons, reality hit – for about the next 36 years.

Up and down, back and forth, on Optifast, Nutri/System, Jenny Craig, HCG shots (from the urine of pregnant animals – you'd lose 30 pounds in six weeks and gain it back in four.) My photo albums tell the story of a human accordion. In and out; in and out. Now you see me; now you see more.

But between fad diets, there was always Weight Watchers. Then nine years ago I gave it up. Dieting, that is. Even my doctor recommended I stay fat rather than yo-yo myself into an early grave. I bought a beautiful wardrobe in size 20W, and – miracle of miracles – the minute I stopped dieting, I began losing weight.

I consulted a nutritionist, not to diet but to learn healthy eating, gave up sweets (not for everyone, but it works for me) and have kept my weight off since.

Now I'm finishing the job. I eat the way I eat, holidays or no. I'm not on a diet that I'll discard when I reach my goal.

LOW-FAT HOLIDAY STUFFING

From *Melting Pot Memories*

I've been making this for years and no one knows the difference.

1 tbsp. margarine
1 tbsp. oil
3 leeks, white part, chopped
1 fennel bulb, chopped
1 pound mushrooms, chopped
1 quart (approx.) chicken soup (defatted, homemade preferred)
¼ lb. turkey sausage, browned and crumbled (optional)
2 tbsp. total fresh mixed herbs (marjoram, rosemary, sage, thyme), chopped
½ tsp. ground poultry spice
10 cups (total) bread cubes: raisin bread and challah
½ cup dried cranberries (plumped in orange juice, then drained)
¼ cup fresh Italian parsley, minced
salt and pepper to taste

In large skillet, melt margarine and oil and sauté vegetables over moderately high heat. When vegetables start to stick to the pan, pour in ½ cup chicken soup and continue cooking and stirring until it evaporates.

Repeat this process by adding chicken soup as it evaporates until vegetables are nicely stewed. (This method uses quite a bit of soup and concentrates the salt, so wait for the very end to correct seasonings.) Mix with remaining ingredients, adding enough chicken soup to desired consistency. Pour into casserole dish sprayed with vegetable spray and bake at 350 about an hour or more. (Cover if it starts to dry out.) Yield: Approximately 18 half-cup servings, 3 points each. (2¼ points if you omit the sausage.)

WEIGHT WATCHERS APPLE PIE

As I mentioned, I've given up sweets (sigh), but I still use this Weight Watchers recipe I've adapted from the '60s.

8 apples, cored, pared and sliced thin
2 cups diet cola
4 envelopes kosher unflavoured gelatin
1 tsp. vanilla
3 tsp. cinnamon (divided)
sweetener of your choice to taste (I use 6 packets of Sweet 'n Low)
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1¼ cups nonfat powdered milk

Preheat oven to 350. In a 9x13 baking pan, mix apples, cola, gelatin, vanilla, 2 tsp. cinnamon, sweetener and lemon juice. Press mixture evenly in pan. In a separate small bowl, mix powdered milk with 1 tsp. cinnamon. Sprinkle evenly over apple mixture.

Cover pan loosely with foil and bake for ½ hour or until liquid starts to bubble around edges. Remove foil and bake an additional ½ hour or until brown. Refrigerate until set. Yield: 8 servings, 2¼ points each.

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CANADIAN FRIENDS OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

Canadian Friends of Yeshiva University mourns the passing of a deeply cherished friend, Perez F. Friedberg, of blessed memory who, together with his beloved wife, Frieda, established and endowed the Perez F. and Frieda Friedberg Chair in Talmud at its affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary.

Heartfelt condolences are extended to his beloved wife, Frieda, to his brother, Jacob Friedberg, to his sister Honey Granek, to his children Dov (and Nancy) Friedberg, Doris (and Jack) Bistricer, and Susan Jacobovitz, and to his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

May the entire family be comforted among the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem.

Dr. Norman Lamm,
President, YU

Dr. Herbert Dobrinsky
Vice-President, YU

Stuart Razin
National Director,
Canadian Friends of YU

Robert Eli Rubinstein,
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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Dec. 2, is deadline for Dec. 12 issue and Monday, Dec. 9, is deadline for Dec. 19. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, Dec. 5

THE JEWISH IMPACT

The Jewish Impact on Civilization, 4,000 years of world history presented by **Raphael Adams**, 7:30 p.m. at Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres. Separate Coffee House for unattached adults, 20ish to 40ish. 416-226-0111, ext. 10.

Friday, Dec. 6

CHANUKAH SERVICE

Temple Emanu-El's Shir Chadash *Kabbalat Shabbat* service celebrates Chanukah with a fully-participatory hand-clapping, toe-tapping, joyful singing experience followed by an Oneg Shabbat. 7:30 p.m., 120 Old Colony Rd. 416-449-3880.

Saturday, Dec. 7

DAVEN AND DINE

At Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres. 416-226-0111.

For high school students: morning services begin 9 a.m., lunch at 12:30 p.m. Chanukah celebration, discussions. Teen Time concludes at 3 p.m.

For families: Junior Congregation (grades 6-8). Senior Story Hour (grades 1-5). Junior Story Hour (preschool), followed by lunch.

THE FRISCO KID

Film Night at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue features *The Frisco Kid* starring **Gene Wilder**, 8 p.m. 416-633-3838.

Sunday, Dec. 8

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

At the Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood breakfast, **Melville Olsberg**, former executive director of Holy Blossom talks on Further Reflections of a Retired Justice of the Peace, 9:30 a.m., after the *Shacharit* Service. 416-789-3291.

THE SITUATION IN ISRAEL

Israel: What You Won't Find in the Newspapers, a public address and discussion with **Ronnee Jaeger**, founder of Machsom Watch, an Israeli women's human rights group. 11 a.m. at Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. 416-789-5502.

CINE-FORUM MOVIE NIGHT

With **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer**. *The Waking Life*, directed by **Richard Linklater**. 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation. 416-781-3511.

OIL: TRADE OR WEAPON?

Prof. Sy Langer leads an in-depth discussion on World Oil: Trade or Weapon?, presented by Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Brotherhood, 9:15 a.m. Breakfast served. 416-633-5500.

BOOK REVIEW

Temple Sinai Congregation welcomes **Barbara Kohan** who reviews the novel *The Ash Garden* by **Dennis Bock** (about Hiroshima). Services at 9:30 a.m., lecture at 9:50 a.m. 416-487-4161.

JEWISH FILM SOCIETY

The Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *The Dunera Boys* (Australia 1985) a true story about a group of 2,500 Jews who fled Vienna to England and then were shipped to an Australian internment camp aboard the Dunera. Screenings 5 p.m. (members only) and 8 p.m., Art Gallery of Ontario, Jackman Hall. 416-924-6211.

VEGETARIAN LUNCH

The L'Chaim Vegetarian Group lunch meeting with guest speaker **Dominique Zelunka** speaking on her vegan cookbook *Essential Foods, Essential Tastes* at noon at Le Commensal restaurant, 655 Bay St. **Howard Koch**, 416-663-4076.

Continued on page 23

Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto
בתי תלמוד התורה המאוחדים בטורונטו

The President, Board of Directors and Board of Governors of Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto mourn the loss of our dear friend

Harold L. Dessen ז"ל
Life Member of Associated

Loving husband of Eva, father and grandfather

One of Associated Hebrew Schools' most active and influential lay leaders for over half a century; Honourary Chairman of the Board of Governors, Past President, Past Chair of Budget and Finance Committee, Past Chair of Va'ad Hachinuch, Chair of Scholarship and Endowment Fund Committee and cherished member of the Associated family

Our sincere sympathy and condolences to his family on the loss of a very special person

המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

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What's New

Continued from page 22

ISRAELI DANCING

Shaar Shalom Synagogue presents Mother-Daughter Israeli Dancing for adults with children in grades 1-6, at 6:30 p.m. Fathers, sons, grandfathers welcome. 905-889-4975, ext. 62.

Monday, Dec. 9

JEWISH MUSIC CONCERT

NCSY's An Evening of Jewish Music concert, 7:30 p.m. at Roy Thomson Hall features **Dedi, Yehuda, Dovidovid**, Kol Chaverim Choir, Naim Zemirot Choir, Nafshenu Orchestra. Dinner honouring **Dennis Klein** as recipient of the OU/NCSY National Business Leaderhip Award starts at 5:30 p.m. For tickets, **Roz English** 905-761-6279, ext. 21.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Start a Jewish Community Garden! Attend a meeting at 7 p.m. in the Jewish Nature Centre of Canada, 516 Glencairn Ave. **Gideon** 416-977-3398.

Tuesday, Dec. 10

CARLEBACH & BEYOND

Carlebach and Beyond Choir free concert with composer/arranger **Ken Rabow** conducting a new JCC choir featuring the works of Shlomo Carlebach and Rabow, 8:30-9:30 p.m. at the Miles Nadal JCC.

Teen Band and Carlebach Choir auditions in December by appointment for sessions beginning in January. 416-924-6211 or Ken Rabow 416-633-4333.

RELIGIOUS ART

Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood visits the famous collection of religious art of **Father Don Donovan** of St. Michael's Collgeg at U of T. This first evening is booked but space is still available Tuesdays Jan. 28 and March 25. Contact HBT librarian **Anne Dublin** at 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

BOOK REVIEW

York University **Prof. Ruby Newman** reviews **Jonathan Safrin**'s new book, *Everything is Illuminated*, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation 416-781-3511.

THE PAMPERED CHEF

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood event, The Pampered Chef, a cooking demonstration with fun and helpful cooking tips, 8 p.m. at the synagogue. **Rochelle Kerzner** 416-630-9500.

CHUG HATANACH

Meets at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue at 8 p.m. to study the Book of Ezekiel. Led by **Eva Dessen**.

Wednesday, Dec. 11

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles hosts **Biz Storms** who explores antique quilts, and how to create new quilt blocks to look old and repair old quilts. 8 p.m., at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. For information, 416-948-2717.

JWI CHAPTER

Jewish Women International Markham-Unionville Chapter monthly meeting. Special guest speaker. New members welcome. **Gail Gotter** 905-294-9706.

Thursday, Dec. 12

VISUAL THEOLOGY

The Riverdale Shul evening of creative learning, Visual Theology, focuses on themes related to the Torah. 7:30 p.m., 179a Danforth Ave. 416-826-4539.

ANTHONY TROLLOPE

Prof. Harvey Kerpneck, U of T, gives the fourth lecture of the series, Anthony Trollope and the Jews, 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple. **Anne** 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

UNJUST ENRICHMENT LAW

Prof. Hanoch Dagan, Tel Aviv University Law Review, discusses How Jewish Tradition Can Inform Contemporary Jewish Law: The Case of Unjust Enrichment Law, 7:30 p.m., at Beth Tzedec Congregation. 416-781-3511.

SUPER NUTRITION

Wellness and nutrition consultant **Rosalie Moscoe** discusses Super Nutrition for the Millennium, 2 p.m. at Forest Hill Place Retirement Residence, 645 Castlefield Ave. Call **Susan** at 416-785-1511 to reserve.

And What Else Is New

TORAH IN TORONTO

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Canadian region, invites the community to an evening of Torah study celebrating the new Etz Hayim Humash, Saturday, Dec. 14, Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue. Register at 7 p.m. Havdallah, 7:15 p.m. 416-667-1717.

ADVOCACY ACTION

The National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section, (NCJWC-TS) has launched an Advocacy Action Committee to respond to critical issues as they arise. Under the chair of **Mae Waese**, the committee encourages each member to be socially and politically active at all levels of government: municipal, provincial, federal. This year, NCJWC-TS will hold a number of forums to address issues that will impact the lives of all Canadians. For more information, contact Mae Waese 416-633-5100.

CALLING ALL SINGERS

The Zemer Chorale is looking for new members, especially male voices. This vibrant group of men and women meets every Tuesday 7:30-9 p.m. for rehearsals at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. The group performs a varied repertoire of Yiddish, Hebrew, English, Ladino and French music. If interested, call the synagogue office at 416-633-3838 for further information.

SINGLE AT SINAI

Single at Sinai 55-70+ Shabbat Dinner, Friday, Dec. 20, at Temple Sinai. Dinner 6 p.m., services 8:15 p.m. Reservations and payments must be received by Dec. 16. Call 416-487-4161.

ISRAELI DANCING

Israeli dancing at Temple Har Zion, Mondays, 7:30-9 p.m., Jan. 6 to March 10. Register. **Rhona Bloom** 905-889-2252, ext. 7.

HEBREW COURSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave., winter courses for adults, teenagers and preteens in conversational Hebrew, all levels, run mid-January to mid-April. For details and to register, **Joseph Klinger** 416-787-0197.

JACS

Jewish Alcoholics, Drug Addicts and Families teen outreach program for ages 10+, Wednesdays, 6-8 p.m. Information night, Thursdays, 8 p.m. Call the confidential phone line 416-410-JACS.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Saturday dances at 7:30 p.m., Dec. 7, 21; Sunday dances, Dec. 15; Pre-New Years Party with refreshments, Dec. 29, 7 p.m. Membership open. 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Dec. 5, bingo; Dec. 12, video movie; Dec. 19, free discussion; Dec. 26, sing-a-long with **Yitzchak Argaman.** Call **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

New Horizons Day Centre for Hungarian speaking seniors, 3565 Bathurst St., street level. Bingo every Monday. 416-256-1892.

Young at Heart Seniors Miami trip to glatt kosher Saxony Hotel. Booking now for Jan. 31-Feb. 28. Full breakfast free and first weekend, live entertainment and much more. **Helen** 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Bill Stern, author and Jewish film buff shows the video and leads a discussion on *My Grandparents Had a Hotel* (Monteith Inn) produced by **Karen Shopsowitz**, Tuesday, Dec. 10, at 10-11:30 a.m. **Barbara Zigler**, ext. 134.

Hearing Aid Checkup Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 12:15-1:15 p.m. Facilitator **Barry Katz.**

Wellness education program, Do You Have Balance in Your Life?, Thursday, Dec. 12, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

The Armchair Traveller: Explore new horizons from the comfort of your armchair at the centre, Thursday, Dec. 12 at 10:30-11:30 a.m. Instructor **Brian Prosserman.**

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking people meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Dec. 10, **Yisrael Nutzati** lecture; Dec. 17, Israeli movie. **Anna** ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211.

Books and Bagels, Sunday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m. **Emily Pohl-Weary** reads from *Better to Have Loved: The Life of Judith Merril*.

Lunch & Learn with **Prof. Louis Greenspan**. Israel Update, Tuesday, Dec. 10, at noon. Sponsored by the Jewish Learning Council and the Michael Bernstein Chapel of the Miles Nadal JCC.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre/Koffler Centre of the Arts, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Lunch N'Learn with **Rabbi Moshe Stern.** Friday, Dec. 6, noon to 1 p.m. Bring your own lunch. Coffee/tea free.

Learning Experience: Maintaining Bone Health, co-sponsored with Toronto General Hospital, Tuesday, Dec. 10, at the BJCC Room 211., 1-2:30 p.m. **Janet** ext. 259.

Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 21, at 1 and 7:30 p.m. the Koffler Centre of the Arts presents the ballet *The Nutcracker* at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For tickets, ext. 259.

Monday, Dec. 23, at 8 p.m., Koffler School of Music presents **David Broza** in concert at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Tickets/ information, **Adrienne Cohen,** ext. 228.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 26

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Qumran sect confronted 'cosmic evil' with magic: expert on Dead Sea Scrolls

By STACEY STEIN
Special to The CJN

The Dead Sea Scrolls are rich with magic in the form of incantations, songs and prayers, which can be attributed to a group of priests who broke away from their Second Temple colleagues.

This was the focus of Dr. Esther Chazon's recent lecture at Beth Tikvah synagogue, titled Magic in the Dead Sea Scrolls.

The magic texts were discovered at Qumran on the northwestern shore of the Dead Sea, the site where 900 manuscripts of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in 11 caves in the 1940s and 1950s. Of these, 300 are biblical manuscripts, 300 are manuscripts containing the community's writings and 300 contain the work of previously unknown Jewish writers.

Chazon provided insight into the Qumran community through an explanation of their magic texts. She also gave attendees copies of some of the prayers and incantations found in these texts. Chazon is director of the Orion Center for the Study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and Associated Literature at Hebrew University.

Chazon described the Qumran priests as "an opposition group of disenfranchised, unemployed priests who just couldn't stomach what was going on in the Jerusalem Temple" during the period right after the Maccabean revolt, around 150 BCE.

This group of priests and their followers left the Jerusalem Temple and established their own isolationist community at Qumran, which they conceived of as a "spiritual temple which would substitute for and achieve the same aims that the Jerusalem temple was performing for the rest of Israel."

The Qumran sect used magic in order to combat evil and protect themselves, Chazon said.

"In order to rid evil in the world, whether it be sin or disease or temptation, you have to get one step higher than the mortal human being."

Chazon defines magic as "the use of supernatural means to influence conditions and events. Magic is a way of dealing with cosmic evil in our world."

Chazon said to fight evil, the Qumran sect used three types of magic: divination, incantations (i.e. magic spells) and, lastly, protective songs and prayers.

"Basically, there is much in common with Jewish magic practices throughout the ages, from the Bible down to, I dare say, even the present," said Chazon. "Magic in the Dead Sea Scrolls, like most of the Jewish magic, primarily is magic of the word, invoking divine name, divine words to reveal scripture."

Chazon said that in the subject of magic, as in many other areas for which there are Dead Sea Scrolls, the writings are "a link in an unbroken chain of Jewish tradition that can provide countless opportunities to better understand our heritage."

Chazon described the Dead Sea Scrolls as "the greatest archeological and manuscript find of the 20th century" and emphasized their importance in understanding Judaism. Chazon is a renowned expert in the study of the Dead Sea Scrolls and was also a member of an international team that completed publishing all of the scrolls one year ago.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

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חנוכה — נוסח אַמעריקע

פֿון נחום סומער

וועַן ס'קומט די צייט פֿון חנוכה וועַרט מען באַהערשט פֿון נאָסטאַלגישע מאַמענטן. עס דערמאָנט דעם לעבנס־שטיגער פֿון דער אַלטער היים, פֿון אַמאָליקן ייִדישן שטעטל אין פּוילן. ס'גיט־עדעס זיך, ווי די חדר־יונגלעך האָבן געמײַסטערוועט, נעשניצט די דרײדלעך פֿון האָלץ אָן אַפֿילו אַראָפּגעמען צינק אין ספּעציעל צוגעגרײטע פּערעמלער. אויך עלטערע ייִדן האָבן זיך געגרײט צום יום־טוב פֿון לינט אָן פּרייהײט. די באַלעבאָסטעס האָבן זיך געסטאַרעט צוצוגרײטן געשמאַקע חנוכה מאָכלים, ווי די באָבעמעס לאָטקעס געפּרעגלט אין אויל. אָבער דער עיקר איז עס געווען אַ יום־טוב פֿאַר קיבערל. קליינוואַרג איז אין דער וואַך פֿון חנוכה געווען פּריי פֿון חדר אָן גרויס איז געווען די דערוואַרטונג פֿון קריגן חנוכה־געלט.

געווען אַ מנהג אין ייִדישע היימען אין דער חנוכה־וואַך, צו פֿאַרבעטן געסט אָן שכנים צו פֿאַרברענגען די לאַנגע, קאַלטע נעכט, שפּילנדיק קווי־טלעך, אַ זעקס־אַך זעכציק, אַדער אָן אָקע. ס'איז געווען אַ פֿריילעכער ייִדישער יום־טוב. אין דרויסן האָט געסקרי־פּעט דער שניי אונטער די פֿיס אָן דער פֿראָסט האָט געמאַלן פֿאַנ־טאַסטישע פּיגורן אויף די שויבן, אָבער אין די ייִדישע היימען איז געווען מחיצהדיק וואַרעם אָן פֿריילעך. האָט היטלער, ימש"ו, צעשטערט אָט דעם לעבנס־שטיגער אָן צעפֿוילוועט הונדערטער שייַנע, ייִדישע שטעטלעך אין פּוילן. געבליבן זיינען בלויז זכרונות פֿון שייַנע אַמאָליקע טראַדיציעס אָן פֿון אָן אינעגראַהאָקטן לעבנס־שטיגער.

זיינען ייִדן אָן אָלט געפֿרווט פֿאָלק, וואָס לעבט אי־בער אידע שונאים אָן היט אויף אידע טראַדיציעס אָן מנהגים, כאָטש אין פּראָצעס פֿון וואַנדערן איז נייַע לע־דער נעמען די אַמאָליקע שטיגערס אָן נייַע נוסחאות. האָבן אַ סך ייִדישע יום־טובים אין קאַנאַדע אָן אַמעריקע אָנגענומען אָן אַנדערן נוסח. עפּעס איז פֿאַרלוירן גע־גאַנגען אינעם גילגל פֿון איבערפּלאַנ־ונג. אויך אין אונדזער שיינעם חנוכה איז מען זיך דאָ אַ ביסל אַנדערש נוהג.

מיר האָבן דורכגעמאַכט אַ צאָל גילגלים אין אונדזער מאַרטיר־געשיכטע. מ'האָט אין אַ סך צייטן געוווכט אונדז צו פֿאַרלעגנדן, אַפֿוירשן, עס זאָל קיין נעדעכטניש נישט בלייבן. משמעות, ס'איז די אַלערלי הָמנס נישט געלונגען. מיר לעבן, נעדיינען אָן מיר קלייבן זיך נאָך לעבן פֿאַר אַ סך, אַ סך דורות — די שונאים אויף צעפּיקענש. מען האָט געביטן לשנות, קולטור, לעגדער, קאַנטינענטן, אָבער דאָס קלאָסישע ייִדישע פֿאָלק קומט אַרויס פֿון די אַלע צרות אָן פּינען מער געליטערט אָן געשטאַלט... איז דער יום־טוב חנוכה טאָקע דער סימבאָל פֿון ליכט קענן פּינצטערניש אָן פּרייהייט קענן קנעכטשאַפֿט. . .

אָוודאי זיינען דאָ די יום־טובים אַ היפּש ביסל קאָמער־ציאַליזירט געוואָרן. „אַזוי ווי ס'קריסטלט זיך אַזוי ייִדלט זיך", זאָגט דאָס פֿאָלק. אונדזער יום־טוב פֿאַלט כּמעט צונויף מיטן ניי־יִשן „קריסטמעס". אין די גאַסן, באַזונ־דערס אין די שטילע שכנהשאַפֿטן פֿון פֿריוואַטע היימען, זעט איר עלעקטריש באַלויכטענע פּענצטער מיט כּלערלי צאַצקעס אָן אַרנאַמענטן פֿון היילקע פּיגורקעס.

האָבן זיך ייִדן מחקנה געווען אין זייערע ניי־יִשע שכנים. איבער טויזנטער ייִדישע היימער האָבן זיך בּ. זיך אילומיניר־טע, עלעקטרישע חנוכה־לאָמפּן, זיכער אין אַ קלענערער מאָס, ווי בּיַ זייערע שכנים. אויך כאָפּט דיין אויג אויף שילדן אין פֿאַרשיידענע קראָמען, וואָס ווינטשן דער ייִדישער באָפּעלקערונג „אַ פֿריילעכן חנוכה".

זיינען דאָס סימנים פֿון בעסערע, מער פֿרייַע צייטן פֿאַר ייִדן. זיי שעמען זיך נישט מער מיט זייער אידענטיטעט. דער איבּטיקער נוסח חנוכה האָט אין זיך אַ היפּשע דאָזע פֿון קאָמערציאַליזם אָן קען זיך נישט פֿאַר־גליכן מיט דעם אופן ווי ייִדן האָבן געפֿאָוועט חנוכה אין די אַמאָליקע אַלטע היימען, וואָס דער רשע האָט פֿאַרטליקט. אָבער, כידוע, ייִדן וועלן בלייבן אַ פֿאָלק, כאָטש זייַנע טראַדיציעס מאָכן דורך כּלערלי גילגלים אַן פֿאַסן זיך צו צו נייַע צייטן. אַון געדענקען וועלן זיי „די קליינע ליכטעלעך, וואָס דערציילן נעשיכטעלעך"... אַ פֿריילעכן חנוכה צום גאַנצן ייִדישן פֿאָלק!

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February, 21- March 2, 2003– Temple Har Zion, Toronto: A mission to coincide with the World Union for Progressive Judaism convention in Israel. Contact: Joe Nadler, 905.669.6251 ext. 223.

ORGANIZATION MISSIONS

Monthly Missions – UJA Federation of Greater Toronto – Educational missions conducted by UJA Federation for its donors. For a complete list, contact 416.635.2883 ext. 177 or visit www.jewishtoronto.net/mission.

December 17-25, 2002 – Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem – 2nd Annual Overseas Alumni Homecoming & Solidarity Mission. Contact: Adam Silver, 416.485.8000

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December 24-31, 2002 – B'nai Brith Canada – Family Mission. Contact: Avie Esakov, 416.633.6224 ext. 140 or aesakov@bnaibrith.ca.

December 24, 2002-January 2, 2003 – Bronfman Israel Experience Centre - Montreal Family Mission. A family tour which will connect with March of the Living. Contact: Annie Krespil, 514.345.6449 ext. 3399

January 12-19, 2003 – Canada Israel Committee – LIAT Advocacy Mission. This mission, subsidized by CIC, is open to all Canadian residents subject to an interview. Limited to 20 participants. Contact: Marra Messinger, 613.234.8271

January 22-February 20, 2003 & January 22-March 16, 2003 – Jewish National Fund Canadian American Active Retirees in Israel –. Contact: 416.638.7200 in Toronto or 514.934.0313 in Montreal.

February 16-23, 2003/March 2-9, 2003/ May 18-25, 2003 - B'nai Brith Canada - Heart to Heart Missions. May mission coincides with B'nai Brith Canada's Annual General Meeting in Jerusalem. Contact: Avie Esakov, 416.633.6224 ext. 140 or aesakov@bnaibrith.ca.

February 18-27,2003 – Na'amat Canada Solidarity Mission. Contact: Lorraine Levene, 416.636.5425 or by e-mail, naamatca@aol.com

February 22-March 3, 2003 – Emunah Women, together with Montreal congregations **Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem, Beth Israel Beth Aaron & Adath Israel Poale Zedek.** Contact: Emunah Women, 514.485.2397 or 1.877.485.2397

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On Campus

Students at GA urged to be proactive

By ALIZA LIBMAN
Special to The CJN

So what does your campus care about?

This was one of the first questions asked of the 35 participants of the recent General Assembly's "Do the Write Thing" program for student journalists.

The annual conference was held this year in Philadelphia. Do the Write Thing was organized by Hagshama, the University Students' Division of the World Zionist Organization.

Many of the 400 students attending the conference as representatives of their campus Hillels gave similar answers.

The upcoming war with Iraq, skyrocketing tuition fees, environmental concerns and campus corporate sponsorship seem to be on North American students' minds this year, they said.

So where does Israel fit in?

Jeremy Greenberg, a fifth-year political science student at York University, doesn't think it does.

"I'd say most non-Jews don't care [about Israel]," Greenberg said. "If pressed for reaction, they're sickened by all the death and the killing and the murder over there... they don't want to hear about it any more.

"At York, the majority of Jews are similar to non-Jews in their reaction, but if pressed, they would tell you that they are in support of Israel."

Nevertheless, a primary focus of the General Assembly was Israel advocacy. At a press conference, famed Soviet refusenik and Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Natan Sharansky said, "One of the most important battlefields is what's happening on the college campus today."

The student participants were called to fight campus ignorance and apathy by not merely perpetuating Jewish-Arab polemic, but by finding new ways to convince students that Israel is a country they should naturally support.

Danielle Ames, a native of Vancouver who goes to McGill University, was one of more than 30 Montreal students who attended.

"Nowadays, people, especially on campus, are extremely liberal," she said. "If we really want to reach out to these liberals on campus, we need to focus on things that are universally held ideals," she said, citing democracy, women's rights and the freedom of the individual, values that Israel is based on.

Gideon Meir, the deputy director-general of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, added, "We have to send to the world constantly the message that we are a democracy."

But representatives of Hillel, the organization that operates Jewish student clubs on campuses across North America, argued that the best way to fight for Israel is to focus on cultural programs rather than political ones, saying cultural events are more popular.

"We're doing a lot of work putting together Israeli film festivals and Israeli fairs and we're encouraging students to not focus on the conflict," said Howard Wolke, communications associate for Hillel.

"If all you do is focus on the conflict, then once the conflict is over, students won't have a connection to Israel anymore."

Gil Troy, professor of American history at McGill University, believes that university students need to "think of more creative ways to re-engage with Jewish peoplehood and with the State of Israel."

Troy encouraged the students to reinvent Zionism, which, he told them, was originally a "revolt of the young."

Second-year Concordia University student Naomi Sarna also believes that to convince non-Jews to support Israel, we must first convince other Jews.

"One of the most important things is to unify the Jews on campus," Sarna said. "You plan parties, you set up tables talking about Jewish holidays... this way, Jews start meeting other Jews and then you have everyone together and you have a list of people that you know can come out to rallies... people you've made personal contact with."

Whatever the strategy, it is clear that students must work with the existing David versus Goliath stereotype of Israel. Not to worry, said Ido Aharoni, head of Media Affairs for the Israeli Consulate in New York. "Goliath doesn't have to be a bad guy."

Aliza Libman is a Jewish education student at York University who serves as media relations co-ordinator for York's Jewish Student Federation Israel Affairs committee.

STUDENT JOURNALISTS: A group of 50 students who are involved in Jewish journalism on campus participated in the 13th Do the Write Thing conference as part of the recent GA in Philadelphia. The conference was sponsored by The World Zionist Organization and The Jewish Agency for Israel. [David Karp photo]

Coast to Coast

Two books out, a few more to go for Sask. senior

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Martha Blum is nearly 90, but her creative abilities are showing little sign of age. The longtime resident of Saskatoon has just had her second book published and is working on two more.

MISSION TO D.C.: Eleven members of Kingston's Jewish community recently went on a four-day Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario (RJCO) mission to Washington, D.C. Led by RJCO's director of community development Michael Soberman, the trip included meetings with professionals from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the Anti-Defamation League, the Israeli and Canadian embassies and a walking tour highlighting the architecture of the U.S. capital. The trip also included an emotional visit to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Pictured, from left, are (from left) trip participants Bonnie Golomb, Mindy Campeau, Toby Abramsky and Cheryl Kizell at the Women's Memorial, part of the Vietnam Memorial.

Blum was born in the city of Czernowitz in 1913 when it was still part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. It fell to Romania after World War I and is now located in Ukraine.

She studied pharmaceutical chemistry and other subjects at the universities of Bucharest, Prague, Strasbourg and Paris. She survived the war years in labour camps, and came to Saskatoon with her mathematician husband, Dr. Richard Blum, in 1954.

Over the years, she worked as a pharmacist and as a French and music teacher, as well as being an author. In 1998, she received a national award given to Holocaust survivors in Canada who have contributed to the arts here.

"I have always been a writer," Blum says. "I used to write in French and German. Now I only write in English."

Blum had her first English novel, *The Walnut Tree*, published by Coteau Books in Regina in 1999. The World War II-era novel won two Saskatchewan book awards.

Her new book, *Children of Paper* was released on Oct. 24. Blum describes it as a collection of short stories linked by characters that appear off and on throughout. The setting is the fictional east European shtetl of Suczorno, circa 1900, with the synagogue in the middle and cobblestones all around.

Among the recurring characters are Simon, a young man who goes to the big city to learn a trade and modern ideas but returns home to be with his love; Bimbule the luftmensch; and Sarah who is trying "to know" God.

Suczorno and its tales are based on her grandmother's experiences and memories, Blum says. She is confident that *Children of Paper* will have wide appeal, not only in the Jewish community, but in the general community as well.

"The stories capture the spiritual lives of the people," she says. "The characters are marvellous."

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Coast to Coast

Symposium seeks recognition of Jewish refugees from Arab lands

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

At a recent symposium on the Forgotten Exodus of Jews from Arab lands, experts called for compensation for the 900,000 Jews displaced when Israel was created and the exposure of the myth that Palestinians are the only Mideast refugees.

"This is one of the most important initiatives we have ever done. We hope it will raise the consciousness of our own community and Canadians about the tragedy of those Jews who were expelled from their countries," Keith Landy, president of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), told *The CJN*

Following the symposium, CJC indicated it would co-operate with the efforts of a newly formed coalition, called Justice for Jews from Arab Countries (JJAC), based in New Jersey.

JJAC is working to document the losses suffered by Jews who were expelled from Arab countries in the 20th century, win redress for them and put the issue "on the international political and judicial agenda."

The group, whose supporters include the World Jewish Congress (WJC), the American Sephardi Federation and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, also wants to raise public awareness on the issue.

Modelled after a symposium held in Paris about a year ago, the Montreal gathering drew an overflow crowd of 450 to the Gelber Conference Centre.

Some were refugees from Arab lands eager to hear of concrete progress being made on their behalf. Others, such as Iraqi-born Steve Acre, gave poignant accounts of the persecution and harassment Jews suffered in their native lands before finally finding safe haven in Canada. Iraq's once-thriving Jewish population of 135,000 is now largely gone.

About 600,000 of the 900,000 refugees, expelled or forced to leave their countries as Israel fought for independence and afterwards, ended up in the Jewish state.

And the centuries-old Jewish communities in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Lebanon, Yemen, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco, were reduced to a shell of their former selves or were extinguished.

"My family lost all of its property," Acre said in an interview. "This issue had to be brought to the forefront. Compensation should not be just for the Palestinians, but for us too."

Recurrent themes emerged as the issue was addressed by some notable international experts.

Lawyer William Goldnadel of France, who is seeking legal avenues of redress, was joined by others, including MP and human rights lawyer Irwin Cotler, in puncturing the myth that Jews were "protected" in their native lands.

Goldnadel anticipated that a class-action lawsuit would be launched by a committee of former refugees, which could ultimately result in compensation for the hundreds of thousands whose properties and assets were confiscated when they were force to leave the countries they had called home for generations.

"The time for justice is at hand," he said.

Other experts, including French lawyer Arno Klarsfeld, stressed that the principle of "reciprocity" must apply for Jewish and Palestinian refugees and that the Jewish refugee issue must be a part of peace negotiations.

Cotler, who has agreed to serve as an honorary chair of JJAC, delineated several principles that should apply, among them the right to reparations and restitution, and the obligation to memory and truth.

Cotler said United Nations Resolution 242 referred to a "just solution to the refugee problem," meaning all refugees created as a result of the birth of the State of Israel – Arabs and Jews.

Klarsfeld, son of the Nazi-hunting couple Serge and Beate Klarsfeld, said unlike Jewish refugees from Arab lands, only a "tiny portion" of Palestinian refugees were forced to leave the new Jewish state.

And while the Jewish state has acknowledged Palestinian suffering, no Palestinian has ever recognized the plight of Jews forced from their lands, he said.

Avi Beker, secretary general of the WJC, and others noted that the United Nations Relief Work Agency, which provides humanitarian aid at Palestinian refugee camps, has stood by as the camps became fertile breeding grounds for terrorism and helped to perpetuate the "tragedy" of the Palestinians.

The symposium appeared to give the Jewish refugee cause hope, although Jean Claude Niddam, an official of Israel's Justice Ministry, said that over the years, other groups, such as the WJC and WOJAC (the World Organization for Jews from Arab Lands) have had limited success in similar efforts.

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What does 'occupied territory' really mean?

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Nearly every suicide bombing in Israel is followed up with comments from Islamic extremists who rationalize the attack as "justified resistance to occupation."

The horrific Nov. 21 terrorist attack on a Jerusalem bus, in which 11 people were killed and 50 wounded, was the latest strike to evoke such comments.

Stewart Bell, writing in the *National Post* the next day, noted that "on Arabic television, a Hamas leader said the bloodshed would continue until Israelis 'leave our land'" and noted a Hamas statement that promised more violence as long as there is occupation. Paul Adams in the *Globe and Mail* (Nov. 22) reported that "Palestinian officials called the bombing terrorism but blamed it on Israel's continuing occupation of much of the West Bank."

What must be emphasized is that the terms "occupation" and "our land" often do not mean merely the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Rather, for Islamic extremists, and now many secularists as well, they mean Israel proper.

James Bennet dealt with this ambiguity in the *New York Times* (Nov. 22). "Hamas and Islamic Jihad have not [recognized Israel's right to exist]. In practice these groups make no distinction among Israelis [whether living within the 1967 borders or beyond the Green Line] and have repeatedly shown a determination to kill them without regard to age, occupation, or geography."

Many Israeli analysts believe Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat is complicit in the rejection of Israel as the Jewish state. In turning down the offers made at the Camp David and Taba summits of 2000 and 2001, Arafat denied that Jews had any special attachment to Jerusalem. This was a signal that he was not interested in establishing any Palestinian state, though well within his grasp, in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Yet Bennet writes that in contrast to the Islamist extremists, Arafat "has recognized Israel's right to exist." Perhaps Bennet draws this inference because Arafat "harshly criticized the violence against Israeli civilians within the 1967 borders" after the Jerusalem carnage.

But Israeli experts remain skeptical that Arafat makes a distinction between Israel's pre-1967 borders and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. If we count the number of attacks within the Green Line by groups "affiliated" with Arafat's Fatah, there is enough evidence that the distinction between Israel proper and the territories is more a convenient fiction than an accepted fact.

Bennet suggests two competing, and revealing, explanations for the present conflict: "Where Mr. Sharon sees a relentless, generations-old campaign of Arab terror to destroy the Jewish state, [Amram Mitzna, the new Labor party leader] sees some Israeli culpability, stemming from Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip after the Arab-Israel war of 1967.

"The wreckage of the Nov. 20 bus is a problem for the latter theory of the conflict and a possible blow to the idea that Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 border might end the violence. The bombing took place on land that was Israel's before the 1967 war, and its victims included schoolchildren rather than only settlers and soldiers."

Paul Michaels is director of communications of the Canada-Israel Committee.

WOMEN IN SPORT: Bialik Hebrew Day School grade 8 students recently celebrated Women's History Month as part of their social studies program. The theme was Women in Sport and the students experienced a hands-on presentation by world triathlon champion, Darren Henry. Seen here with Henry are studetns Griffin Rotman and Daniel Zimmerman Day.

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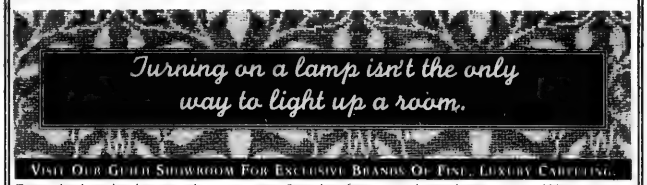
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Coast to Coast

$50 million gift to UJA is the largest ever

Continued from page 1

The Shermans have already paid $11 million of that amount and the interest from the endowment will be directed to UJA's annual campaign, which raised more than $60 million this year toward social service needs in Israel and in the Toronto Jewish community, now estimated at approximately 200,000 people.

The Jewish Foundation is part of a larger UJA Federation effort called Jewish Toronto Tomorrow, which aims to raise more than $1 billion over eight to 10 years for capital projects and the annual UJA campaign.

"Honey and I thought about it, and certainly we're glad to [make the donation]. In any event, it would have been our intention to give as our means enabled us to. You can't take it with you."

The best way to use money, Sherman feels, is to do what one can for others. "I enjoy working, being productive and doing good things. So does Honey. She works hard for [a variety of] organizations."

"We greatly appreciate the Shermans' generosity and vision in bestowing this tremendous gift," stated Jewish Foundation chair Neil Nisker in a news release. He called them "philanthropic pioneers" who "set a new standard for generations to come."

Although Sherman felt his donation was particularly important now – because of Israel's pressing needs and also because of needs in the Toronto Jewish community – he has no desire to have a say in where his money is spent.

"I really think it's important that the aspect of contributing be separate from the aspect of allocating," he said. "Let others who are better equipped to do so make the decisions where the money goes," he said.

Recently, the Shermans gave $1 million to the United Way's Tomorrow Fund. "We try to limit our major gifts to major institutions like UJA, the United Way, the Baycrest Centre and the University of Toronto," he said by way of explaining his philanthropic philosophy. Smaller charities receive smaller amounts, he added.

In his private life, the father of four said he wants his children to know the importance of hard work, accomplishment and contributing to society.

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Al Qaeda may have launched attack to lure Israel into war

Continued from page 1

In Ottawa, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham condemned the hotel car bombing and the failed missile attack on the Arkia passenger flight.

"The deaths of these innocent civilians at the hands of terrorists are tragic and senseless," Graham said in a news release. "This attack reminds us all that we must remain vigilant in the global war against terrorism."

The Foreign Affairs news release was silent about the terrorist attack on the Likud polling station, which took place the same day.

After the deadly hotel attack, Sharon vowed that Israel would pursue those who had spilled the blood of its citizens.

It is the "duty of all countries not only to offer condolences when we bury our dead, but also to support us when we fight terror," he said.

But it is not clear how much support Israel will get if it begins hunting down members of Al Qaeda.

Terrorism experts said over the weekend that Al Qaeda may have purposely targeted an Israeli site in order to draw Israel into the U.S. war on terror.

Al Qaeda believes that Israeli involvement will convince Arab states that the United States and Israel are teaming up to oppress Muslims around the world, these commentators say.

Such considerations may prompt the United States to pressure Israel to avoid action against Al Qaeda, they add.

Following last week's attack, Sharon instructed the Mossad to take responsibility for finding those responsible.

A report in Britain's *Sunday Times* newspaper said Sharon had given instructions to activate "sleeper" Mossad agents in Saudi Arabia and Yemen to track down those responsible for the Kenya attack.

According to the report, such agents are only activated in cases of emergency, with the goal of obstructing preparations by Arab countries to wage war against Israel.

Sharon instructed the Mossad to find those responsible

On Sunday, funerals were held for the three Israelis killed in the hotel attack.

The victims are brothers Noy Anter, 12, and Dvir Anter, 13, and tour group leader Albert de Havila, 60. The boys' mother, Ora, 38, was seriously wounded in the attack. Their young sister, Adva, 8, was slightly injured.

The bodies of the victims were flown back to Israel over the weekend in a military air convoy that also brought back the 18 Israelis injured in the attack and the more than 250 Israeli tourists who were in Mombasa when the suicide bombing took place.

When the planes returned to Israel last Friday, anxious family members gathered at the airport to welcome their loved ones, while ambulances waited on the tarmac to receive the wounded and take them to hospital.

"My father was hurt in the attack, and my mother was supposed to come together with him on the plane," Yaniv Kirman told the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv* as he waited for his parents to emerge from the flight.

"From the moment we heard about the attack, I tried to reach and locate my parents, but it was a nightmare. I couldn't get through."

When Kirman's father came off the plane, he was transferred to an ambulance. His mother, Tzippora, hugged her son and daughter for a long time.

"We were lucky, just lucky," she said. "We were among the last ones who were in the lobby. I had just gotten to the room and put the key in the lock, and then there was the explosion in the lobby."

But alongside the joyous family reunions with the wounded was the sorrow of the families awaiting the remains of their loved ones.

"This is my last trip, I will never go back to Kenya," said Rahamim Anter, the father of the two boys killed in the attack. The family had planned to spend Chanukah at the resort.

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Sharon defeats Netanyahu for Likud leadership

By YOSSI VERTER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The chairman of the Likud election committee Zvi Cohen confirmed last Friday morning that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon won the party leadership race by a 15 per cent margin over Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The final results of the primary race were: 56 per cent of the vote for Sharon, 40 per cent for Netanyahu and just over three per cent for Moshe Feiglin. Voter turnout was 46 per cent.

Earlier television polls predicted a larger 17 to 24 point margin of victory for the prime minister.

Sharon will now face the Labor Party's newly elected chairman, Haifa mayor Amram Mitzna, in the Jan. 28 general elections.

After accepting the congratulations of his rival, Sharon opened his sombre victory speech at the Tel Aviv Exhibition Grounds by asking supporters to respect the memories of the nine Israeli killed in last Thursday's terror attacks in Beit She'an and Kenya.

Sharon reiterated a statement he had made earlier in the day, that the terror attacks were an attempt "to influence the elections in Israel." He added that "Israel will hunt down those who have spilled the blood of its citizens. No one has immunity. It is the duty of all countries not only to offer condolences when we bury out dead, but also to support us when we fight terror."

Looking ahead to the Jan. 28 election, Sharon predicted that "the Likud will double its strength; if we work together, we will achieve an even better result."

Earlier, at his campaign headquarters in Tel Aviv, Netanyahu congratulated Sharon on his victory, and called on Likud members to unite around their leader to ensure that the party "wins a huge victory in the forthcoming elections."

In an apparent signal that he intends to remain firmly in the political realm, Netanyahu vowed to help Sharon and Likud win a decisive victory in January.

After the terror attacks in Kenya and Beit She'an that day, the campaign headquarters of both candidates were almost deserted when the polls were published, a far cry from the raucous scenes that usually greet the television cameras.

Sharon aides said last Thursday night that in the coming days, until the elections for the Likud list, the prime minister would devote a lot of time to helping his supporters win "respectable places" on the Knesset list. Those supporters include ministers Reuven Rivlin, Silvan Shalom, Shaul Mofaz, Tzipi Livni, Roni Milo and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

Sharon has told his associates he will not allow "political purges," but will do whatever he can to help his supporters.

Netanyahu, who promised there would be no camps in the Likud, nonetheless will do the same for his backers – MKs Yuval Steinitz and Yisrael Katz, as well as minister Meir Sheetrit, MK Moshe Arens and his former spokesperson Shai Bazak.

One of Sharon's political advisers, Ruby Yisraeli, said that for 3½ years, ever since Sharon took over the Likud when Netanyahu resigned the night he lost the premiership to Ehud Barak, "we've worked to bring the results we had tonight. We knew the Likud Central Committee didn't support Sharon, so we held a registration drive, recruited new people, and made the change."

Voter turnout increased significantly toward the end of the day, after Sharon made an impassioned call for Likud members to cast their votes – despite the terror attack hours earlier on the Likud branch in Beit She'an.

Israel has foiled Al Qaeda attacks

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel Defence Forces Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon said Monday that security forces had foiled attempted Al Qaeda attacks in Israel and that the terror network has Palestinian operatives in the territories.

Ya'alon made his comments at a meeting with new inductees at a recruiting base.

Questioned about the possibility of the IDF withdrawing from Bethlehem before Christmas, Ya'alon said a pullback would depend on the situation on the ground.

Ya'alon also said comments attributed to him before a closed Washington forum to the effect that most settlements would ultimately have to be dismantled and Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat would have to be expelled were "a complete distortion" of what he had said.

According to a report in *Ha'aretz* Monday, Ya'alon said during a closed discussion at the Washington Institute for Near East policy last week that both Israelis and Palestinians know that "at the end of the day, most of the settlements will be evacuated."

The statement came during a question-and-answer session. It did not include details about the future Ya'alon expected for the settlements or the political circumstances surrounding the evacuations.

Ya'alon said Monday morning that what he actually told the forum was that two years ago, the Palestinians understood that Israel intended to dismantle most of the settlements and that despite this no agreement was achieved and the Palestinians opted for violence.

"I am sorry to experience, not for the first time, a distortion of things I said in a closed forum. It was not done by U.S. officials, and I hope that this was not due to a language comprehension problem," Ya'alon said.

"What I said was that in the year 2000, the Palestinians understood that Israel was willing to dismantle most of the settlements. Nevertheless, the agreement was not completed and the Palestinians began fighting, that's what I said.

"I didn't use the word 'expulsion,'" Ya'alon said, referring to his comments on Arafat. He said he had told the forum that as long as Arafat is around, it would be difficult to end terror and reach an agreement with the Palestinians.

Ya'alon criticized the United States for not being fully committed to Arafat's removal

Speaking off the record to the institute's membership, Ya'alon said Hamas had agreed to far-reaching concessions during secret talks it had conducted with Palestinian leaders Abu Mazen and Mohammed Dahlan a few months ago. He called the talks "a silent coup" against Arafat, and said they had the goal of making Abu Mazen a powerful prime minister of the Palestinian Authority.

According to Ya'alon, the two initiated talks with Hamas behind Arafat's back to try to reach a three-month ceasefire. The chief of staff said Hamas representatives agreed to the ceasefire, but the Damascus-based leaders of the Islamic fundamentalist group nixed it.

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Israel & the Jewish World

Mitzna offers a clear choice

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

The Labor party's newly crowned leader, Amram Mitzna, offers Israeli voters what his predecessor, Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, did not – a clear alternative to Likud. Mitzna, having wrested the leadership from Ben-Eliezer at a recent primary, campaigned on a platform of distancing the centre-left Labor party from the right-wing Likud, its partner in the now dissolved national unity government.

Ben-Eliezer – the party's first Sephardi leader and the defence minister in Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's cabinet – was essentially co-opted by Sharon. Such was his consistent support of Sharon's policies – from the shunning of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat to the re-occupation of towns in the Palestinian autonomous areas – that critics in the Labor party contemptuously branded him a Likud lackey.

Ben-Eliezer and his associate, Shimon Peres, who served as foreign minister, presented themselves as moderating forces in the Sharon government. At times, this was true, particularly when Sharon exercised restraint in the face of Palestinian suicide bombings. In general, however, the pair concurred with Sharon's military policies, which did not offer the Palestinians a viable political horizon. So ineffectual were they as countervailing forces that observers were hard-pressed to distinguish between Likud and Labor.

By the time Ben-Eliezer walked out of the government, setting the stage for the Jan. 28 election, the Labor party had, more or less, been absorbed by the Likud and was a pale shadow of its former self. The widespread perception that Ben-Eliezer had essentially sold out the party's principles for the sake of power and had lent a hand in the demolition of the Oslo peace process were the major causes for Mitzna's emergence.

The son of German-born parents who was raised on a kibbutz and nurtured on Labour Zionist ideals, Mitzna was a career army officer – a major-general – whose first exposure to professional politics was as mayor of Haifa from 1993 onward. By all accounts, he acquitted himself competently.

Although Mitzna, 57, is effectively a newcomer, he lacks neither self-confidence nor the ability to articulate the claim that Israel is in dire need of a " different reality" in light of a ruinous Palestinian uprising, the second in 13 years.

Like one of his predecessors, Yitzhak Rabin, Mitzna believes that Israel "must fight terrorism as if there are no negotiations and negotiate as if there is no terrorism." This, of course, is the polar opposite of what Sharon espouses.

More to the point, Mitzna has set out to achieve a decisive solution to the Palestinian problem, if that is still possible after the failure of the Camp David summit in July 2000 and the eruption of wholesale Palestinian violence.

Mitzna, an advocate of a two-state solution, calls for the unconditional resumption of talks with the Palestinians. If an agreement is unattainable, Israel should separate from the Palestinians by withdrawing unilaterally from the bulk of the West Bank, leaving behind isolated Jewish settlements. Mitzna also believes that Israel should give up Israel's foothold in the Gaza Strip within one year.

In this spirit, he maintains that Israel should stop spending money on settlements in the territories and divert the funds to Israeli inner cities and development towns. Like Ehud Barak, the former Labor party prime minister, Mitzna holds there should be shared sovereignty in eastern Jerusalem.

Short of the Likud adopting his guidelines, which is extremely unlikely, Mitzna is not interested in joining the Likud in a unity government.

Given Israel's current mood, few observers think Mitzna can win next month's election. But this much seems clear. If Ben-Eliezer had defeated Mitzna in the primary, the Labor party probably would have been torn asunder by internecine rivalries, and Yossi Beilin, one of its leading figures, would have bolted to form a new social democratic party.

Nov. 25

• Cabinet minister Dan Meridor announced he is returning to the Likud Party and leaving the Center Party, which he co-founded in 1997.

Nov. 26

• Israel carried out anti-terror operations in the West Bank and Gaza. In Gaza, clashes erupted when Israeli tanks entered the Deir el-Balah camp, where soldiers destroyed the home of a Hamas member who allegedly planned several terror attacks.

Nov. 27

• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he supported the creation of a Palestinian state, but only after all terrorism ends. In a statement on the eve of the Likud leadership primary, Sharon said U.S. officials have told Israel such a Palestinian state would be demilitarized.

Nov. 28

• At least six Israelis were killed and some 43 injured in an attack by two terrorists who opened fire on voters in the Likud leadership primary at the party branch in Beit She'an. Eleven people were in serious condition and seven sustained moderate wounds. The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, which is linked to Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction, claimed responsibility.

Nov. 29

• Israel is prepared to sell 2 million gas masks to Kuwait, which will be distributed to its citizens in case of an Iraqi attack on the country. If the $82 million (US) deal comes through, the Shalon company from Kiryat Gat will supply the gas masks. The security exports department of the Defence Ministry allowed Shalon to sell gas masks to Kuwait after a series of talks with mediators on behalf of the Kuwaitis.

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Health & Lifestyles

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HRT considered effective for menopausal symptoms

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

A controversy erupted this summer when a study of 16,608 women found that hormone replacement therapy (HRT), when given to prevent heart disease and stroke, actually led to an increased risk for both.

Nevertheless, it "is still the most effective treatment for menopausal symptoms and does not appear to have ill effects if taken for relatively short periods of time," said Jennifer Blake, the head of Women's health and chief of obstetrics and gynecology at Sunnybrook & Women's College Hospital.

Blake, who is also a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Toronto, said at a forum on HRT, that in part, the overwhelming concerns arose about the results of the study because only certain aspects of the study were made public, and "science is not well understood if reported in sound bites."

It is also important to understand, Blake said, that this was a study of asymptomatic women, given estrogen (actually various combinations of estrogen and progestin) purely for the purposes of preventing heart disease.

Participants in the study, she said, were generally older and more overweight than those usually coming for HRT, both factors that increase the risk of heart disease and stroke.

Other participants on the panel, sponsored by the Weizmann Institute's Women & Science, and Toronto's Centre for Research in Women's Health and held at Toronto's Four Seasons Hotel, included Florence Haseltine, director of the National Institute of Health Center for Population Research in Bethesda, Md., rheumatologist Laurence Rubin, director of the division of rheumatology at St. Michael's Hospital; and Len Sternberg, director of cardiology at Sunnybrook & Women's College Hospital and associate professor of medicine at the University of Toronto. Heather Maclean, director of the Centre for Research in Women's Health, was moderator.

Haseltine stressed that the use of HRT to decrease the chances of heart disease and stroke had nothing to do with the original purpose of HRT, which was to alleviate symptoms of menopause.

Previous studies, she said, had found that women before menopause had a reduced rate of heart attack compared to men, although this is not necessarily true, since "women tend to not show symptoms of heart attack."

Researchers felt that since the only difference in women before and after menopause was the production of estrogen, then estrogen must have a preventative effect. Hence the study.

Sternberg cited statistics showing that in Canada, heart disease is the major killer of women – six times as many women die from heart disease as from breast cancer.

"We can see how important it would have been had HRT been effective [in preventing heart disease]."

A follow-up report in October, he said, also showed that HRT does not decrease, and, in fact, may increase the risk of coronary heart disease, although not necessarily fatally, and that it may increase the risk of stroke.

However, he said, "the absolute increase in risk is modest, and some may say that the benefits outweigh the risks."

Lifestyle changes, such as quitting smoking, maintaining a healthy weight and exercising, are more beneficial than HRT to prevent heart disease Sternberg said.

Addressing another aspect of the study, Rubin said it "confirms what we all thought – that HRT does indeed work in terms of preventing bone disease and fractures."

Osteoporosis often leads to serious fractures, which "are very disabling. In fact, adjusted for all other factors, fracture of the hip or vertebrae is a marker for premature death."

However, he said, he would not recommend HRT if the only problem a woman has is osteoporosis.

"There are alternative drug therapies, such as Fosomax and Didrocal, which are just as effective, cause few side effects and work specifically on bone."

All the panellists emphasized the importance of making HRT a short-term therapy, not longer than five years, and keeping the dose as low as possible.

During the question period, Haseltine urged a calm response. "It's not a matter of going on or off it immediately."

Blake agreed, saying that the two reports are just the first results of the study.

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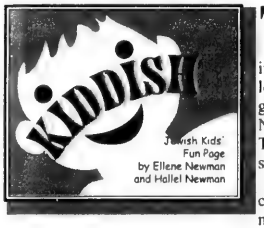


The Battle

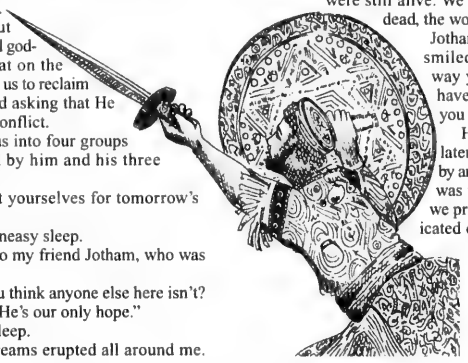
based on material from the Book of Maccabees, a historical account of the Chanukah period.

They were coming. The Greek army was coming – 47,000 soldiers, led by Syria's greatest generals, Ptolemy, Nikanor and Georgias. They were coming to squelch our revolution.

Judah Maccabee had called us, a force of 4,000 men, to the town of Mitzpah, where we were to prepare for the onslaught. But we did not prepare for battle the way most armies do. Yes, we had gathered whatever weapons we could get hold of. Yes, we had trained for battle. But today we fasted and prayed.

How we longed to return to the Temple, the place where all Jews could come and worship God together, where Jews from all over the world gathered at festival times to offer their best fruits, grains and sheep in thanks to God.

The Temple now lay in ruins. The Greeks had driven us out and put statues to their gods and goddesses there. And now we sat on the ground, begging God to enable us to reclaim our Temple and our land. And asking that He let us survive the upcoming conflict.



Judah Maccabee divided us into four groups of 1,000, to be commanded by him and his three brothers. I was with Judah.

"Go to sleep now and rest yourselves for tomorrow's battle," he commanded.

The camp settled into an uneasy sleep.

"I'm scared," I confessed to my friend Jotham, who was sleeping next to me.

"Of course you are! Do you think anyone else here isn't? We just have to trust in God. He's our only hope."

Exhausted, I finally fell asleep.

"Wake up! Wake up!" Screams erupted all around me. "We're under attack!"

I jumped up, tired and disoriented. Elephants! There were elephants all around our camp! And thousands of soldiers, with heavy armour and swords and spears! "What's going on?" I demanded.

Jotham didn't even look up from sharpening his sword. "Georgias snuck up and surrounded our entire camp last night!"

Panicking, I reached for my sword. "We're dead! We're cut off from the rest of our men!"

"Shhh! Shhh!" Judah Maccabee hushed the panicked soldiers under his command. "Remember how God miraculously saved our ancestors from Pharaoh by the Sea of Reeds! Cry out to God and beg Him that He save us here today!"

The commanders blew on their shofars, and we charged forward, toward the soldiers, toward the bellowing elephants…

Jotham screamed and crumpled to the ground as an arrow tore into him.

I stopped running and turned around. He was lying on the ground, gasping in deep breaths.

"Jotham!"

"What are you doing?" he screamed at me. "Turn around! Get out there and fight!"

I turned and ran, into the rain of arrows and spears, waving my sword ahead of me, fighting for myself, for my family, for Jotham, for my Temple, for my people…

The shofars blared and we tore into the enemy's front lines. Fiercely, they tried to fight us off, but I could tell they were weakening. Then they were scattering, running away, dropping their belongings as they fled.

Some of our men bent to pick up the dropped items.

"What are you doing?" shouted Judah. "The rest of their army's still in the mountains! The fighting's just begun!"

We ran through Georgias' abandoned camp, and set it on fire. Then we waited for the rest of the army to come. But they never did. I guess when they saw Georgias' camp burning they became frightened, and fled.

No, we didn't have our Temple back yet. But at least we were still alive. We went back to retrieve the dead, the wounded.

Jotham was weak, but alive. He smiled when he saw me. "The way you were fighting, we'll have our Temple back before you can say Judah Maccabee!"

He was almost right. A year later, we were attacked again, by an even larger army. But God was with us this time too, and we prevailed. And then we dedicated ourselves to regaining the Temple. After fighting off the Greeks stationed there, again we could come together and offer our best fruits, grain, and sheep to God. We could light the Menorah too. Except there was no oil.

But you already know that story…

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Arts & Travel

Resistance fighter play only half a great Dane

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

If *The Danish Play* had followed the old sports adage, "Start strong but finish stronger," the impact of this historical re-enactment would have hit home with more ferocity.

Instead, *The Danish Play*, staged by Nightwood Theatre and running until Dec. 15 at Tarragon Theatre's Extra Space, falls flat in the second half after an explosive beginning. While the acting is strong and the drama poignant, a hefty portion of the piece falters under laborious dialogue and summary scenes.

The story of famed Danish Resistance fighter Agnette Ottosen follows a group of former rebels during a Danish Christmas in 1962. Meeting seasonally to raise their glasses over a robust *"Skol!"* (the Danish version of *l'chaim*), the group mourns the loss of Ottosen, who died years after her concentration camp internment.

In flowing scenes, past and present shuttle back and forth, a tactic that is confusing for the first 20 minutes, but becomes seamless thereafter.

Ottosen, played by the riveting Kate Hennig, fronts as a tight-lipped prim-and-proper secretary who lets her hair down when talk turns to rebellion. With her boss Mads (Bruce Hunter), Ottosen plots resistance against the oncoming Nazi regime and schemes to smuggle Jews out of Denmark.

Switch back quickly to another 1962 "Skol!" and more memories of the courageous woman. Switch back again to pre-World War II, and extensive plans to fight the Germans and sneak to Copenhagen.

In a blink, the scene shifts to a small room hidden behind a transparent screen, which the audience previously assumed was a rug hung on a wall. An SS guard questions Ottosen and pokes her painfully with his club, prompting her to flex her vocal chords and sing the Danish national anthem under interrogation. The screen serves beautifully as a double-duty set design, masquerading as the doorway to Holocaust horrors.

The concentration camp scenes are acted brilliantly. When bedmate Bente (Christine Brubaker) complains of scant rations and recounts Danish pastries, Ottosen's eyes sparkle under her sagging face and she scribbles down the recipe of the beloved pastry. The desire to sleep is so desperate in the Ravensbruck camp that another woman complains of Ottosen's scribbling pencil.

In fact, Ottosen's writing plays a crucial role – both symbolic and practical – to the piece. Not only does her poetry add lyrical insight into Holocaust suffering, but playwright Sonja Mills discovered Ottosen's diaries quite naturally – Ottosen is her great aunt. With that close connection, Mills crafts Ottosen in the play's first half as a pillar of strength, leadership and empowerment.

But after the intermission, when Ottosen returns (in flashbacks) from the concentration camp under duress from illegal surgeries and a "poisoned mind," the scenes bog down with irrelevant exposition and roundabout dialogue.

The drama shifts to Ottosen's struggle to have a child rather than a husband – a less interesting plot considering the play's initial intensity. The climax hovers, waiting to be devoured, but Mills is content to dangle the carrot a little longer. Unfortunately, it turns out to be not all that savoury, considering it is summed up in two sentences.

But the diminished strength of a weak second half occurs through no fault of the actors. Hennig shines throughout, following Kelly Thornton's direction with controlled intensity. A wry smile or a blank stare reveals more character insight than a two-minute monologue.

Hunter follows suit, playing the tight-lipped straight man who is, he says, "just a little bit in love with Agnette." One of the more entertaining scenes occurs during an alcohol-soaked dinner, as Hunter teeters on his chair and slurs his crass comments with convincing muster.

Michael Cehptovestky, as the eager young rebel Michael, also delivers his role with a natural joie de vivre — especially when he's toasted "Skol!" one too many times.

But what *The Danish Play* delivers dramatically, it lacks in clarity. The scenes never reveal Ottosen's implicit role in saving the Danish Jews, except for a 30-second discussion on where to house a family of 10. Also, the exodus of 7,500 Jews to neutral Sweden is barely discussed, leaving audience members scrambling for encyclopedias to discover Denmark's wartime heroics.

Kate Hennig in *The Danish Play*

What saves *The Danish Play* is not only Hennig's performance – coupled with the supporting actors' skills – but the subject matter itself. The world knows of the Schindlers and Wallenbergs, but this piece focuses the spotlight on a courageous woman who had to battle sexism and incredible suffering to share her story. Kudos to Mills for the idea, and bravo to the cast for intimating the soul of rebellion.

Nevertheless, an enjoyable experience must be enjoyable throughout. The flab deflates the full emotional impact the audience surely missed.

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

CHILDREN'S RECORDING STAR SINGS AT BETH TZEDEC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

"Jewish Music Man" **Paul Zim**, famed among children and adults for his Chanukah and Passover recordings for children, gives a family Chanukah concert with the congregational school choir, in celebration of Beth Tzedec Congregation's 50th anniversary. Adults $10 at the door; children free. Beth Tzedec, Wednesday, Dec. 4, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Yiddishland Café: Workmen's Circle presents an evening of Yiddish love songs with Montreal singer **Bronna Levy** and members of the klezmer group **Beyond the Pale**. 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Tickets $12 at Israel's Judaica; RSVP at 416-787-2081. Sunday, Dec. 15, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Books & Bagels: Born into a strongly Zionist circle, **Judith Merril** became involved with Trotskyism in the 1930s and '40s, then with the anti-war and anti-drug movements; she moved to Canada in 1968 and settled into Toronto's Rochdale College. When Merril died five years ago, she left an unfinished manuscript with her granddaughter, **Emily Pohl-Weary**.

Pohl-Weary, who taped many interviews with her grandmother in her last year, fulfilled her dying request by completing the manuscript, which was published as *Better To Have Loved*. She is the featured author at the Books & Bagels literary event. Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor. Admission $5, members free; includes coffee and bagels. Sunday, Dec. 8, 11 a.m. 416-924-6211.

* * *

Classic Dress Design: Elite Elegance, an exhibition focusing on the "last golden age of haute couture, the 1950s," spotlights both the great designers of the day and the women who wore the fashions. Many of the roughly 60 garments on display were gifts from women such as **Mrs. Saul Silverman**, **Mrs. Alex Levinsky**, **Pola Speigel** and **Queenie Luxemberg** (who was very active at Holy Blossom and in Hadassah). At the Royal Ontario Museum until May 4, 2003.

* * *

Toronto Jewish Film Society: *The Dunera Boys* (Australia, 1985) tells the story of a group of 2,500 Viennese Jews who escaped to England, but were suspected of being German spies and informers and were shipped to an Australian internment camp. "An inspiring, often humorous saga of perseverance amidst the ironies of war and fate."

Art Gallery of Ontario, Jackman Hall. Admittance: 18 years minimum. Dec. 8. Screenings at 5 p.m. (members only) and 8 p.m. For membership information and 2003 brochure, phone 416-924-6211.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• **The Danny Grossman Dance Co.** celebrates its 25th anniversary by performing at the Premiere Dance Theatre, Harbourfront Centre. $21-$37.50. Dec. 4 thru 8. 416-973-4000.

• Lunch & Learn features **Prof. Louis Greenspan** with an Israel Update. Miles Nadal JCC, Tuesday, Dec. 10, 12 noon. $5 includes kosher lunch; babysitting available. (416) 924-6211.

• The Civic Light Opera Co. brings back its original musical version of *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*, by **L. Frank Baum**, featuring a modern score by **James P. Doyle** (not a pre-1939 score as reported in last week's column). Fairview Library Theatre. $12.50-$17.50. Dec. 12 to 22. 416-469-8450.

* * *

At the Galleries

• Works by photographers **Karen Schreiber** and **Steven Toth** are showcased in *Beauty Beyond the Limits of Experience*, Dec. 1 to Feb. 10, 2003. Burlington Art Centre, 1333 Lakeshore Rd. at Brock, Burlington. 905-632-7796.

• *About Love*, a thematic show with numerous artists, opens at the Lonsdale Gallery, 410 Spadina Rd. Tickets $20, with proceeds benefiting the Canadian Women's Foundation. Sunday, Dec. 1, 2-5 p.m. Art on view until Dec. 22.

• Art exhibition and reception in the Gallery at The World of Picture Frames, 133 Cartwright Ave. Wednesday, Dec. 4, 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

• A show by the **Willowdale Group of Artists** continues at the Markham Theatre Art Gallery, 171 Town Centre Blvd., Markham, until Dec. 30.

• Works depicting Russian Socialist Realism and Impressionism are on view at the Klim Art Gallery, 2473 Yonge St. until Dec. 19.

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All correct answers received by Wed., Jan. 8/03 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Thurs., Jan. 9/03 at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: 'Lion King' Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, ON M3B 3K4 or fax to: 'Lion King' Contest, 416-391-0949.

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Arts & Travel

Toronto native stars in 'Jewsical review'

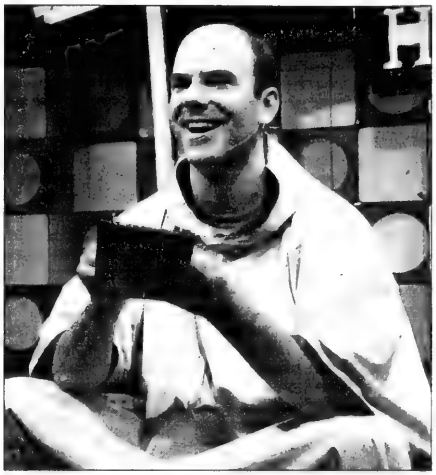
By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

Toronto-born actor and director Darrin Baker, 37, is reprising his off-Broadway role as Barry Brockman in *Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!* the Allan Sherman Musical running until Jan. 5 at Toronto's New Yorker Theatre.

When cast in this production that Baker affectionately calls a "Jewsical review," the actor already knew the musical parodies of the late composer.

"I got to know Allan Sherman's stuff because my grandfather had a slew of his albums, which were passed on to my mother and then passed on to me. I love that schtick and listened to it often as a child," Baker says.

"Barry Brockman is the straight man of the show. All of this craziness happens around him. The review is really an excuse to celebrate Allan Sherman's songs and we do it through the life of Barry, who is every man. Hopefully, the audience will enjoy Barry's world," Baker adds.



Darrin Baker stars as Barry Brockman.

Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh revolves around a story of love, marriage, summer camp and suburbia and includes favourite Sherman ditties such as *A Satchel and a Seck (A Bushel and a Peck)* and *Harvey and Shelia (Hava Nagila)* and the title song *Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh... A Letter from Camp*.

Although he didn't attend the Camp Grenada of the infamous song, ironically it was in a play at Huntsville, Ont.'s Camp Winnebago at the tender age of 7, that Baker caught the acting bug.

Coming full circle, Baker has plans to create an annual 10-day theatre camp program for teens at the same summer camp that gave him his first theatrical break.

Baker left Canada 14 years ago for Los Angeles.

"I went to Los Angeles and did a lot of television. I always joke that I got my first Broadway show by going to Los Angeles, which is so backwards because I had always dreamed about working on Broadway. I got a role in *Sunset Boulevard* with Glenn Close and when it closed in L.A., I was asked to come to New York. I thought I'd stay for six months and it has been seven years," he says.

He has appeared on television shows like *Queer as Folk*, *Law and Order* and *My Secret Identity*. In theatre, he has recently toured in *Dirty Blonde* and with Dick Van Patten in *Scandals*. Baker has also received the Los Angeles Dramalogue Award for best direction of a musical for *Personals* and has lent his voice to many cast albums.

He's recorded his own CD *What's A Nice Girl Like You... Singing Duets with Darrin Baker?* with a who's who of Broadway's biggest divas, including Donna McKechnie, Dee Hoty and Alice Ripley. The album is available at stores or online at www.darrinbaker.com.

"The album is a real throwback to the kind of jazz duets that nobody of my generation really does anymore. I sing *I Won't Dance* with Donna McKechnie, who won the Tony for *A Chorus Line*. Of course, she's one of the greatest dancers of all times," says Baker.

For tickets to *Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh!* call Ticketmaster at 416-872-1111, visit www.ticketmaster.ca or go to the New Yorker box office

CORRECTION

In the article on the book, *Not Bad for a Sergeant* (*CJN*, Nov. 21), the name of Barney Danson's co-author was spelled incorrectly. He is Curtis Fahey. *The CJN* regrets the error.

Richler's stories summon up Montreal's Jewish community

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The late Mordecai Richler was a lively storyteller who was fond of reminiscing about his colourful boyhood and adulthood in Montreal, the multicultural city in which he was born and raised.

These pungent stories, some of which were broadcast on CBC radio years ago, summon up sentimental memories of Montreal's Jewish community.

Unfortunately, they have been virtually forgotten.

Thanks to Toronto-based Scenario Productions, they have been dredged from CBC's archives and remastered on two cassettes entitled *Stories by Mordecai Richler*.

Read by Lewis Negin, these stories and sketches brim with sardonic humour and reach back to the bygone era of the 1940s and 1950s.

Bennie, The War in Europe and Myerson's Daughter Bella turns on a psychologically disabled World War II vet whose traumas shape him and his mousey, club-footed new bride. The story is awash in sorrow and pathos.

In *The War, Chaverim (Good Friends) and After*, Richler nostalgically remembers his days in Habonim, the Zionist youth movement, and the diverse cast of characters he encountered in post-war Montreal. Notable among them were Blumberg, the Talmud Torah teacher and ardent Zionist, and Tansky, the shopkeeper whose faith in Communism burned brightly.

The upheaval brought on by the rise of Nazism in Germany and the outbreak of war in Europe is encapsulated in *Bambinger*. It's a poignant tale about a German Jewish refugee who has been torn from his family and the edgy relationship he has with a resentful boy in whose parents' house he lives as a boarder.

Circus Book, perhaps Richler's most accomplished story here, is set in 1954. He is 22 years old and has just returned from a two-year sojourn in Europe, where he has written his first novel, *The Acrobats*.

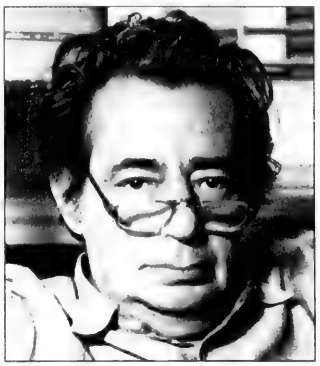
The manuscript is eventually published, but in the meantime, he must find gainful employment. Much to his disappointment, the novel is all but ignored by the media.

The Red Menace conjures up the period when some Canadian Jews were infatuated with Communism. Tansky is back again, trying to convert Richler into a Red. The spectre of Fred Rose, the Communist member of parliament, haunts the Jewish community. Danny, a fellow student, refuses to sing *God Save the King*. A stimulating story.

Richler, in *Shooting the Breeze at St. Urbain*, recalls Ziggy, the baseball pitcher who lasted but a year in the Texas minor leagues; Molly, the curvaceous secretary who raised eyebrows and adrenaline counts when she sauntered by; and Sugarman, the jailbird who deigned not to eat non-kosher meals in prison.

In this memorable piece, Richler also delights in describing the "circumscribed" world of St. Urbain Street, a microcosm of Montreal's immigrant community.

"Any dame is better than no dame." This sound advice comes from the lips of an alleged maven in *Making it with the Chicks*, a ribald yarn of adolescent sexual longing. Richler sets the tone when he recounts the trouble he got himself into by playing Hospital with a girl of his own age.



Mordecai Richler

Years later, Richler counts his lucky stars when Zelda, an Outremount knockout, agrees to go out on a date with him.

The "wisdom" dispensed in *Making it with the Chicks* runs the gamut from the theory that young Jewish ladies prefer guys with cars and that Japanese women and swinging hammocks are well worth watching.

The weakest stories in the collection are *Mr. Sun, the First Citizen of the World*, which revolves around a white-bearded "mystery man" in Paris; *Sticking Together*, in which Richler holds forth on Jewish clannishness; and *E.G.C.*, a portrait of the theatre designer Edward Gordon Craig.

These weak links in the chain do not detract from the enjoyment a listener extracts from the better stories.

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Business Profile

Software company manager a born salesman

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Jack Sebbag is a born salesman, the kind of guy, as the cliché goes, who could sell carpets to the Bedouin.

Well, maybe that's not the way the cliché goes – at least not in Canada – but were it not for a fortuitous decision by his parents when he was a child, the Casablanca-born executive might have embarked on that kind of career in his native Morocco.

"I could have had a whole new life selling carpets off a donkey," he says with a grin. "I thank my parents for coming to Canada."

The hours may be longer, but the pay is certainly better in his Canadian career, which is more 21st century than 15th.

Sebbag is vice-president and general manager of the Canadian office of Network Associates, the U.S.-based corporation that developed the anti-virus programs marketed under the McAfee brand.

He came to his position somewhat reluctantly, as it meant giving up most of the hands-on sales work he was most happy doing.

Instead he switched his focus from the micro to the macro, from closing the deal to "Canadianizing" the company's strategic vision developed in the United States and applying it north of the border.

McAfee, as most computerphiles will attest, along with Norton products, provides the most commonly used virus detection and security software. McAfee also offers "Sniffer Technologies" and "Magic Solutions" that are used to keep networks running and manage IT resources, respectively.

The company, headquartered in Santa Clara, Calif., maintains offices around the world, including Israel, and employs more than 3,800 people. Revenues in 2001 reached $834 million (US).

Like most other tech companies, its share price took a hit in 2002, dropping more than 30 per cent on the New York Stock Exchange. But the company's prospects are turning around, and in Canada, in particular, it is experiencing substantial growth, Sebbag said. The events of 9/11 proved a shock to many and increased interest in protective software.

"People went out to protect against cyberterrorism, against the Ninja and Code Red viruses," he said. The example of "Mafia Boy," the Montreal teenager who played havoc with the Internet, provided another boost to the company's core business, he said.

McAfee is one of the most used virus detectors

While Sebbag would not reveal revenue figures for Network Associates' Canadian operations – they can't be "broken out from the world," he said – he did say the company counts important blue chip corporations and governments in Canada among its client base.

"The majority of the banks, the federal government, Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia" all do business with Network Associates, as do insurance companies and other big players, he said.

Norton's anti-virus product, produced by Symantec, provides the major competition for McAfee, but Sebbag maintains McAfee is particularly strong in the large-scale enterprise market, while Norton has a better grip on the retail sector.

But that may well change, he continued. McAfee is shifting its focus to the "SOHO" (small office, home office) market as well as the home user. It is coming out with a new easy-to-learn product featuring a colourful user interface.

Sebbag said he expects Canadians to take to the new product, as "Canada has been outgrowing the rest of the Network Associates world," exceeding revenue growth in the company's other 40 offices by at least 10 per cent.

To continue that trend, it's important to educate the market, Sebbag said. To that end, he attends trade shows, appears on television and radio and speaks to a variety of audiences. Early in the fall, he flew to British Columbia where he addressed the University of Victoria's business school.

It's a go-go job that perfectly suits Sebbag's temperament.

He readily admits he's a Type A personality who needs to keep busy. Nevertheless, when he was offered the job last spring, he hesitated before accepting it. Not only did he like what he was doing as the company's regional director of sales for Eastern Canada and the federal government – he increased revenue 55 per cent year over year – but he was not looking to disrupt his young family by moving to the company's office in Toronto.

When the option was presented to him of remaining in Montreal and doing business through conference calls, e-mails, and quick in-and-out visits, he felt able to accept the offer.

Jack Sebbag

What's more, the job still allows him to keep his hand in sales. He meets with his sales team in Toronto once a week, and though he's not as hands-on as he once was, he spends time with his regional directors to discuss sales and strategy.

Though only 40, Sebbag has been in sales for most of his adult life. Back in high school, he worked at three part-time jobs – at Pascal's, a hardware store; at a flea market on Sundays; and selling high school graduation rings.

'I love the feeling of a closed deal.'

"Making money was very important," he said. "I was spending a lot of it."

A graduate of McGill University, where he studied economics and union/management negotiations, he was steered to a different career by a counsellor at Jewish Vocational Services. Judging his personality, she suggested he try sales.

"She really changed my career," Sebbag acknowledged.

His first interview was with Computerland, a large U.S.-based chain. After two or three interviews, "I was sold on the idea to give it a shot." He went on to a lucrative 15-year career with the company and with System House and EDS Innovations, the two corporations that later acquired it. For more than 12 of those years, he "carried a bag," working the small towns of Quebec. With his Parisian accent and outgoing personality, he enjoyed good success.

"My forte was sales and I loved it. I love the feeling of closing the deal," he said.

Sebbag was eventually offered a position as Quebec regional sales director and for the last two years at EDS, he led a team of 18, including inside and outside sales representatives.

A headhunter eventually approached him with an opportunity to work at Network Associates. For 1½ years, he worked as regional director of sales and in April 2002, his predecessor, Gus Malezis, took an international position with the company. Sebbag stepped in, originally on a temporary basis, to fill the gap until a replacement was found. When the opportunity to work from Montreal was offered, he took the job full time.

Sebbag's career objective had evolved to the desire to run a large organization. "I saw the opportunity to not limit myself to one territory and have a large area where I could have an impact on a much larger number of customers."

Far more than he ever would have selling carpets off a donkey.

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10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE
15 HOUSES FOR RENT
20 HOUSES FOR SALE/RENT
24 HOUSES WANTED TO BUY
25 HOUSES WANTED TO RENT
30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE
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115 Elise Terrace semi detached 2+1 bedroom, 2 baths, fully furnished or not. $1,650/month + utilities. Close to all amenities. In very good condition! Michelle Noik* Ext. 289

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Fabulous stone + stucco home. 6+2 bdrms, 7 baths, separate self contained apt., 3 skylights, hrdwd floors, high ceilings, fin'd bsmnt w/w-out. Great lot M. Noik* & D. Zaikin** Ext. 289/545

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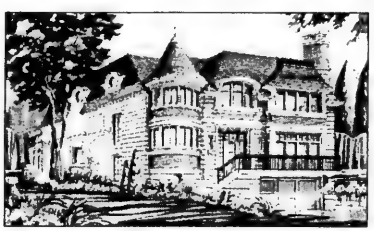

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Bathurst/York Downs – New Custom Home, approx. 2900 sq.ft., 50 ft lot, 4 bdrms, 3 baths, full of upgrades, asking $639,000.

Bathurst/York Downs – New Custom Home, approx. 2900 sq.ft., 4 bdrms, 4 baths, finished basement with walk-out, stone exterior, spectacular finishes, asking $649,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – 2 New Custom Homes to be built in fall, 40 foot frontage, approx. 3400 sq.ft., great area, plans are ready, buy now and save money!! Prices start at $789,900.

CONDOS

Bathurst/Lawrence – Crystal Towers, penthouse corner unit with south view, 2 bdrms, 2 baths, great view, approx. 1100 sq.ft., asking $319,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – The Encore, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, approx. 900 sq.ft., great value, $239,900.

RENTALS

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Bathurst/Eglinton – Renovated 2 bdrm suite, approx. 1100 sq.ft., central location, available immed., asking $1,495/month.

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A JOYOUS CHANUKAH חנוכה שמח

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — RENOVATED & DECORATED!

3 + 1 bedroom bungalow on 45 x 120 ft. lot, gleaming hardwood floors, new ceramic floors, late-model kitchen & baths, sep. entry to in-law suite. Shows beautifully! All this in a prime location, only $385,000. **ACT FAST — WON'T LAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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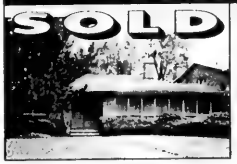
2 storey home, 3 + 1 bedrooms, fin. basement, modern kitchen, breakfast area / walk-out to garden. **EXCELLENT VALUE — ONLY $399,000. ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE

Very spacious California-style ranch bungalow, approx. 2700 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, family room, ultra-modern kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors, new roof & windows, $499,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

*BROKER

UPPER FOREST HILL



VERY SPACIOUS 5 + 1 bdrm. side-split on gorgeous 60 ft. lot, 5 levels, renovated & decorated, beautiful decor, cathedral ceilings, double garage — all in a prime central location. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712. **SOLD**

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3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 kitchens, appliances, good size liv and din room, fin basement, Steps to all!

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3 bedrooms, den, family sized kit, liv & din combined, rec rm, garage.

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3000 Bathurst, avail. Jan. 1. Main floor, lrge 1 bdrm with balcony, 28' liv. rm. + dining, 5 appl., 24 hr. sec., $1350 incl cable + util. Lv. mess. Call will be returned, 416-782-9989.

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123 TIME SHARE FOR RENT

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Sales / Marketing training, computer literacy and minimum 3 years experience in sales required. Seniors' housing and real estate sales background would be an asset. Evening and weekend hours may apply.

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We appreciate all applications, however, only those chosen for an interview will be contacted.

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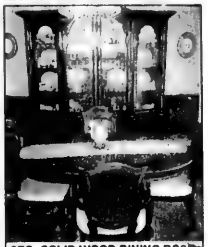

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GEYLIKMAN, Alzik – on Nov. 3, 2002, late of 6171 Bathurst St.
SHUSTER, Harry Mervin – on Nov. 4, 2002, late of 6200 Bathurst St.
HARTSTEIN, Miklos – on Nov. 5, 2002, late of 6020 Bathurst St.
SHAPIRO, Roslyn – on Nov. 5, 2002, late of 1925 Steeles Ave. W.
PAPISH, Clara – on Nov. 6, 2002, late of 30 Carr St.
KESELMAN, Chava – on Nov. 6, 2002.
VOIHANSKAIA, Zina – on Nov. 8, 2002.
LITOVITZ, Ernest Frank – on Nov. 8, 2002, late of 164 Kennard Ave.
PETES, George E. – on Nov. 12, 2002, late of 240 Searle Ave.
STAIMAN, Belle – on Nov. 12, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
STONE, Mary – on Nov. 12, 2002, late of 34 Carscadden Dr.
BERGMAN, Lionel – on Nov. 12, 2002, late of 55 Fountainbleau Dr.
KRIVYAN, Sonya (Sore) – on Nov. 13, 2002, late of 3174 Bathurst St.
VEPRINSKI, Grigori – on Nov. 13, 2002, late of 135 Antibes Dr.
TSEITLINE, Ilia – on Nov. 13, 2002.

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SEIDER, Gitla – on Nov. 16, 2002, late of 134 Millcroft Way.
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MEADOW, Malcolm – on Nov. 18, 2002, late of 7440 Bathurst St.
FRIEDBERG, Federico – on Nov. 18, 2002, late of 2600 Bathurst St.
TAREK, Harry – on Nov. 19, 2002.
NIGHTINGALE, Maria – on Nov. 19, 2002, late of 18 Lisson Cr.
SHLESER, Hilda – on Nov. 19, 2002.
KLEIN, Samuel – on Nov. 20, 2002.
KORSUNSKAYA, Polina – on Nov. 20, 2002, late of 550 Cummer Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

NOIK, Gordon – on Oct. 19, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
MORRIS, Hirsch – on Oct. 18, 2002, late of 3036 Bathurst St.
TROSTER, Betty – on Oct. 18, 2002, late of 18 Lower Village Gate.
BLUESTEIN, Joseph – on Oct. 17, 2002, late of 488 Coldstream Ave.
KANSUN, Joseph – on Oct. 17, 2002, late of 74 Bronte Rd.
KOHN, Faye – on Oct. 19, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
MOLDAVER, Shirley – on Oct. 18, 2002, late of 7601 Bathurst St.
GARRY, Morris – on Oct. 19, 2002, late of 2075 Bayview Ave.
ROBINS, Fay – on Oct. 19, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SEGAL, Earl Warren – on Oct. 19, 2002, late of 33 Tallon Rd.
GRAFSTEIN, Helen Rose – on Oct. 21, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SPITZEN, Rose – on Oct. 21, 2002, late of 718 Sheppard Ave. W.
BESSNER, Shirley – on Oct. 21, 2002, late of 535 Sheppard Ave. W.
HEYDEN, Sophie – on Oct. 21, 2002, late of 1 Northwestern Dr.
SHUMAN, Jack – on Oct. 23, 2002, late of 18 Forest Ridge Dr.
WAGSCHAL, Leslie – on Oct. 22, 2002, late of 15450 Woodbine Ave.
SUFRIN, Mark – on Oct. 22, 2002, late of 460 Davisville Ave.
LEIFER, Louis – on Oct. 21, 2002, late of 236 Vaughan Rd., #212.
WENGER, Lillian – on Oct. 23, 2002, late of 38 Avenue Rd. #413.
CAPLAN, Gilda – on Oct. 24, 2002, late of 20 Alexandra Wood.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

JUHASZ, Gavin – on Oct. 24, 2002, late of 100 Gloucester St.
JUHASZ, Frank – on Oct. 23, 2002, late of 41 Kindale Way.
BUSHEIKIN, Joe – on Oct. 26, 2002, late of 40 Rosehill Ave.
ASHKENAZY, Margaret – on Oct. 27, 2002, late of 9641 Cresta Dr.
MORRISON, Jody – on Oct. 27, 2002, late of 53 Dowing Blvd.
LEVY, Ruth – on Oct. 25, 2002, late of 1450 Glen Abbey Gate.
SMITH, Carol – on Oct. 27, 2002, late of 27 Breezeway Cres.
TARTICK, Mel – on Oct. 29, 2002, late of 18 Lower Village Gate.
SILLEN, Anne – on Oct. 30, 2002, late of 167 Hillmount Ave.
ZENER, Shirley – on Oct. 31, 2002, late of 2121 Bathurst St., #3.
BUDISH, Paul – on Nov. 1, 2002, late of 268 Ridley Blvd., #1612.
PONT, Sarah – on Oct. 31, 2002, late of 10 Ruddington Dr., #110.
SHORE, Mac – on Oct. 31, 2002, late of 6343 Via De Sonrisa Dr.
COWAN, Eunice – on Nov. 3, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
WHITE, Pearl – on Nov. 4, 2002, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
RESNICK, Harry – on Nov. 4, 2002, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.
POSLUNS, Lisa Ann Lauren – on Nov. 3, 2002, late of 175 Cumberland St.
LEVY, Fanny – on Nov. 5, 2002, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.
CLARFIELD, Mary – on Nov. 6, 2002, late of 90 Fisherville Rd., #19.
SHEAR, Gertrude – on Nov. 6, 2002, late of 1498 Golden Meadow Tra.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

330 OBITUARIES

STEUERMAN, George – on Nov. 15, 2002, late of 63 Maxwell St.
FELDMAN, Cantor Albert – on Nov. 15, 2002, late of 265 Ridley Blvd., #608.
SCHER, Olga – on Nov. 16, 2002, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
NOBLE, Caroline – on Nov. 17, 2002, late of 5 Casa Grande St.
ROSENBLATT, —William – on Nov. 17, 2002, late of 54 Northover St.
SONNE, Benjamin – on Nov. 19, 2002, late of 46 Brisco St.
HIMEL, Tillie Shier – on Nov. 9, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SMITH, Sara "Toots" – on Nov. 8, 2002, late of 282 St. Clair Ave. W.
GOLD, Minnie – on Nov. 8, 2002, late of 1925 Steeles Ave. E.
FLEISHER, Joseph – on Nov. 7, 2002, late of 126 Fenn Ave.
SISKIND, Caroline – on Nov. 10, 2002, late of 282 St. Clair Ave. W.
WOLFF, Gerta – on Nov. 9, 2002, late of 39 Morris St.
SLATT, Dr. Bernard – on Nov. 10, 2002, late of 204 Old Forest Hill Rd.
SCHWARTZ, Howard – on Nov. 12, 2002, late of 38 Brewsland Cres.
PAUL, Estelle – on Nov. 13, 2002, late of 77 Finch Ave. E.
KERNERMAN, Anna G. – on Nov. 14, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
RICHMAN, Rhea – on Nov. 14, 2002, late of 15 York Ridge Rd.
BAGEL, Sadie – on Nov. 14, 2002, late of 24 Baynard's Lane.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

WEINGER, Rachel – on Oct. 26, 2002, late of 8 Covington Rd., #1409.
GENSER, Sybil – on Nov. 10, 2002, late of 350 Lonsdale Rd., #515.
SCHRAGER, Joseph – on Nov. 17, 2002, late of 735 Don Mills Rd., #70.

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Israel's triple failure

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd

Analysis

Israel has failed miserably in its military confrontation with the Palestinians.

It has done so on three counts. The first failure is Israel's inability, over the past two years, to halt the transfer of money that fuels Palestinian terror. The second failure is Israel's inability to put a stop to the massive smuggling of arms and ammunition into the territories controlled by the Palestinian Authority (PA). The third failure, and perhaps the most serious, is Israel's inability to block the shipment of chemicals from Israel to the territories, which are used to produce explosives that end up killing hundreds of Israelis.

As this is an overall and ongoing systemic failure, we cannot allow ourselves to accept the excuses of evasive spokesmen. The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee should be called in to investigate.

The transfer of funding also includes money from Iraq, Iran and Syria, not to mention the Saudi largesse that reaches Hamas. In the case of the first three countries, the money not only goes into the pockets of the families of suicide bombers, but also into the coffers of Islamic Jihad, sometimes as a reward for terrorist operations. The money from donor countries and Israel's debts to the PA goes into the Palestinian treasury and then, on PA President Yasser Arafat's orders, pays the salaries of the Tanzim.

A substantial portion of this money is transferred through legal channels in Israel, and also involves Jordanian banks. It took a long time for the cabinet to issue instructions to the Bank of Israel regarding the need for transparency when dealing with suspicious accounts. It is doubtful that the flow of money to the PA can be halted completely, but much more can be done to block the money intended for terror organizations.

In the war on arms smuggling, there have been some successes: the capture of the Karine-A munitions ship, for example, in which Israeli intelligence was able to prove a link to Arafat and his cronies. When the armed struggle began, Israel estimated that the weapons and ammunition in the arsenal of the PA would run out within a few months. The siege was tightened, but new shipments of arms continued to reach the Palestinians. Until now, all efforts to seal the Egyptian border hermetically against such smuggling have failed. The price of an American-made M-16 rifle and six cartridge clips can go as high as NIS 18,000 but when prices in Gaza drop, it's a sign a new shipment has arrived.

It took over a year, for example, for Israel to realize the Palestinians were exploiting the absence of an effective X-ray machine at the Adam Bridge. Large quantities of arms and explosives reached the West Bank as a result of this lapse in security, which has since been rectified.

No less worrying is that some of these arms reach the terror organizations by way of criminal gangs, Jewish and Arab, operating in Israel. There have been cases of weapons being stolen from IDF warehouses. Considering the gravity of such an offense, the penalties are ridiculous.

Worst of all is the smuggling of chemicals used to manufacture explosive devices. To think that these substances fall into the hands of suicide bombers who are out to murder hundreds of Israelis is frightening

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Hi I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs. I'm a warm person, honest, very open and out going I'm a good listener and good to communicate with. I'm friendly, and I enjoy people. I'm looking for a widow 54-62 yrs for friendship first **AD#1403**

PROFESSIONAL AND SINGLE
I'm a professional woman in my mid 50's I have been widow over a year and I like to meet someone who is single, who is also professional, with whom I can share my interests with. I am looking for someone who lives in the Metro Toronto Area. I am outgoing, fun to be with and easy to talk to **AD#1461**

ARE YOU MY MATCH?
Hi there, I am a feisty, fun, focused, funky, sometimes foolish, flirtatious and perhaps a little fussy female, who has yet to find her match. I am a successful & accomplished 35 yr old Jewish gal who is looking for an equally successful & accomplished 35-40 Jewish guy **AD#1056**

WIDOWS ONLY
Would like to start a widows group social, 50-60 yrs only, no divorcees **AD#1040**

INCURABLE ROMANTIC
Jewish male, non smoker, in his 70's going on 50. A university graduate, 5' 5", 145 lbs, I have many varied interests including theatre, music, dancing, the arts, tennis, golf, dining, travelling. I'm also an incurable romantic & social drinker with a great zest for life **AD#1235**

ROMANTIC MAN
Hi, I'm a Jewish male, late 50's, who's looking for a sharing & caring woman, non smoking, 45-58yrs. I'm a romantic who likes long walks & enjoys nature, quiet evenings cuddling together at fireside. **AD#1478**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
I'm a man in my 50's w/ blue eyes, dark brown hair, who would like to meet a woman, also in her 50's. She should enjoy travel, museums, the arts & musical theatre. Looking for someone who can share lots of laughs w/ a good sense of humour. Home cooked meals would be a definite bonus. **AD#1234**

LET'S MEET
Hi I am a youthful, 58 yrs old, warm, kind, compassionate female. I don't smoke, I'm financially secure and would like to meet someone to share my interests. I enjoy going to movies, theatre, and taking romantic walks. I'm looking for loving partner for enjoying life with
AD#1032

PASSION & ZEST
Do you have a passion and zest for life & adventure? Hi, I'm a mysterious, European female I'm 5' 2", 43 yrs mother of 2, with an adventurist spirit & wide range of interests and a very easy going nature. I'm looking man between 38-55 yrs, 5' 10" who's up for friendship leading to marriage
AD#1113

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Hi, I'm a single female in late my 30's. I'm slim & attractive I have brown hair,light blue eyes Some of my interests include swing dancing, biking, hiking, tanning on the beach & nature walks. I'm interested in meeting a single man that is family oriented & attractive, 35-55 yrs
AD#1160

HEALTHY WEALTHY
Hi my name is Amon, I'm a white executive living in Thornhill. I look in the mirror & I see a healthy young 1939 model w/ no deficiences. I'm told that I'm not bad to look at either. I've got salt & pepper hair, beautiful blue eyes, slim, 5' 10" and I have good teeth too. My passions are the sun & sea
AD#1005

DO YOU JUBU?
Physically & spiritually active male, 33 yrs old Seeks non materialistic female with insight, aged between 25-35 yr old for mindful & compassionate relationship. **AD#1315**

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Cross country runner stumbles in big race

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

Long-time University of Western Ontario coach Bob Vigars says he didn't do a good job of calming down Ashley Korman prior to the first-year runner's debut at the recent Canadian university cross-country championships.

The seven-time national women's cross country coach of the year admits he should have known better after she started asking questions about what it would take to be Canadian rookie of the year.

Korman had two weeks to think about it after being named the Ontario University Athletics' (OUA) top rookie in late October, leading up to the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships that Western hosted on the Thames Valley Golf Course.

"She had a great year, but at the CI's, she had a brain cramp," said Vigars, indicating nerves and the huge crowd numbering close to 3,000 watching the 5-kilometre competition played a big factor in her performance. "She put too much pressure on herself and didn't have a good race."

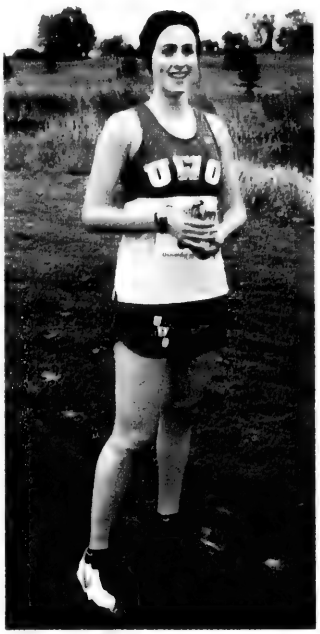
The 19-year-old visual arts student concluded her season the following weekend with a strong run for her North York club, placing ninth at the Ontario Cross Country Championships held at the Hamilton Olympic Club.

Korman plans to run for Western's indoor track team over the winter at distances of 800, 1,000, and 1,500 metres, trying to put her cross-country implosion behind her.

"Ashley just kind of blew up early in the race," Vigars said of Korman, his team's number 2 runner for most of the season.

"She ran out of gas before the 2K mark and that's nothing for her. She didn't know what it was, but I'm 35 years in coaching and quite aware of those situations."

Vigars' credentials include coaching the track and field team at the 1981 Maccabiah Games. He says it was a marvelous experience and, as a Gentile, quite an honour to attend. Vigars keeps the commemorative medal from that competition on a shelf in his office.



He said he was amazed at what Korman accomplished in her first year, without having been recruited for the team.

"She had such a great attitude about things," he said. "I was surprised she did as well as she did."

Korman credits her success this season to training with a team for the first time and with intense practices at the university level.

The 5-8, 128-lb. Thornhill resident has been involved in the sport for the past decade. She runs an average of more than 10 kilometres a day and lifts weights three times a week as part of her endurance training.

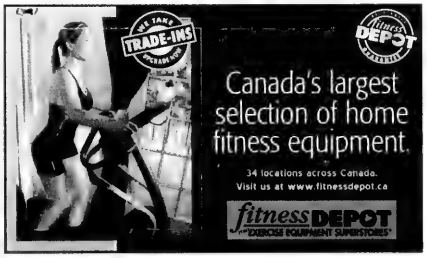
"I like the competition and it gives me something to do with my time," Korman said in a telephone interview from her campus residence in London. "It keeps me healthy and in good shape."

OUA top rookie Ashley Korman was having a great year until her final race.

She found it very uncomfortable, however, to talk about what went wrong when she fell and momentarily quit in the midst of the year's biggest meet.

"My brother made me get up and finish the race," said Korman, who placed well back at 102nd overall (with a time of 21:07) and last on the sixth-place Mustangs team, which might have medaled had she run up to her potential.

"He told me it would feel more special to finish it even though I wouldn't finish very well, rather than just walk away from the race."



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BIALIK VOLLEYBALLERS FINISH FIRST

Bialik's "A" team, led by coach Jeff Krupski, captured a gold medal recently at the first Girls' Invitational Volleyball Tournament organized by CHAT. A second Bialik team won the bronze.

Recommended Reading

FICTION

• ***A Draught for a Dead Man***, by Caroline Roe, Berkley Publishing Group, $33.99, HC.

This is the sixth mystery in the acclaimed series featuring blind Jewish physician Isaac of Girona. The author of this enjoyable work, set in medieval Spain, is a graduate of the prestigious Centre of Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto.

• ***Housebroken: Three Novellas***, by Yael Hedaya, St. Martin's Press, $18.00, SC.

Three tender, insightful novellas about modern relationships by a talented Israeli author and journalist.

NON-FICTION

• ***The Man Who Fell Into a Puddle***, by Igal Sarna, Pantheon Books, $35.00, HC.

This captivating collection of portraits of diverse characters depicts the human suffering prevalent among a people fighting for its survival. A brilliant literary work by one of Israel's finest journalists.

• ***Jewish Tales of Holy Women***, by Yitzhak Buxbaum, Jossey-Bass, $29.95, HC.

"Written in the style of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach's soulful stories, Jewish Tales of Holy Women fills a gap in placing the saintliness of women at the center." (Avivah Gottlieb Zornberg)

• ***Across the Sabbath River***, by Hillel Halkin, Houghton Mifflin Company, $44.95, HC.

A fascinating, intriguing account of the journey taken by Halkin with Jerusalem rabbi Eliahu Avichail, a dedicated Lost Tribes hunter, to China, Thailand and Northeast India in search of traces of the biblical Israelites who disappeared in the eighth century BCE.

• ***The High Cost of Peace***, by Yossef Bodansky, Forum, $41.95, HC.

The subtitle sums it up: *How Washington's Middle East Policy Left America Vulnerable to Terrorism*. A must read for anyone attempting to understand the current political situation.

• ***Ten Green Bottles***, by Vivian Jeanette Kaplan, Robin Brass Studio, $24.95, SC.

An unusual, beautifully written story of one family's escape from Nazi Europe to China. (The author will read from her work at Israel's Eglinton on Jan. 26, 7:30 p.m.)

YOUTH

• Ages 3-6

Annie's Ark, by Lesley Harker, Scholastic Inc., $22.99, HC.

This adorable version of the story of Noah's ark includes lovely illustrations by the author.

Ages 9-12

• ***Sparks Fly Upward***, by Carol Matas, Clarion Books, $24.95, HC.

A wonderful, suspenseful novel about a Russian-Jewish family in Canada in the early 20th century, by a first-class author of books for children and young adults.

Ages 9-12

• ***When Pirates Came to Brooklyn***, by Phyllis Shalant, Dutton Children's Books, $23.50, HC.

Two friends conjure up a fantasy world in order to escape the reality of racism and prejudice. This delightful, captivating story teaches an important lesson in tolerance.

Recommended Reading appears monthly. This list is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

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2 eggs	vegetable oil for frying
1/2 cup flour	powdered sugar for serving

In a processor, grate carrots; mix in almonds, eggs, flour, vanilla and white sugar well.

Heat vegetable oil in a skillet over medium heat. Scoop out a tblsp. of the mixture and drop into the oil. Flatten the batter. Cook until golden and flip to the other side. Continue cooking until both sides are brown, approx. 12 minutes.

Drain on paper towels. Sprinkle with powdered sugar for serving.

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About Teens

Dear Karilani,

At my school, a lot of students and teachers are very anti-Israel. I feel uncomfortable stating my beliefs because I am afraid that people will hold them against me. The people who are anti-Israel are very vocal, and I feel that they are disguising anti-Semitism as anti-Zionism. I also feel that they are uninformed about the conflict and are just reacting to what they have heard from other people. How can I stop this?

Concerned

Dear Concerned,

We all know that Israel is experiencing very difficult times right now, and that is why we must make sure not to let people bad-mouth the country. It's important that you speak up. You may not feel comfortable taking on a whole group of other students when you're all by yourself, so try to make sure you're always with a pro-Israel friend whenever you think a Mideast discussion might occur. Make sure you're well-armed with the facts about the conflict – you can refute any argument if you know enough about Israeli history and politics. You'll be surprised at how much a barrage of facts can accomplish.

As for teachers, it is not their place to be expressing their opinions on this issue when students are around, and you should let them know that it makes you uncomfortable. Of course, they are your teachers, so don't be too pushy or angry. Just go up to them discreetly after class and politely say, "You know, I really feel that your view is one-sided, and I'm not comfortable with you expressing it in class because it influences other students."

Chances are, you won't have a problem again. You probably won't have too much of a problem with other students either, if you argue with them once or twice. Just make sure you're not overly aggressive, and be sensitive to your environment – if you feel like the people you're talking to are just arguing for the sake of bashing Israel and Jews, or if you suspect they might get violent, then it's absolutely not worth it. Instead, go to the school administration.

Good luck!

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

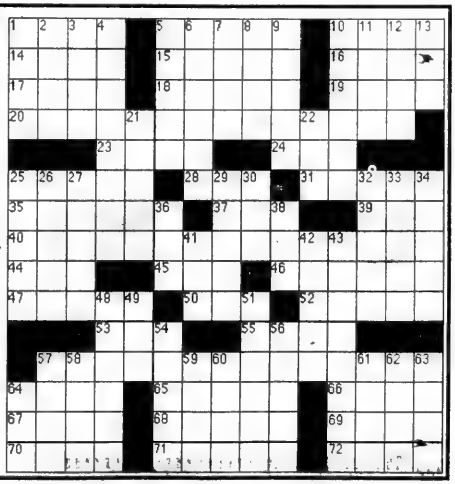
The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 38.)

Take Me to Your Leaders!
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Snakes do it
5. Monetary unit of Israel
10. Asian land
14. Combining form, carrot family
15. Purified light beam
16. Latin for black
17. Horse of a different color
18. Cow of commercial fame
19. Digits
20. Two lovely senators
23. Watershed (abbrev.)
24. Tea, for short
25. Indian state
28. Pesach's month, often (Eng. cal.)
31. Cattails, botanically, for short
35. Flakes off
37. One of Pooh's friends
39. Cheney
40. One Jerusalem and two New York mayors
44. Greek dawn goddess
45. Greek island, Cyclades
46. "I don't like your fashion business, _____" (Leonard Cohen)
47. British explorer
50. Their, for Theroux
52. Place
53. Consumed
55. Mine, in Marseilles
57. Pms Shimon, Yitzchak, Golda
64. Dispense
65. Domesticator
66. "_____, a female deer"
67. Perennial, steadfast, in Hebrew
68. Actress Nicole _____
69. Vietnamese holidays
70. Archaeological mounds
71. Hot dog dressing, in brief
72. It will be, in Latin

Down
1. Food fuel, for short
2. Melville opus
3. 3-D movie system
4. What a batter might hit
5. First Hebrew letter, in the plural
6. Lead ore
7. Combining form for bone
8. Horse steering device
9. "You _____ marvelous"
10. Recently
11. Yours, in French
12. Pine, in Petach Tikvah
13. Airline
21. Arab town, near Lod
22. Kid
25. Inquired
26. Animal's trail
27. Mexican garnish or dance
29. Ordinary writing
30. Bird of the Arabian Nights
32. What cholent might be served on
33. Last word, second line of Hatikvah (English transliteration)
34. Bergen's Mortimer
36. Apres ___
38. Unit of electrical resistance
41. Greek island, Dodecanes
42. Nickel decor
43. Reckon
48. Hughes and Blixen
49. Montreal summer, to many
51. Swords war-makers rattle
54. Chemical form, reminds one of Jewish queen
56. Jollity
57. Basketball pistol guy
58. And others
59. Anger
60. Labor, in Dimona
61. Flock, in Afula
62. Greek letter
63. Musical stop
64. New York opera house, familiarly



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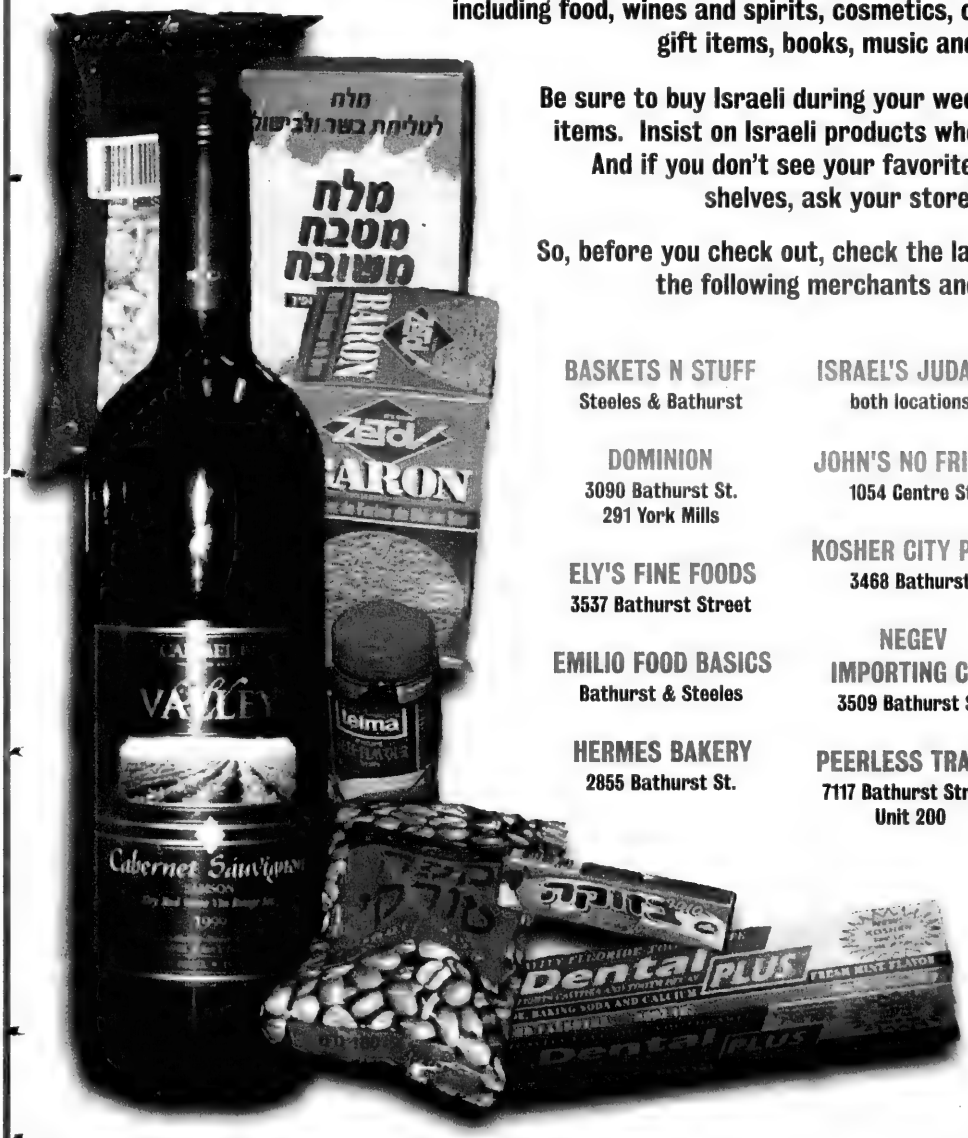

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RICHMAN'S BAKERY
4119 Bathurst

SHOPPERS DRUG MART
550 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Lawrence Plaza,
2795 Bathurst St.

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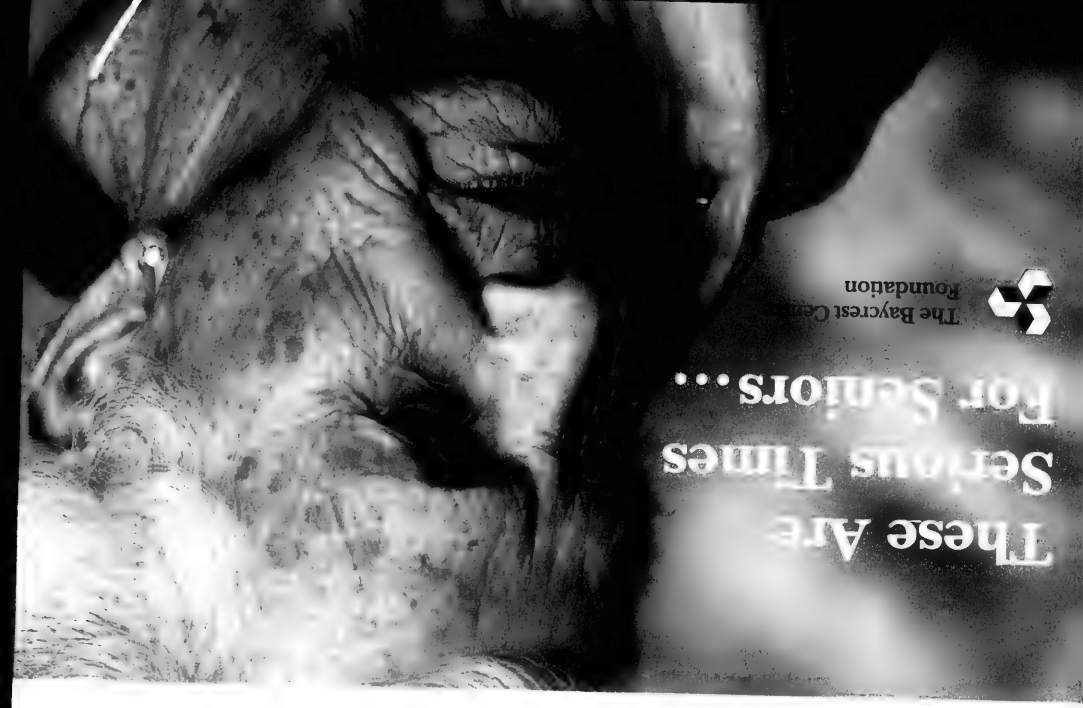

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The Canadian Jewish news

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This Week

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WRAPPED IN THE FLAG: Montrealers took to the street, braving frigid temperatures on Nov. 29, to show support for Israel on the 55th anniversary of the United Nations vote that partitioned Mandatory Palestine into Jewish and Arab territory. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

Hillel promises to fight Concordia Student Union ban

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Hillel had its funding and right to hold activities on campus suspended last week by the Concordia Student Union (CSU) for distributing flyers about Mahal, a program that allows young Jews from abroad to serve in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) for 18 months.

As *The CJN* went to press, the CSU had reportedly rescinded the decision, but a Hillel spokesperson said it had not been contacted by the student union and had no statement to make.

Hillel has sent a letter to the CSU warning that it will take it to court if the suspension is not lifted. Lawyer Michael Bergman says the CSU did not follow proper procedures in adopting the resolution to suspend Hillel and that the suspension is a violation of Jewish students' constitutional rights of speech, assembly and religion.

Continued on page 29

World Jewry numbers decline

By YAIR SHELEG
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The number of Jews in the world is declining and there has been a net loss of 300,000 American Jews in the last decade, according to a new study that comes after a preliminary examination of the recent census of American Jewry.

According to the Jewish Agency's Institute for Jewish People Policy Planning, which convened an emergency session last week to deal with what it called a "demographic crisis," there are now some 12.9 million Jews in the world.

Demographic crisis

Earlier this year, estimates put the number at 13.2 million.

The main reason for the decline comes from data in the census of American Jewish communities, which shows that the number of American Jews has dropped by 300,000 during the 1990s, from 5.5 million in 1990 to 5.2 million in 2002.

Experts say some 300,000 Jews came to the United States during the 1990s, but, nonetheless, the community lost some 50,000 Jews a year during that 12-year period, mostly to natural attrition.

Continued on page 33

Shabbat: Vayigash
Candlelighting: 4:23
Havdallah: 5:28

Greater Toronto Area

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Al Qaeda claims credit for Kenya attacks — please see page 31

The News in Brief

CANADA

Another Advisory

OTTAWA — The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade last month renewed an advisory issued over the summer that urges Canadians to defer all tourist travel to Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

ROM Dating Switch

TORONTO — The Royal Ontario Museum has abandoned the use of BC and AD to mark calendar years on its exhibits in order "to be more inclusive," its director of collections, Dan Rahimi, told the *National Post* last week. BCE, an acronym for "before the common era," replaces BC, which stands for "before Christ," while CE, for "common era," referring to the years after Jesus' birth, replaces AD, which stands for the Latin "anno Domini," meaning "year of the Lord." The first exhibit to use the new system is the James ossuary, which is believed to have contained the bones of Jesus's brother James.

ISRAEL

More Transit Security

JERUSALEM — Israel's Transportation Ministry has hired some 450 former combat soldiers to safeguard public transportation as part of efforts to prevent further Palestinian terror attacks.

PA Leaders Criticized

JERUSALEM — Jailed Palestinian militia leader Marwan Barghouti has called for a change in Palestinian leadership. "It is time for many of the Palestinian leaders and officials to leave their positions after failing in their roles and responsibilities in this decisive battle" against Israel, he told Associated Press in a written response to questions. Barghouti did not mention Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat by name, nor did he condemn the violence of the intifadah, as some Palestinian officials recently have. Barghouti is on trial in Israel for alleged involvement in terror attacks.

More Female Fighters?

JERUSALEM — Israel is reportedly planning to increase the number of female soldiers in combat units. The military is creating brochures to send to young women about to be drafted suggesting they volunteer for combat units, *Ha'aretz* has reported. Most of the new recruits will be sent to positions along the "seam line" separating Israel from the West Bank. Most women now in combat units serve in infantry units along the Egyptian and Jordanian borders.

Envoy Censured

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu last week censured Yehuda Lancry, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, saying they hadn't approved his recent remarks that Israel accepts the principle of a Palestinian state as the basis for peace with the Palestinians. Netanyahu said he intends to probe the matter.

WORLD

Cemetery Vandalized

LONDON — Vandals spray-painted red swastikas late last month on all 13 Jewish gravestones in a cemetery in Milton Keynes, a town near London. The graffiti were removed after the city council had the stones cleaned, community leaders said. It was the sixth such desecration of a Jewish cemetery in Britain this year.

Greek Anti-Semitism

ATHENS — Anti-Semitism is on the rise in Greece, according to a new report from the Greek Helsinki Monitor, a non-governmental organization affiliated with the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights. Since the start of the second intifadah more than two years ago, "blatant anti-Semitism" has been expressed in the Greek media "by a spectrum of influential personalities in politics, labour, education and culture," it said.

Aussie Anti-Semitism

SYDNEY — The number of anti-Semitic incidents in Australia has risen dramatically, according to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. In the year ending Sept. 30, 593 incidents were reported, up from 362 the previous year. They included arson attempts, assaults, harassment and threatening phone calls.

Haggadah Displayed

SARAJEVO — The 14th-century Sarajevo Haggadah was put on display last week in a secure, climate-controlled room in the Sarajevo National Museum. The famed manuscript was restored last year in part with funding from a United Nations campaign.

Menorah Allowed

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A U.S. Supreme Court ruling issued just before Chanukah said Cincinnati city officials could not ban Chabad of Southern Ohio from putting a menorah in downtown Fountain Square. The city's lawyers had argued that letting private groups erect unattended displays would make it hard to keep order in the square. But Chabad argued the ordinance violates the First Amendment guarantee of free speech.

S. African March Glorifies Suicide Bombers

CAPE TOWN — The South African Jewish Board of Deputies is considering filing charges against organizers of a march here late last month that included boys dressed as Muslim suicide bombers, some even wearing mock dynamite sticks strapped to their chests.

The march, arranged by the radical Muslim group Kibla to show solidarity with Palestinians "under Israeli occupation," coincided with the anniversary of the 1947 United Nations partition resolution that led to the birth of the State of Israel.

Two youths in the march wore Hezbollah headbands, followed by eight other young people with mock weapons. They led more than 300 protesters from a mosque near downtown Cape Town to the U.S. Consulate, about a mile away.

The children, some as young as seven, carried placards stating: "Death to America, death to Israel." Marchers shouted, "One American, one bullet," echoing an apartheid-era slogan referring to whites: "one settler, one bullet."

Organizers asked protesters to stop chanting the slogans.

Imam Gassan Solomon of the more moderate Muslim Judicial Council said Muslims "are duty bound to condemn terrorism." He said it's irresponsible to expose children to such a march, but added the march and its message are symptoms of a bigger problem that needs to be recognized.

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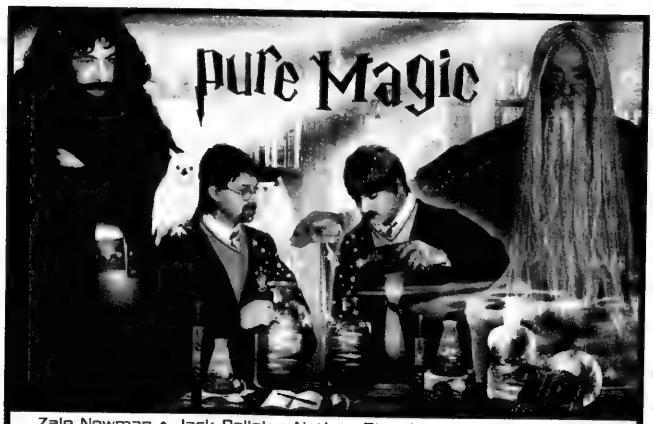

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Palestinian texts portray Israel as foreign entity

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Palestinian school texts as well as final examinations continue to present Jews and Israel in a negative light, says Arnon Groiss, the author of the latest report issued by the Center for Monitoring the Impact of Peace.

The centre, which has systematically studied schools in the Palestinian Authority (PA) since 1998, is a non-governmental organization based in New York state.

For its most recent report, dated October 2002, the centre examined 14 books published by the PA in 2001 and 2002 for Grades 1, 2, 6, 7 and 11.

The centre also scrutinized 16 high school exams from 2000 and 2002.

The books surveyed do not provide objective information about Jews, but they mention supposedly Jewish traits such as trickery, greed and barbarity, the centre found.

The texts also insinuate that Jews do not honour agreements and treaties, as Muslims do.

In the newest books, negative references touch on the relations of Jews with Jesus and on the Torah.

(Mathematics, Grade 2, part 2, (2002) p. 18)

"Activity: Let us color the Negev desert on the map of Palestine."
(National Education, Grade 2, part 2, (2001)p. 28)

A Grade 2 book entitled *Christian Education* says, "Pilate ordered Jesus to be flagellated, perhaps the Jews may be content with that, but they cried 'crucify him, crucify him.'"

In a high school exam, students are asked why Europeans persecuted Jews. There are four possible answers, two of which state:

"The Torah is full of many passages that strengthen the Jews' inclination for religious and racial fanaticism [and] inspire a spirit of malice toward the other nations…"

"The Jews' sense of racial, religious, cultural and political superiority, and their interaction with the peoples of the world basing on that sense, was an important reason for their persecution by the peoples of the world."

In the new books, Israel is not recognized as a sovereign state but portrayed as a foreign entity imposed on the Palestinians in 1948, the year of Israeli statehood, the centre found.

As well, Israel itself is perceived as a source of aggression, death and destruction to the Palestinians, especially Palestinian refugees.

Israel's name does not appear on any maps. Nor do any towns established by Jews in modern times, such as Tel Aviv.

Four Israeli cities – Haifa, Acre, Safed and Jaffa – are presented as Palestinian.

And in a grade two book, *National Education*, a passage suggests that the Negev does not rightfully belong to Israel: "Let us colour the Negev desert on the map of Palestine."

In an Islamic education final exam, students are asked to

Continued on page 14

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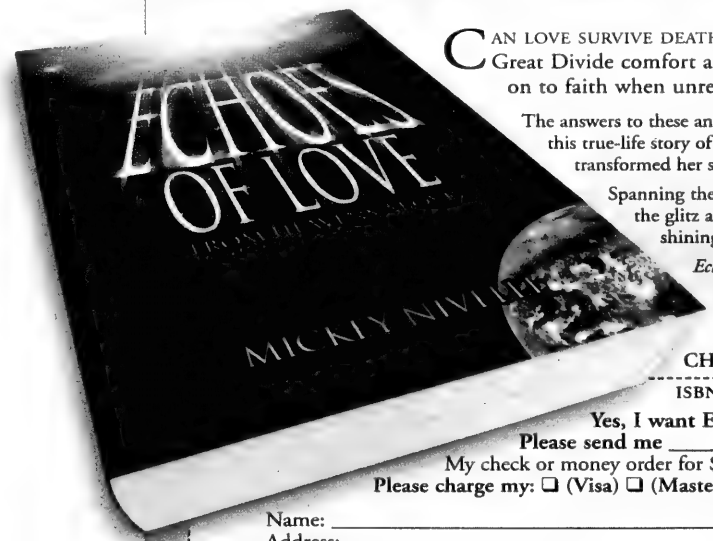

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A visit to Germany (4)

From the editor's desk

The walk from *Raschihaus* and the synagogue in the northern part of the old city of Worms, due south and west to the Jewish cemetery that lies just outside the walls of the old city, is not more than 10 minutes at a slow leisurely pace.

But as one strolls there, in the company of a courteous, articulate guide, expert in the Jewish history of the city, the thought is inescapable that apart from Shabbat, there was probably not very much that was leisurely about the pace and nature of life of the Jews of the town through the ages.

The fact that Rashi lived in Worms for five years in the mid-11th century drew Jewish scholars there like a seismic magnet, pulling them and their families from far and wide to settle in the community. The presence of these scholars in turn attracted other Jews to Worms and the Rhine River, on whose bank the city rests. The river was the highway for commerce and for carrying news to and from the heartland of central Europe.

The cemetery of Worms, therefore, was a deeply descriptive, though silent testimony to the span and richness of the city's once-upon-a-time Jewish life. Founded in 1034, the cemetery is said to be the oldest known Jewish cemetery in Europe. The first burial there was recorded in 1076, merely two decades before – although the townspeople did not know it then – the driving Crusader hordes, on their way to the Holy Land, would slash through the Jews of Worms and their co-religionists along the Rhine, like a sharp scythe slicing through tall dry grass.

The Hebrew inscriptions are clearly visible on all the headstones and are legible on most of them. The names, the occupations, the family connections – in some cases, even the origins of their arrival to the area – are precious pieces of information that mesh in poignant, lachrymose detail to tell the magisterial tale of some 850 years of German Jewish life in that city.

The much-revered Rabbi Meir of Rothenburg is buried there. In 1286, he was arrested and held captive by the corrupt local authorities who saw an opportunity to extort a handsome payment from the local Jews to secure the release of their beloved rabbi. But Rabbi Meir refused to allow his co-religionists to pay the ransom, lest it encourage the malign practice and thus jeopardize other Jews. As a result, Rabbi Meir died in jail in 1293. But even after his sorrowful, lonely death, the authorities would not surrender his body for burial.

Fourteen years later, in 1307, Frankfurt businessman Alexander ben Salomon Wimpfen gave up his entire fortune to finally redeem the rabbi's body. A short time after that melancholy transaction, Wimpfen also passed away. The two saintly men are buried side by side, their headstones among the first a visitor sees as he walks through the cemetery gates. The cemetery was closed in 1911.

During my few days in Germany, I also visited the old Jewish cemetery in Frankfurt, which forms part of a three-part complex of Jewish history along with the Museum of the Judengasse and the community's Holocaust memorial at Neuer Borneplatz. The Holocaust memorial, a stark arrangement of 11,000 blocks on which are inscribed the names of Frankfurt Jews who were deported and murdered during World War II, is actually intertwined with the cemetery: the blocks are embedded in the cemetery's outer wall.

Most of my observations about the sites I saw in Germany cannot be accommodated in this space. But, as this is the last column I dedicate to those observations, I do want to record some thoughts on the Judisches Museum Berlin (Jewish Museum Berlin).

The museum is as much a declarative statement as it is an architectural structure. Since its opening on Sept. 9, 2001, more than 2,000 people have visited it each day.

It is an imposing, sharply-angled building of linear motion and jagged movement with an exterior of "stretched" stainless steel that rises from the ground like a many-sided, mega-mirror, a luminescent testament to modern Germany's determination to refract and reflect light back onto the mass murder of European Jewry.

The museum's structure, designed by architect Daniel Libeskind, performs a double function. It houses the numerous displays, exhibitions and archives depicting two millennia of German Jewish life in a manner typical of most conventional museums. In addition, certain spaces are themselves the very symbol and the display, in much the same way, for example, that the Children's Memorial at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem is itself the symbol and the display intended to challenge the visitor.

The visitor's very first step into the museum is laden with symbolic significance. The building can only be entered by passing through the adjacent baroque Kollegienhaus, to make the unambiguous point that the new can only be understood by passing through the old.

Visitors descend a staircase from the Kollegienhaus deep into the museum, into a labyrinth of rising and tilting axes. The entrance leads to three lines of exploration: The Axis of Continuity, from which the Axis of Exile and the Axis of Holocaust branch off. At the intersection of these axes are the unique, specifically designated spaces, or Voids as Libeskind has called them, that rise vertically through the entire museum, in which the visitor is confronted, only, with the stirrings of his own heart.

One of the purposes of my trip was to better understand my own place in the long, infinite line of Jewish time and peoplehood that coursed through Jewish wandering and disaster in Europe to rerooting and rebirth in Israel and further wandering and settlement to the Diaspora. I have a great deal more to see and to understand.

—MBD

SeeJN

CHANUKAH AT QUEEN'S PARK

(From left) Rabbi Mendel Kaplan of Chabad@Flamingo, Rabbi Zalman Grossbaum, executive director, Chabad Lubavitch of Ontario, Premier Ernie Eves, along with Ministers Tina Molinari, David Young and David Turnbull attend the lighting of the Chanukiah last week at Queen's Park.

CJC blames PM for delay in banning Hezbollah

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Along with Foreign Minister Bill Graham, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is "holding things up" in the effort to outlaw the activities of Hezbollah in this country, charges the president of Canadian Jewish Congress.

Keith Landy told *The CJN* last week there "seems to be a split at the cabinet table" on whether to ban the activities of all of Hezbollah, not just its military wing.

"It's Graham versus the rest," Landy speculated. Asked where he feels Chrétien stands, Landy said, "I think he's holding things up. There's *realpolitik* at work" relating to Canada's efforts to upgrade bilateral relations with Lebanon, a fellow member of the Francophonie.

The Liberals have come under intense pressure recently from fellow and opposition MPs and Jewish groups to ban all of Hezbollah's activities in Canada.

Last month, Canada added six radical Islamic groups to its list of 13 banned terrorist organizations, but failed to include Hezbollah by again citing a distinction between the organization's military wing and its humanitarian arm.

Pressure to ban all of Hezbollah's activities intensified last week after an address on Lebanese television by Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah in which he reportedly urged that suicide attacks "should be exported outside Palestine. I encourage Palestinians to take suicide bombings worldwide. Don't be shy about it."

According to the *Washington Times*, Nasrallah repeated the message in a second speech, telling gun-toting commandos that "we will act everywhere around the world" if the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem is damaged.

Calls to the Prime Minister's Office were referred to Graham's office.

Spokesperson Isabelle Savard refused to comment on cabinet discussion of the issue, but she said Graham's comments to reporters last week, in which he strongly condemned Nasrallah's remarks and said Ottawa is considering a complete ban on the Lebanese-based Muslim group, show "he's following the situation" as it evolves.

"Hezbollah as an entity clearly is indicating that it does not intend to be governed by the rules of civilized conduct," Graham told reporters. "The last statement by the leader of Hezbollah is clearly an indication his party is advocating a form of conduct which we do not approve and would be contributing to global terrorism."

After the revised terror list was unveiled last month, B'nai Brith Canada announced it's suing the government to force cabinet to place all of Hezbollah on Canada's list of "Terrorist Entities" whose assets must be frozen.

Landy said "while it's commendable that Canada is playing a role to help Lebanon return to democracy, these things come with a price, and one of the prices is not taking steps against Hezbollah."

Hezbollah, the Iran-backed Party of God, has 12 seats in the Lebanese parliament and is a prominent political and social force in the country. A foreign affairs spokesperson in Ottawa was quoted last week as saying Hezbollah is "a significant political party in Lebanon."

Ottawa committed new aid to Lebanon after the Francophonie summit this fall in Beirut, after which Chrétien was excoriated for speaking to an audience of dignitaries that included Hezbollah's leader Nasrallah.

In a Nov. 7 handwritten note to Landy, released to *The CJN*, Chrétien said he "worked very hard to make sure this meeting in Beirut did not turn into another Durban," referring to last year's UN-sponsored anti-racism summit in Durban, South Africa, which saw several days of Israel-bashing and overt anti-Semitism.

Landy suggested one way to pressure Chrétien on Hezbollah: "I think he has to be embarrassed. I think if he sees Canada standing alone among nations in the outlawing of all of Hezbollah's activities, he'll be embarrassed."

Published reports in Canada last week said Ottawa will eventually outlaw Hezbollah, but that a decision to do so could take several more weeks because of ongoing investigations into the group's intelligence activities.

Opposition foreign affairs critic Stockwell Day seized on Nasrallah's remarks, telling the House of Commons that "it is crystal clear Hezbollah is committed to attacks beyond Israel and on to western countries."

In his response, solicitor-general Wayne Easter left the door open to eventually banning Hezbollah, saying, "we have to make our decisions based on the facts. It is spelled out very clearly that we must take into consideration the criminal and the security intelligence reports. That is what we will do, and we will come forward with other listings in the future."

Easter assured MPs Canada won't be a base for future terrorist acts involving Hezbollah.

National Revenue Minister Elinor Caplan, whose Thornhill riding has a large Jewish population, has reportedly been working to have Hezbollah added to the terrorist list. She declined comment last week, saying, "I will have my say at the cabinet table."

Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler, an outspoken critic of his government on this issue, said he will soon present "clear and unmistakable" evidence to Graham and Easter of a link between Hezbollah and the Al Qaeda terror network. He said not listing Hezbollah is "inexplicable" and "unacceptable," and "an affront to the diplomatic, moral and financial war against terrorism."

In a Dec. 2 letter to Chrétien, Landy said "Canada is making a serious error in adhering to the untenable notion that Hezbollah comprises autonomous military and civilian component organizations subject to differential treatment under Canadian law and policy. Hezbollah must rather be regarded as a single house with different rooms under the same roof, all to be dealt with in exactly the same fashion."

Last year, Ottawa put Hezbollah's military arm on a list of groups whose assets are subject to seizure. In adding Hamas to the list of banned groups last month, Ottawa concluded money donated to social charities operated by Hamas had "leaked to the terrorist apparatus," which apparently distinguishes it from Hezbollah.

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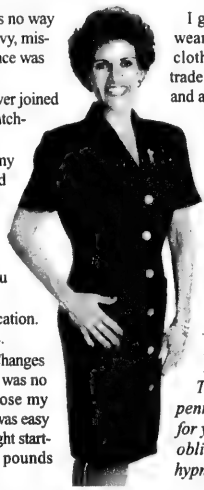

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Greater Toronto Area

Jewish relations with left 'in worse shape than ever'

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

U.S. Jewry's longstanding relationship with the American left has been badly frayed in the past two years, the editor of *The New Republic* said here recently.

"It's not over, but it's in worse shape than ever," Peter Beinart told a forum at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am synagogue sponsored by the Canada-Israel Committee and Israel Now.

Calling himself a "passionate believer in the possibilities" of that relationship, Beinart described it as being "on the rocks," and conceded he feels betrayed by the turn of events.

Throughout the 1990s, he said, Jews and the left shared values and policy positions, from gay and women's rights to the need to maintain the separation of church and state.

In addition, Jews felt comfortable with the left because of similar views on globalization and Israel's peace process with the Palestinians.

Beinart did not spell out his definition of the left, but he said the left and American Jewry parted ways after the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks in New York City and Washington, D.C.

In the wake of these incidents, the left embraced the belief that global problems are caused by U.S. imperialism and its oppression of the Third World, he said.

To the left, Israel is an "obvious, obnoxious" extension of U.S. imperialism, "the great sin of our time." By contrast, Muslims are regarded as diehard opponents of American power, Beinart said.

The left champions the current divestment campaign against Israel because leftists equate Israel with apartheid South Africa. And while the left does not condone Palestinian suicide bombers, it supports the Palestinians' struggle to end Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, he said.

More than that, Beinart added, the left is now in favour of a one-state rather than a two-state solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The left's preoccupation with imperialism is such that it overlooks an important fact. Israel, rather than the Palestinian Authority or Arab states, is an exemplar of left-wing principles, from freedom of speech and religion to women's rights.

"I don't take any pleasure from this," said Beinart, expressing the hope that the left will return to its "better traditions."

Castigating its myopia, Beinart said the left has to understand that Israelis have deep historical roots in the Middle East and are not "colonial settlers," like the French in Algeria.

And, he added, the left should understand that widespread support of suicide bombings among Palestinians means that something is not right in the Palestinian body politic.

Since Sept. 11, there has also been a major change in how American Jews relate to the Republican party and the Christian right, he observed.

For years, the vast majority of Jews voted for the Democratic party because they felt ill at ease with the Republicans, which he described as "the country club you didn't go to."

Before Sept. 11, Beinart said, the Republican party was composed of three factions – the isolationists, who were associated with anti-Israel media commentator Patrick Buchanan; the realists, who were identified with the first Bush administration; and the neo-conservatives, the weakest faction, who believe the U.S. has to be engaged in a constant ideological struggle to promote democratic values abroad.

On Sept. 11, the isolationist faction disappeared, while the neo-conservatives morphed into the most dominant wing of the party, he claimed.

Neo-conservatives, Beinart said, are inextricably linked with such Jewish public figures as Paul Wolfowitz, the U.S. deputy secretary of defence; Richard Perle, a former high-ranking official in the Reagan administration, and William Kristol, the editor of *The Weekly Standard*.

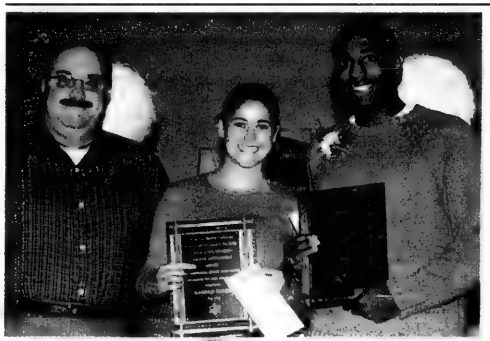
As a result of this seismic political shift, American Jews now "feel at home" in the Republican party, he said.

As for the Christian right, Jews no longer see it as the "central enemy" due to its ardent support of Israel.

Beinart acknowledged that many Jews are "flabbergasted" by this phenomenon and are still struggling to understand it.

To evangelical Christians, he said, Israel's right to exist in peace and security is fundamental and an extremely important issue in their agenda.

The flip side is that some evangelical Christians tend to idealize Jews and are disappointed to learn most American Jews live secular lives, he said.



TOP ATHLETES:

David Freeman, president of B'nai Brith Parliament Lodge, recently presented Hannah Vertes and Jeremy Poriah, with graduating student awards for outstanding athletic achievement throughout high school.

[Jason Levine photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Group fights for equal rights for Israel's Arab citizens

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

For the past two years, Israeli grassroots movements have increased their pursuit of equal rights for Arab citizens, says Sikkuy co-director Shalom (Shuli) Dichter.

Sikkuy, the Association for the Advancement of Civic Equality, is a non-partisan NGO created in 1991. The members of the Jewish-Arab advocacy organization follow government budgets, resource allocations and land usage policies, and then develop strategies to deal with the system's inequities.

Shuli Dichter

Since the creation of the State of Israel, Arab towns and villages have had less access and enjoy a smaller proportion of the state's resources than their Jewish counterparts, Dichter told a small group in Toronto recently.

Dichter described small villages without basic water services and said disparities exist within the same cities – Jews of Nazareth, Lod or Ramla benefit from a higher proportion of city budgets than do Palestinian Arab residents.

Dichter referred to Israeli Arabs as Palestinian Arabs, saying they refer to themselves that way.

Sikkuy hopes to reverse this trend by informing Israelis of the inequities that exist in the system so that no one can hide behind a claim of ignorance. Dichter spoke about the importance of "mainstreaming" the search "for civic equality between the Jewish and Arab citizens of Israel" because it is the general Jewish voter who initiates changes in government policies.

Public discourse on these issues is having a huge impact in Israel. Heads of municipalities are listening to mainstream Israelis who became disillusioned after October 2000 when 13 Arab citizens were killed by police during a two-week period of demonstrations and riots, he said.

The notion of peaceful coexistence has become more urgent, Dichter said, and more Israelis recognize that adults must become involved in the quest for equality. Until now, it was assumed that encounters between Arab and Israeli students and teachers would bring future resolution of these issues.

However, we now realize "it was wrong to make the children the meeting point for Palestinians and Israelis and load them with the responsibility" of creating change, Dichter said.

Israelis and Jews are now becoming more active and it's making a difference, he said, pointing to the western Galilean area of Misgav as an example of a "bottom-up" approach in which Jewish citizens groups have advanced civic equality on the local level.

The regional municipality of Misgav includes 10,000 Jews and 5,000 Bedouin Arabs, some of whom live in shacks. Dichter said local Jewish activists work together with Sikkuy to raise awareness and hold public meetings every six weeks, speaking out and distributing flyers. The group then follows up by advocating for change in the allocation of budgets and resources.

The work in the area illustrates the positive effects public diplomacy can have in creating connections between regional municipalities and Arab villages and towns, Dichter said.

"One of the group members has been nominated by the Ministry of Industry to establish the joint industrial area of Sachnin and Misgav."

The intent, he said, is for the Bedouin and Palestinian Arabs that live in the region to be empowered and work independently for change in the allocation of funds, assignment of land zoning permits and the designation of infrastructure development.

Besides civic action groups, Sikkuy also organizes affirmative action projects for Israel's Palestinian Arab citizens and assists Arab women to achieve leadership positions in local Arab authorities in Israel.

While Dichter conceded that the economic inequities between Israel's Palestinian Arabs and Jews is smaller than the disparity that exists between Arab citizens and their counterparts in most European countries, he noted many Israelis feel they must do better.

"With full equality, we would still have a conflict, but it would be one we could live with," Dichter said, adding that "when the inequities in material resources are dealt with, the dispute would be similar to the Franco-Anglo conflict here in Canada."

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Dry Bones

Administration has failed Concordia

Ironically and very sadly, the name of Concordia University is a foul, smirking jest of itself. "A state of agreement and harmony," or some variation on that theme, is what Concordia actually means. Yet, for too long, agreement and harmony have been but a distant chimera for the administration and the vast majority of students at that university in Montreal.

For the last three years in particular, the university has been hijacked and the majority of its students held hostage by a hardcore rabble of anti-Israel ideologues who have abused academia's long-cherished, vital traditions of tolerance and freedom, and manipulated the democratic structures of student governance to impose their extreme, radical ideology on the entire university.

Last week, Concordia's Student Union (CSU) effectively ousted Hillel, the Jewish student organization, from that campus. On questionable grounds and by procedural stealth, the CSU voted 8-1 to suspend Hillel's funding and its right to hold campus activities.

In violation of its own rules of procedure, the motion to suspend Hillel was placed on the agenda without the requisite notice to the parties. Adding to the Kafkaesque surrealism of the proceedings, the motion was introduced and argued at midnight, without regard to the facts, without regard to the proper application of law and without regard to the barest concession to due process and civil decency.

The ostensible grounds for the motion was the unproven allegation that Hillel had distributed on campus promotional brochures for a program encouraging Jewish men and women to volunteer for brief service with the Israel Defence Forces. But the grounds were a pretext, just as the process was a sham.

The transparent purpose of the CSU exercise was, once again, to target the Jewish, pro-Israel students on campus. As Ariela Cotler, president of Montreal Hillel, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, "I have no doubt this is an attempt to shut down Israel's voice in this community... There was an obvious agenda to disrupt the activities of Hillel on campus."

This latest CSU tactic is of a piece with its thuggish pattern of behaviour going back to the student handbook it distributed last year called *Uprising*. The atmosphere on the university is a stewing hothouse of poisoned gases and violent eruptions, in which Jewish students are singled out, Israel is vilified, pro-Israel speakers are prevented from addressing the public and property is vandalized.

But the Jewish students on campus will not be intimidated, nor will the name of Israel or the justice of its cause be diminished by the CSU and their followers, for whom democracy and due process mean nothing. The same, alas, cannot be said for the university. Its name has already been severely tarnished in Canada and beyond.

Concordia's administration is presiding over the ruination of the its reputation. Unless it acts quickly, the thuggery of the CSU and its anti-Israel followers will bring long-lasting harm upon the university. It may already be too late.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farhad Saleh, Dani (Hamid) Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

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Reconstructionists answer

Contrary to the false impression given by the article "Reconstructionists mull relationship with Israel" (*CJN*, Nov. 28), the recent call for a task force on Israel policies was an initiative of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF) to strengthen, not weaken, its historic ties with Zionism and the Jewish homeland.

As the written proposal for this new task force, distributed at the recent biennial convention in Montreal, states: "The JRF has since its inception been committed to serious engagement with the concerns of the State of Israel... [A]s a member of the United Jewish Communities and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, the JRF is more and more frequently called on to express its views on the current situation in Israel... We are convinced that we should now lay the groundwork for the articulation of such policies.

"We do not write on a clean slate. Mordecai Kaplan [founder of the movement] was a prominent leader of the 20th century Zionist movement, and a commitment to Zionism has always been a bedrock principle of the Reconstructionist movement. Indeed, the JRF's by-laws specify 'commitment to the support of the State of Israel' as one of the principles to which a congregation or *chavurah* must be dedicated in order to be eligible for membership."

The centrality of Israel to Reconstructionist Judaism stems from Rabbi Kaplan's vision of Judaism as a civilization of the Jewish people. Writing in the 1920s and '30s, Kaplan argued that Zion was the historic centre and heart of this civilization. He depicted the centrality of Zion to Jewish life in the logo of *The Reconstructionist* magazine: the words "Diaspora Jewry" appear around the perimeter of a circle with "Zion" in the hub. The three spokes of Jewish civilization that connected Zion and the Diaspora were, he said, religion, ethics and culture. Kaplan's own involvement in Jewish life was such that he was offered the position of becoming the first president of Hebrew University in the 1920s.

Kaplan's Zionism, together with his focus on "peoplehood" – a term he coined to emphasize Jewish communal life as the primary expression of Jewish identity in modern times – perhaps accounts for the disproportionate number of Reconstructionist Jews involved in Israel-based and community-based organizations. Canadian Reconstructionists have been or are currently executive directors of the Jewish National Fund, the New Israel Fund, Canadian Friends of Ben Gurion University, the Ben Weider Jewish Community Centre in Montreal (the JCC concept was another of Kaplan's innovations), Jewish Vocational Services and Jewish Family Services, to name a few. When you include top lay leadership, the list expands to include the presidents of Montreal's FEDERATION CJA, Montreal's Cummings Jewish Centre for Seniors, JIAS, Hillel, ORT and others.

Regrettably, the historic and current realities of the Reconstructionist commitment to Israel and communal Jewish life did not come across in your article.

Rabbi Aigen, spiritual leader, Congregation Dorshei Emet
Bram Rubinger, president, Congregation Dorshei Emet
Ellayne Kaplan, vice-president, Canadian Region JRF
Montreal

* * *

Eban's greatness

Jews around the world will mourn the death of Abba Eban, a most remarkable stateman and unquestionably the most eloquent diplomat the small State of Israel ever produced. In 1978, after addressing a large delegation of Ontario lawyers and jurists in Jerusalem, he responded to some questions from the floor. His Labour party had been defeated in recent elections, and he was asked how it felt to be a member of the opposition. His response was that after telling the world for 30 years that Israel was a democracy, he could hardly complain if it acted like one. It is a monument to his greatness that with all the adversity Israel undergoes on a daily basis, it continues to function as the only true democracy in the Middle East.

Bert Raphael
Chairman, Canadian Lawyers and Jurists for World Jewry
Toronto

* * *

Re: Payments from Germany and Austria

Further to the article "URO Toronto office left to handle survivor claims" (*CJN*, Nov. 7), the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference) in New York has negotiated compensation payments for Holocaust survivors and victims' heirs from Germany and Austria. The Claims Conference has several programs, including the longtime Article 2 Fund, the Program for Former Slave and Forced Labourers, funds from the Swiss Banks Settlement, and others, all with varying eligibility requirements and application deadlines.

The Claims Conference also distributes funds to organizations and institutions that provide essential social services to elderly, needy survivors, and that engage in Shoah education, research and documentation.

Detailed information about these and other programs is available at www.claimscon.org. Information on restitution available from Austria, Switzerland and other European countries is on the Web site.

For more information, call the Claims Conference directly at 212-696-4944 and ask for the department of services.

As well, the United Restitution Organization (URO) may be contacted in Toronto at 416-630-2920 or in Montreal at 514-931-7933.

Hillary Kessler-Gordon
Director of Communications, Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany
New York, N.Y.

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

My suicide bomber

By NAOMI ISCOVE

The bus pulled out of the Tel Aviv Central Station and made a right turn onto the crowded street. I peered out the window at the pedestrians rushing around and the drivers honking at each other. I tried not to be nervous.

The security checks had intensified since my last visit to Israel. Before boarding the bus, I walked through a metal detector and my bags were examined using an X-ray machine. A guard brushed a wand up and down my body and made me empty my pockets before he allowed me to pass.

It was January 2002. More than a year had passed since the intifadah had started. Suicide bombings had become routine. And most occurred on buses.

My bus was half full. Soldiers in uniform talked on cellphones. Families with young children cuddled in their seats and chatted excitedly. Older people leaned against the windows and tried to rest. I sat alone and observed.

I decided not to let fear influence my decisions. I wanted to live freely in my homeland. I had faith that the Israeli security system would protect me. The added measures calmed me. For the first 20 minutes I eavesdropped on conversations around me, listened to the radio and glanced out the window. My eyes darted from street performers to soldiers to mountains in the distance.

The bus driver pulled over at a bus stop off the highway. A dishevelled young man threw one of his bags under the bus and climbed aboard. He paid the driver and inched his way down the bus, clutching a second bag to his chest. He glanced at me as he approached my row. I put my purse on the seat next to me and rummaged through it, pretending to look for something important.

My mind exploded with thoughts. Did he just throw a bomb under the bus? What if he had a bomb in the bag he was carrying?

He walked to the back of the bus and sat down in the last row. He surveyed the other passengers.

I knew he was a suicide bomber. My stomach knotted. I heard ringing in my ears. What should I do? Did anyone else notice? Why isn't anyone else panicking? Should I tell the bus driver? One of the soldiers? Call someone on my cellphone? No other stops were scheduled for the remainder of the ride. I couldn't get off the bus. If I asked the driver to stop, the bomber would realize I knew his plan. I was trapped.

I reached in my wallet for my copy of the traveller's prayer. Tears formed in my eyes, blurring my vision. My hands trembled as I whispered the prayer to myself:

"*Yehee ratzon melefanecha HaShem Elokeinu* – May it be your will, God and God of our ancestors to lead us toward peace… and make our path a path of peace. Help us to reach our desired destination for life, joy, and peace. Rescue us from the hands of any danger, ambush, criminal or wild animal on the road, and from all emotional ordeals that are in this world… May you hear the sound of our heart's cry, for you are a listener, a God who hears cries and prayers. Blessed are you, who listens to words from the heart."

I wiped my tears and breathed deeply. Turning my head cautiously, I let my eyes rest on the suicide bomber. I estimated his age to be around the same as mine – early 20s. He wore a dirty shirt, ripped jeans and work boots. His skin was dark, and his black curly hair hung messily around his face. His backpack looked old and was made of leather. I saw no wires coming out of it – a good sign.

How much time left until we arrive in Jerusalem? When we get there, if we get there, the guards will catch him for sure. My mind raced. I tried to remember everything I'd read about a suicide bomber's mentality. These guys are determined. They see this as a last resort, thinking they have nothing to live for. Maybe I have to distract him to save us. Could I distract him for the rest of the ride?

My throat was dry. My head felt heavy. He tilted his head and his eyes caught mine.

Is eye contact good? Maybe I needed him to acknowledge that I'm a human being and to have sympathy for me. It's easier to kill people you don't know than to kill people you have a connection with. My eyes penetrated his. I tried to smile, but my mouth froze. I jerked my head back, and focused on the seat in front of me.

Beads of sweat formed on my forehead. Does he know I suspect him? If I call the police on my cellphone, will that tip him off and make him explode right away? I couldn't let on that I knew. I put my foot up on my seat casually and leaned back. I tried to appear relaxed.

I turned and faced him again. He was observing me. A quizzical look appeared on his face. I managed a smile. There were about 10 rows between us, so I couldn't get a close look at his features. In another context, he could be attractive. What a shame that he feels so desperate.

I studied his body movements. His legs were crossed and he was leaning back against his seat, still clutching the bag to his chest. He fidgeted with the straps as he gazed out the window. The laces from his brown boots [illegible] moving his feet back and forth. He checked his watch and muttered something to himself in disgust.

My cellphone beeped and I jumped in my seat. A text message from my friend said she'd meet me at the bus station in 10 minutes. We were almost there. I only had to distract the bomber for a little while longer before security in Jerusalem would catch him. I read my prayer again and slouched in my seat. I surveyed the other passengers on the bus. Most people slept or listened to their walkmans. Two soldiers talked on cellphones. The driver drummed his hands against the steering wheel to the beat of the music on the radio.

I sat sideways and leaned my head on the seat next to me, giving myself a clear view of the bomber. He was watching me again. When our eyes met, he pushed his hair behind his ears and uncrossed his legs. He placed the bag on the floor in front of him, and smiled an awkward smile. He was crazy. My heart pounded loudly and quickly like a bass drum. I smiled back at him, again. He looked down and noticed his bootlaces were untied. Blushing, he tied them quickly.

Then he opened his bag. I held my breath. He pulled out a red sweater and a new-looking baseball cap and put them on. The grungy air about him faded. He became a different person, a cleaner person, a less suspicious person. I didn't know what to think. I continued staring. He checked his watch again, re-crossed his legs and looked right at me.

"Mom, are we home yet?"

The little boy in front of me had awakened. His question startled me, and broke my concentration. I looked out the window and saw downtown Jerusalem.

The bus pulled into the station. After checking that I hadn't forgotten anything, I joined the other passengers exiting the bus. The bomber stood a few passengers behind me with his backpack slung over his shoulder. He fidgeted with the straps again as he stared blankly ahead. I climbed down the stairs and hurried towards the main area of the bus terminal for security checks.

"Wait!"

I whipped my head around and saw him running towards me. I quickened my pace.

"Wait! I want to talk to you!"

I froze. My face became hot and red. I felt dizzy.

"I saw you looking at me during the bus ride."

I panicked. I lowered my head and began rambling.

"What? Really? Oh, I didn't even notice. I'm a tourist here. I was just looking out the windows at the scenery and at all the people on the bus and…"

"Hey, whoa, calm down. Don't be shy. It's OK. If you want my phone number – just ask!"

My mouth dropped open. I gawked at him in disbelief.

Suddenly, it occurred to me that we were speaking in Hebrew. Was he Israeli? Had I misjudged him? My dizziness got worse. After a long pause, I managed to string together a sentence.

"Wow, that's, um, that's really nice of you. I'm actually leaving the country tomorrow, but if I wasn't, I, I would definitely take your number."

He shrugged and laughed.

"You're such a tease! OK then, enjoy your [illegible]. It was fun to flirt with you on the bus!"

He flashed me a smile and winked. I stared back, expressionless.

"Hey, are you OK? What's wrong? You look like you've seen a ghost."

"I'm fine."

He squinted and studied my face.

"You're not fine. Did I offend you? I'm sorry, I really thought you were flirting with me. I hope I didn't embarrass you."

"No, that's not it."

"OK. Well, we should be getting to the security checks."

We walked to the guards and stood in line silently. A dream-like fog surrounded me as I opened my bag for inspection. The guard brushed a wand up and down my body and I passed through the metal detector.

From the other side, I witnessed my suicide bomber empty his bags. He removed a shirt, underwear, a pair of pants, a toothbrush, toothpaste and deodorant from the first bag. His second bag contained textbooks. After the guard nodded in approval, he repacked his bags, passed the metal detector and met me on the other side. I closed my eyes and thanked God.

"Are you sure you're OK?"

"Yeah, I'm sorry, I'm OK now." My voice was shaky and unconvincing. I felt exhausted.

"What's going on? I know I saw you looking at me on the bus, and just now, I saw you staring at me when the guards were brushing me with the wand and…"

He turned his head and glimpsed back at the security guards searching bags. As he faced me again, he noticed the newspaper stand beside us. The front page of the *Jerusalem Post* pictured the wreckage from a bomb explosion from the day before in Northern Israel. He looked down at his ripped jeans and his bags. Then his glance returned to me.

"Wow, you didn't think… Oh my God, you thought I was a…"

I lowered my head.

"I can't believe this. I don't usually look like this – I just overslept and missed the bus I usually take, and then I rushed like crazy to get to the second one on time. I didn't have a chance to shower or find clean clothes or anything. I just… You weren't flirting with me on the bus."

I shook my head slightly as the tears returned to my eyes. I looked at him pleadingly.

He studied his feet while and mumbled, "Wow, do I feel stupid now. I'm so sorry for scaring you. I feel awful. You must have been terrified." He slid his foot back and forth on the floor.

I swallowed and spoke softly. "Don't be sorry. It's not your fault. I'm so sorry that I suspected you. I feel awful."

"We hardly get any tourists here anymore, and the locals just know how to recognize each other most of the time. OK, let's start this again. I'm Yossi. What's your name?"

"Nomi."

"Are you really leaving Israel tomorrow?"

"Actually, in three days. I was just visiting my cousins and now I'm going to stay with friends here in Jerusalem." My heart beat slowed to a normal rhythm.

"Well Nomi, it's nice to meet you. I hope you enjoy the rest of your visit. I think it's great that you came here, despite the mess."

"Thanks," I fumbled in my purse for a tissue, "Thanks for coming up to talk to me."

He handed me a tissue from his pocket. "No problem. You take care of yourself. OK, Nomi?"

He waved goodbye and wandered towards the exit of the terminal. People bustled around me. Guards continued opening bags and brushing wands over passengers. I heard a siren come closer and then watched an ambulance race past. I pulled my coat tight around me and looked for my friend.

Naomi Iscove is a masters student at the University of Toronto.

The price of security

There was a time when it was difficult to distinguish between Canada and the United States. English was spoken on both sides of the border, and – unless politics was the subject of conversation – the border between the two nations seemed to be an artificial divide.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Going from Canada to the United States was hardly different than travelling at home.

That was then, but the laissez faire of those days is gone.

Some weeks ago, I wrote about security measures at the border, highlighted for me by a request to take off my shoes and prove thereby that no bomb was hidden in them.

More recently, I was spared that request and waved through by the officer in charge without having to prove there were no explosives in my footwear.

Does this mean that security is no longer the central concern it was a few months ago? Hardly.

Security was, and remains, a central American preoccupation. In an insecure world, this is apparently the price that the globe's superpower must pay.

America has lately been threatened outright by its Middle Eastern enemies, who predict that an attack on the homeland will be launched in the not-too-distant future.

Their major beef is the close alliance that binds the United States to Israel. The fundamental enmity of many Arab states toward the United States has its root in U.S. support for the Jewish state.

No wonder that the name of Tom Ridge, America's new security chief, is on its way to becoming a household word.

This kind of thing seems strange to most Canadians, who have had the luxury of being removed from such concerns. But nothing lasts forever, and Canada's present level security is likely to suffer a blow at some point. Just when this will happen is of course unknown to me, though I hope it is still far off.

But because of the threat, I am strongly in favour of measures that will protect the nation, both externally and internally. At the same time, I, like many others, want civil liberties preserved as much as possible.

In fact, the proper balance between security and liberty is democracy's main challenge.

I trust that Canada will always pass the test.

Parental pride, Palestinian style

To hear his parents tell it, Nael Abu Hilayel is nothing short of a hero. They hope their other 12 children will follow in his footsteps.

In late November, on a clear, crisp autumn morning, Hilayel boarded a bus in Jerusalem's working class neighbourhood of Kiryat Menachem not far from my home. Young people heading to school and adults going to work filled the bus that two of my oldest daughter's classmates also usually take to school.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

A young man on a mission, Hilayel was dressed for the occasion. He wore loose-fitting clothes to help conceal a belt packed with explosives and shrapnel. Just after 7 o'clock, while standing in the front section of the bus, Hilayel detonated the bomb strapped to his waist.

For his efforts, Hilayel murdered 11 Israelis, wounded 50 others, killed himself – and won the hearts of his people. "Of course, I am proud of him and all the other martyrs," said his mother. "It's all because of Israel's daily atrocities against our people."

Hilayel's father also showered his son with glory. "I thanked God when I heard that my son had died in an operation for the sake of God, Islam and the homeland," Azmi Abu Hilayel told reporters hours after the massacre.

The father claimed he did not know that his 23-year-old son was a member of the Hamas terrorist organization, but said it made no difference. "We are all one people fighting against the common enemy, the Jews," he said.

Following the bombing, many residents in Hilayel's hometown of El-Khader near Bethlehem openly expressed their joy over the carnage. There was similar celebration elsewhere in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Never mind that several children were blown to pieces in the Jerusalem attack, that dozens were maimed and traumatized for life, that such terrorism inevitably leads to retaliatory actions by the Israeli army and further undermines Palestinian aspirations for statehood.

If only this were an isolated case. But on the contrary: following many suicide bombings against Israel, the parents of Palestinian terrorists pay tribute in front of TV cameras to the evil deeds of their offspring. Try to imagine a more despicable performance. I watch these parents and my blood starts to boil. Their words trigger in me unspeakable thoughts.

Sanity check, please. We are speaking here of the premeditated mass murder of innocent men, women and children. The Palestinians, of course, would not describe it this way. They don't see it this way. They seem incapable of seeing it this way. For them, such bloodletting constitutes "resistance" and "martyr operations."

For Israelis, whose Jewish tradition holds that life is the most precious thing, the Palestinian glorification of death and murder is bone-chilling. It is a stark example of the gap between the Israelis and Palestinians and their conflicting narratives, a divide that is gigantic, if not unbridgeable, and which grows all the time.

Far be it for me to profess any deep insight into the Arab/Islamic mindset so rife with hatred against Jews. I'm at a loss to comprehend a society that weans its children on unbridled hostility toward its neighbours and gleefully uses young people as murderous vehicles.

Last winter, the mother of Wafa Idris, the first female Palestinian suicide bomber, said she was proud of her daughter's attack in Jerusalem and hoped more women would follow her example. Mariam Farahat was equally proud of her son Mohammed, who killed five Israeli students and wounded 23 others with an assault rifle and grenades last spring in the Gaza Strip before he was gunned down.

"I don't want condolences," she told reporters after the attack. "I want congratulations. I encouraged my son to sacrifice himself. It is a victory."

A long time ago, former Israeli prime minister Golda Meir said, "Peace will come only when Palestinians love their children more than they hate Jews." Sadly, decades later, with Palestinian teenagers volunteering to carry out suicide atrocities against Israel with their parents' approval, Meir's words are more applicable today than ever.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

Arab rejectionism destroyed the UN

The United Nations was and remains a wonderful idea. What could be better than representatives of the nations of the world sitting down together as equals in order to prevent war and forge a culture of peace?

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

The reality, however, is quite different, and the UN is a very flawed, even counterproductive, institution. Instead of promoting peace, many regimes, including Syria, which was recently elected to the UN Security Council, seek war and defend the use of violence and even terrorism. The UN's moral authority has never been solid, and recent years have seen a steady and perhaps terminal decline.

Many of the UN's failures are highlighted in its action, or inaction, in the Middle East. The UN has passed dozens of resolutions and presented scores of unfulfilled peace plans while adopting a strong pro-Palestinian ideology. The UN-sponsored anti-racism conference of September 2001 in Durban, South Africa marked a new low in the demonization of Israel.

The UN's efforts in Arab-Israeli peacemaking began on Nov. 29 1947, with General Assembly Resolution 181, also known as the Partition Plan (or the "mother of all UN resolutions on the Middle East"). After careful study, the assembly overwhelmingly adopted the recommendation to divide this tiny land, claimed by Jews and Arabs (the term "Palestinian" was not introduced until the 1960s).

On this basis, two independent states were to be created, while the sacred city of Jerusalem would be placed under some form of international control.

The Jews, under David Ben-Gurion, agreed to accept a small portion of the land, allowing the restoration of Jewish sovereignty. In contrast, the representatives of the various Arab delegations unanimously rejected the concept, and their war began immediately.

Brutal terror attacks were carried out on major Jewish institutions in Jerusalem, Jews were attacked in the streets and in restaurants, cars were ambushed and the occupants were killed on the roads and in the convoy to Hadassah Hospital. A few months later, when the British formally withdrew, the armies of Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq launched full-scale attacks.

Since these events, the Arab states have been in blatant violation of the UN charter and international law. Only Egypt, in 1979, and Jordan, in 1994, reversed course, and belatedly accepted the legitimacy of Israel, although Egypt's commitment remains half-hearted, at best.

As this history makes clear, the UN's fundamental structural problem from the beginning has been its inability to gain adherence to its resolutions and charter.

In the case of UN Resolution 181, and the Arab war against Israel that began in its wake, there were no penalties for defiance and violations of the core principles of maintaining international peace. Aggressors were, and are not, punished, unless they are particularly weak politically and are easy prey for the automatic Arab/Islamic majority in the UN.

After being defeated in this first round (the Israeli War of Independence), the Arabs would only sign a limited truce, again in defiance of the UN and the ceasefire documents that explicitly directed the parties to conclude permanent peace agreements.

Preparations began immediately for the next rounds, leading to the 1956, 1967 and 1973 wars. In between the wars, waves of terrorism were launched, also in blatant violation of the UN charter and resolutions. Eventually, as their power at the UN grew, and others began to tire of this conflict, the terms of the resolutions improved steadily in favour of the Arab position. The obvious conclusion is that under the UN system, warfare and violation of resolutions and agreements carry no stigma or cost, at least for the Arab bloc.

For Israelis, in contrast, the terrorism and wars that began Nov. 29 1947 with the rejection of Resolution 181 have exacted a terrible cost. The thousands of victims cannot be brought back to life. The shattered families cannot be compensated.

Before the UN and its renewed efforts to broker Arab-Israeli peace can be taken seriously, an accounting for the initial offence, 55 years ago, must be completed.

The Kirshner File

A cornucopia of books...

New books roll off the presses day and night. The latest cornucopia, dealing with subjects ranging from Yiddish to Jewish history, are well worth reading.

Bassam Tibi, a Syrian scholar based in Germany, grapples with the disturbing phenomenon of political, or radical, Islam in ***The Challenge of Fundamentalism*** (University of California Press). After the terrorist events of Sept. 11, 2001, this is a topic that can no longer be brushed aside. Tibi argues that Islamism springs from Islam's confrontation with modernity and the inability of Muslim states to integrate into the new secular order. And while Islamism should not necessarily be equated with Islam, he warns, political Islam remains "a major stream within contemporary Islamic civilization."

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

A cogent companion volume, ***What Everyone Needs To Know About Islam*** (Oxford University Press), by John Esposito, is a slim but revealing book that unfolds in a question-and-answer format. Among the questions posed: Does Islam permit suicide bombers? Does the Koran condone terrorism? Why is Jerusalem so important to Muslims? How do Muslims view Judaism? Whatever your opinion of his views, Esposito opens a window on the world's fastest-growing religion.

The 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran sent a shudder of fear through non-Muslim communities. Jews, Christians, Bahais and others understandably wondered how they would be treated by the new militant order. Eliz Sanasarian, in ***Religious Minorities in Iran*** (Cambridge University Press), provides valuable insights into this still-unfolding problem.

Tom Segev, in ***Elvis in Jerusalem*** (Metropolitan Books), writes that the Americanization of Israeli culture, during which Israel has evolved from a collective society to a culture of individualism, has been quite beneficial. Americanization, he claims, has brought the virtues of pragmatism, tolerance and diversity. An intriguing but debatable theory.

In ***A Book of Life*** (Random House), Rabbi Michael Strassfeld presents Judaism as an unerring guide to behaviour and values. His message of faith and spirituality strikes a profound chord. Read it in conjunction with Rabbi Lawrence Hoffman's ***The Journey Home*** (Beacon Press), which, among other topics, deals with the meaning of study in Jewish life and the importance of a home.

Books of related interest include Harold Kushner's ***Living a Life That Matters*** (Random House), which is basically a self-improvement manual suffused with wisdom; David Bader's ***Zen Judaism*** (Random House), which also dispenses sage advice on how to be a better person, and Alan King's ***Great Jewish Joke Book*** (Random House), a sardonic celebration of Jewish humour. (Example: Why do Jewish mothers make such terrible parole officers? They never let anyone finish a sentence.)

Yiddish, that earthy lingua franca, is the subject of Miriam Weinstein's ***Yiddish: A Nation of Words*** (Random House) – an accessible, erudite history of a peculiar language whose delights never cease.

How about a little history?

In ***Rewriting the Jew: Assimilation Narratives in the Russian Empire*** (Stanford University Press), Gabriella Safran examines the notion of Jewish acculturation as reflected in the works of four Russian novelists, among them Anton Chekhov. Howard Sachar, in ***Dreamland: Europeans and Jews in the Aftermath of the Great War*** (Random House), offers a penetrating analysis of the effect of World War I on Jewish communities from Romania to Germany.

The Jews of Europe after the Black Death (University of California Press), by Anna Foa, is an illuminating account of how a 14th century plague shaped anti-Semitic stereotypes. ***Jews in the Canary Islands*** (University of Toronto Press), translated and edited by Lucien Wolf, is a reprint of an esoteric 1925 book turning on an obscure aspect of the infamous Inquisition.

Cynthia Scheinberg, in an original work of literary criticism, ***Women's Poetry and Religion in Victorian England*** (Cambridge University Press), explains how Judaic texts and images influenced a whole host of poets – Jewish and Christian – during that epoch.

Beth Hatefutsoth, the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora on the campus of Tel Aviv University, has published two intriguing catalogues in connection with recent exhibitions. The first, ***In the Heart of the Atlas: Jews of Rural Morocco***, consists of rare photographs depicting Jewish life in the 1940s and 1950s. My copy, in French, is titled ***Juifs parmi les Berberes***. The second catalogue, ***Icons of War***, features the graphic photos of Yevgeny Khaldei, a Jewish photographer who documented the fall of Berlin to Soviet forces in early 1945.

Fritz Stern skillfully blends history and biography in ***Einstein's German World*** (Princeton University Press), a dissection of German-Jewish relations before and during the Third Reich. Richard Wolin, in ***Heidegger's Children*** (Princeton University Press), explores the strange relationship between pro-Nazi German philosopher Martin Heidegger and four of his star pupils who were Jewish.

Erik Ryding and Rebecca Pechefsky, in ***Bruno Walter*** (Yale University Press), profile the life and times of a great Jewish conductor, and protege of Gustav Mahler, who was driven out of Germany and Austria by the Nazis. ***The Inextinguishable Symphony: The True Story of Music and Love in Nazi Germany*** (John Wiley & Sons), by Martin Goldsmith, is about a resilient young Jewish couple who refused to be separated by persecution and terror.

Emily Rose, whose German ancestors immigrated to the United States in 1857, tells a little-known tale in ***Portraits of Our Past*** (Jewish Publication Society). In a folksy style, she paints a vivid portrait of 18th and 19th century Jews who lived in Germany's countryside.

In the wake of World War II, 250,000 Jews found a temporary haven in, of all places, Allied-occupied Germany. Ruth Gay, in ***Safe Among the Germans*** (Yale University Press), describes this curious interlude.

What was it like to subsist in the Warsaw ghetto under the Nazi boot? Through the medium of diaries and journals, ***Words to Outlive Us*** (Metropolitan Books), edited by Michal Grynberg, draws a poignant picture of Jews trapped in the ghettto's ghastly maw.

Before being shot to death in 1944, Herman Kruk kept a meticulous diary of the atrocities visited upon the Jews of Vilna by the Nazis. Originally published in Yiddish, ***The Last Days of the Jerusalem of Lithuania*** (Yale University Press), as translated by Barbara Harshav, is a gripping, excruciating account of life on the edge of the abyss.

Etty: The Letters and Diaries of Etty Hillesum, 1941-1943 charts the personal development of a courageous Jewish woman caught in the jaws of the Holocaust in Holland

Varian Fry, who died in 1967, is the only American who was honoured as a Righteous Gentile by Yad Vashem. He saved about 1,000 refugees, most of whom were Jewish. In ***A Hero Of Our Own*** (Random House), Sheila Isenberg shows how one inspiring person can make a difference.

Marthe Cohn, an amazing Jewish woman, posed as a German nurse during Nazi Germany's occupation of France. By doing so, she obtained invaluable information for the Allied cause. In ***Behind Enemy Lines: The True Story of a French Jewish Spy in Nazi Germany*** (Random House), she recalls her daring deeds.

Assault in Norway (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), by Thomas Gallagher, describes the 1942 Allied raid that knocked out Germany's heavy-water plant in Norway and thus sabotaged its nuclear program. A fine read.

Rosetta Loy gives readers an unusual perspective of the Holocaust in Italy. In ***First Words*** (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), this Catholic writer shifts seamlessly between her memories of a happy childhood in fascist Italy and her outrage at her country's vile treatment of its Jewish citizens. Loy, in particular, singles out the Vatican – the object of Daniel Jonah Goldhagen's wrath in ***A Moral Reckoning: The Role of the Catholic Church in the Holocaust And Its Unfulfilled Duty of Repair*** (Alfred N. Knopf). In his blistering but not unreasonable polemic, Goldhagen sets out the incriminating facts and suggests practical remedies.

Racial hatred in all its complexities and permutations is thoroughly explored by four authors: George Fredrickson in ***Racism: A Short History*** (Princeton University Press); Warren Kinsella in the paperback edition of ***Web of Hate: Inside Canada's Far Right Network*** (HarperCollins); and Kathleen Blee in ***Inside Organized Racism: Women in the Hate Movement*** (University of California Press), and Adam Fairclough in ***Better Day Coming: Blacks and Equality, 1890-2000***. The last two works focus exclusively on the United States.

In general: Four excellent reference books have crossed my desk – the ***Oxford English Reference Dictionary*** (Oxford University Press); ***The Oxford Dictionary of Modern Quotations*** (Oxford University Press); the ***Encyclopedia of Literature in Canada*** (University of Toronto Press), and ***The Internet Handbook for Writers, Researchers and Journalists*** (Fitzhenry & Whiteside). All four should be in your library.

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Jewish Life

Friction in human life

By RABBI LEIGH LERNER

In Vayigash, Joseph, Pharaoh's prime minister, toys with his brothers when they come to Egypt from Canaan seeking food. Why does Joseph agitate them?

Akio Morita, founder of Sony, noted that the level of friction in a relationship marks its closeness. Friction results from contact and movement. If we can use friction for forward movement, then a little friction can catalyze positive change.

Rabbinic Reflections

Joseph, in rubbing his brothers' nerves raw, draws them into his circle of concern. This friction opens them to receive Joseph – whose very existence will stun them – but it will also result in healing the violence of their familial past.

Sometimes good things happen in families under friction. People who have not spoken for awhile may be drawn together by a death or an illness. They may feel immense tension at having to rub shoulders together, so that rather than live with such emotional pressure, they choose to rehabilitate their relationship. Friction can create the energy people need to change.

The friction that Joseph creates with his brothers promises a grand finale. Imagine the uncertainty in the air when Joseph is alone with them. They must have thought, "We're either doomed or facing disaster."

Then Joseph weeps before his astounded family, crying, "I am Joseph your brother. Is my father still alive?... Don't be worried." Immediately, stress melts into the need to recap the history of the intervening years, and the denouement has occurred.

Tension and denouement are the nature of a good story, but they also shape real life situations.

Once Rabbi Berish Meisels, the rabbi of Krakow from 1831 to 1856, received an unhappy merchant who had come to Warsaw to buy goods with 5,000 rubles in his purse. Because he feared for his safety, he lodged with a fellow merchant, to whom he gave the money to hold until after Shabbat. When the visitor asked for the money, the man said, "What are you talking about?"

The visiting merchant asked Rabbi Meisels, "What should I do? The money was borrowed, and now I have nothing."

Rabbi Meisels reassured him. "You will have your money. I'll call your friend. You wait in the other room."

The Warsaw merchant came, and the rabbi spoke loudly to him, arousing the curiosity of the other merchant, who walked in and cried, "Here he is! Make him return my money."

"Do you know this man?" the rabbi asked?

"Yes, rabbi, he stayed at my house Saturday. I gave him victuals, and now he says that I took his 5,000 rubles. He must be insane."

The Jew gave him a piercing glance. "You yourself accepted the money and counted it before my very eyes. How can a Jew tell such a falsehood?"

"You'll not easily be rid of this man," the rabbi intervened. "Give him some rubles, and be done with it."

"If you say so, rabbi" the Warsaw merchant agreed, "I'll give him 100 rubles not to bother me."

The Jew refused the compromise. "I don't want charity," he wailed. "I want my money."

"Try again," the sage pleaded. "Give him 500."

"As you say, rabbi," the Warsaw merchant consented.

"You are a liar and a scoundrel," the rabbi suddenly called out. "Give the man his 5,000 rubles immediately! Now I clearly see that you took the money from him. I know you. You are not such a generous man. When I asked you for a donation, you refused. Now you give away 500 rubles so freely? Unless you return the money, I'll call the police."

The Warsaw merchant became pale, confessed and returned all 5,000 rubles.

The heat of friction may produce positive energy to solve human problems, or it can, as in the Joseph story or the Rabbi Meisels tale, provide a denouement that improves human relations. We generally avoid human friction, but we must recognize that it sometimes cannot be avoided, and when it occurs, it should be put to positive purpose.

Rabbi Lerner is the spiritual leader at Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom in Montreal.

Torah isn't the malady, it's the cure

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

According to recent studies, there are about 120,000 children in the Reform movement studying in congregational schools, and up to 5,000 more attending day schools. By nature devoted to the independence of each congregational culture and wary of textbooks as the essence of education, the movement has sought to address curricular concerns with often mixed results.

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

As Rabbi Jan Katzew, director of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations' department of jewish education, stridently confesses, "Whom are we kidding? We are short on teachers who are Jewishly literate and as competent as they are caring. We lack teachers... who come to class with a clear, cogent and compelling lesson plan." (In my experience, such deficiencies are surely not specific to Reform Judaism.)

Part of the problem is structural: many teachers in afternoon schools come to the task either after a full day at work, or they are not full-time Jewish educators and hence lack the requisite skills and experience to do the job in the best possible manner. But the question of what parents bring to such an enterprise is also an open one.

Not that Jewish day schools are a panacea for whatever ails you, but the notion of shlepping a child to a congregational school "after school" sounds like a hard sell. Even with compliance on the child's part, there seems little promise of continued Jewish literacy beyond the obvious goal of a bar or bat mitzvah.

But maybe an impassioned relationship to Judaism is not of primary importance to the parents anyway. Just making it to the bimah for the rite of passage is all the Judaism the child need endure.

Much of this bespeaks the general decline of religious culture in the West. The moral relativism of Western students has almost become a cliche since the publication of Allan Bloom's much-debated book *The Closing of the American Mind*.

Early in the book, Bloom argues that an inclination toward indiscriminate freedom can be found in the origins of liberal thought. Seeking to counteract centuries of religious coercion, the American founding fathers made a conscious effort to "weaken religious beliefs, partly by assigning religion to the realm of opinion as opposed to knowledge."

The long-term consequences of this laudable undertaking by democracy have been to deflect all discourse away from questions of truth and to substitute preferences for convictions. We cannot know anything for certain anymore. All we have are opinions. And if Judaism is just another sentiment, then who really has the time or interest to digest it?

As the Canadian philosopher Bruce Powe argues persuasively, we live in a "multiple message environment. It's deeply distracting, overwhelming, confusing. And there's so much stuff coming at us that people have a great deal of difficulty making selections. What is it that we really need to know? Because everything is pressing... always urgent, always at you."

Glutted with information about every conceivable person and cause, one is challenged to champion religion when bombs are falling, investments are melting down and ozone is depleting.

With moral weariness constituting the virus of our age, and as Judaism searches for immunity, perhaps the key is to focus on Torah not as the malady, but as the cure.

Jewish Life

Tzedakah, part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

So many worthy causes. So little money.

You'll find many of them on the World Wide Web. I couldn't possibly list even a fraction of them. Nor would I recommend one over another. However, I would like to examine a few sites with advice about how to give and what to look for in a well-run charity. Thankfully, there are a few people who research charities (many of which are not well-known) and recommend the ones that truly make a difference.

First, a few words of caution. Though there are many worthwhile charitable institutions on the Internet, I strongly advise further investigation before you donate. If a charitable donation receipt is important to you, find out whether one is available before you give. Also, there is much debate about whether you should send a credit card donation online. If you are hesitant, no charity would turn down a donation by mail.

One of the most incredible advocates of tzedakah is mitzvah maven Danny Siegel. Based in Rockville, Md., Siegel operates the Ziv Tzedakah Fund Inc **[http://www.ziv.org]**. He proclaims "mitzvah heroes," such as Elana Erdstein from Detroit, who requested and received for her bat mitzvah 25,000 hotel-size soaps, shampoos and conditioners to be given to the poor. Or John Beltzer, who writes songs for children with cancer. You can read an article about Siegel's dumpster-dipping for good merchandise that had been thrown out **[http://www.jewishsf.com/bk970919/ebmaven.htm]**.

Similar to Ziv, Kavod **[http://kavod.org]** describes itself as a Nebraska-based "non-profit tzedakah collective." Kavod's goal is to "enable our beneficiaries to live in dignity and honor by funding and creating programs that provide for their material, physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual well-being... We strive to operate as close to zero per cent overhead as possible and to support programs which demand the same efficiency."

Many charities accept donations via the Internet. The Just Tzedakah Web site has set up "The Tzedakah Box," which allows you to give online to dozens of Jewish charities **[http://just-tzedakah.org]**. As the site points out, Just Tzedakah itself is a charity, and up to four per cent of your donation will go to cover its processing costs. You may also want to check whether your favorite charity accepts secure donations online.

The Internet also gives you another relatively easy way to donate. The Shop for Tzedakah Web site allows you to purchase products online from over 200 merchants who donate a portion of each purchase (0.5 per cent to 30 per cent) to the Israel Emergency Campaign or the charity of your choice **[http://www.shopfortzedakah.com/s4t/default.asp]**.

If you are unfamiliar with a specific charity, you may want to research its goals, its overhead and the amount of money it raises. You can learn about any registered Canadian charity right at your keyboard. The Canada Customs and Review Agency's (CCRA) list of Canadian registered charities has information about 78,000 charities. You can examine recent "information returns" in which the charities describe their work, the amount they raise and their expenses. Please note that the information in the CCRA database is provided by the charities themselves **[http://shlk.com/258]**.

Guidestar: The National Database of Nonprofit Organizations allows to you search online for information about more than 850,000 IRS-recognized American non-profits **[http://www.guidestar.org]**. For Israeli charities, visit Giving Wisely: The Internet Directory of Israeli Nonprofit and Philanthropic Organizations **[http://www.givingwisely.org.il]**.

I was fascinated by a chart at the Jewish Virtual Library that tracks money raised by American charities and the percentage of funds allocated to Israel. That share has ranged from a 78 per cent in 1967 to 36 per cent in 1999. There's also an accompanying essay on the History of Jewish Giving in America **[http://www.us-israel.org/jsource/Judaism/Tzedakahtoc.html]**.

Still looking for more information about giving? Try these tzedakah links **[http://www.ajritz.com/jew/tzedlnk.htm]**, Tzedaka.org **[http://www.tzedaka.org]** and Maven **[http://www.maven.co.il/subjects.asp?S=172]**.

There may never be enough money for all the worthy institutions and individuals who deserve it. But Brandeis University professor Reuven Kimelman says the recipient of the donation is not the only one who gains. "Tzedakah may not save us, but it makes us worth saving" **[http://www.usisrael.org/jsource/Judaism/Tzedaka.html]**.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based website producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

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HONDA

Sharon biography skims the surface

***Sharon: Israel's Warrior-Politician*, by Anita Miller, Jordan Miller and Sigalit Zetouni, Academy Chicago Publishers & Olive Publishers, $41.25**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Few people are neutral about Ariel Sharon, the barrel-framed ex-general, who realized a life long ambition when he toppled incumbent Ehud Barak in the February 2001 election for prime minister.

At 72, Sharon can look back on a life of almost constant strife. He grew up on a moshav during the British mandate, joined the Haganah at the age of 14, participated in the 1948 War of Independence, commanded an armoured division in the 1967 Six Day War and, in a climactic battle of the Yom Kippur War, audaciously led his troops across the Suez Canal.

Elected to the Knesset in 1977, he masterminded Israel's disastrous invasion of Lebanon in 1982. As defence minister, and without explicitly telling then-prime minister Menachem Begin, he sent the Israeli army all the way to Beirut, a move that ended in the expulsion of Yasser Arafat's Palestine Liberation Organization from Lebanon. The move stopped the PLO from using Lebanon to launch attacks against Israel, but it also resulted in the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians by Lebanese Christian militiamen in two refugee camps under Israeli control.

Sharon was removed from office in 1983 by an Israeli tribunal investigating the 1982 Lebanon invasion. The tribunal found him indirectly responsible for the killings.

The authors of this first full English biography of Sharon, recalling the events that led to his censure, report that when he arrived in Jerusalem to testify, he encountered two demonstrations, one by supporters who reached out "a thousand hands" to shake his, and another by marchers calling him a "murderer".

The book reveals aspects of Sharon's life that were new to me: The loss of his first wife in a car accident and the death of his second wife from cancer at the age of 63.

In 1967, on the eve of Rosh Hashanah, he heard the sound of a gunshot in front of his house and rushed outside: to his horror, he found Gur, his 12-year-old son stretched out on the grass, his face covered with blood. Next to him lay an antique shotgun. Evidently, one of his playmates had filled it with powder, playfully pointed it at Gur – and it had gone off. Sharon rushed him to the hospital, but it was useless. The child died.

Almost a third of the book focuses on events since Sharon's election as prime minister. The facts are all dutifully presented, as are those in the 400 pages that come before. But, there is no attempt to probe beneath the façade, to provide insights into the mind of a many-sided and complex personality.

The authors are not students of the Middle East, and although they have compiled a vast amount of information – much of it well documented and useful – there is no attempt at analysis or evaluation.

Readers will appreciate the book's well-chosen photographs, as well as a helpful section of 12 maps, from the United Nations Partition Plan of 1947 to the Oslo II Interim Agreement of 1995.

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ASTEH volunteers assist abused women

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

For the women who stay at the alternative short-term emergency housing (ASTEH) for abused women run by Jewish Women International and Jewish Family & Child Service, Helen Davis and her group of volunteers are their eyes and ears to the outside world.

"Many of these women [seeking shelter from domestic violence] have [virtually] no outside contact; we are usually their only visitors," says Davis, who has been an ASTEH volunteer for 10 years and is its Toronto chair.

As chair, Davis co-ordinates the volunteers' activities, which could include cleaning, shopping and preparing the kosher apartment, accompanying women to their lawyers, court or even a movie, or they could include babysitting or taking children on outings.

Davis is also the main liaison between volunteers and clients' social workers.

The volunteers' role is completely non-judgmental, she says.

"We are friends first; we give no advice. The women know they can tell us what they want without being judged, and we often build up a close relationship."

If a woman decides to leave her home permanently, the volunteers can help her find accommodations and provide help with her move, she says.

"We respect their anonymity. If we happen to run into them after they've left the apartment, we wait for them to acknowledge us. Our respect for their privacy is the key and central issue.

"Although we try to reach them on a daily basis, they cannot reach us directly. If they do want to speak to us, they go through their social worker. This helps keep things anonymous."

Isa Nevsky, an ASTEH volunteer, says that when the women move into the apartment, they often feel numb.

"Our main role is to listen. It takes a lot of courage for them to take these steps, and many are plagued with self-doubts. It is a lonely journey because they are cut off from the outside world. We have to help them through.

"Because their self-esteem is probably shattered, we put our arms around them and show them that someone cares. It might be the first time someone has told them that things would be alright," Nevsky says.

After about three months, however, they usually begin to feel nurtured, she says. "They've been to counselling, they've had time out and they've had a chance to think about the future. We are the stepping stone to being independent and being on their own."

The volunteers find it very rewarding to see women who come to the apartment totally broken leave with some kind of fight in them, Nevsky says.

Penny Krowitz, executive director of JWI Canada, says that after running ASTEH for 14 years, the organization has never been able to come up with a profile of abused women.

"We've thrown out the notion that there is any one profile. Each woman is an individual with individual needs. It is impossible to generalize.

"Women of all ages come from different ethnic groups and religious backgrounds. We have had older women come to us who have been in abusive relationships for years. They may have only just realized it because they never had another role model."

Krowitz says that although JWI is not accepting ASTEH volunteers until next fall, those who are interested can call JWI for information at 416-630-9313.

"If they are accepted, they are obligated to join the organization and take part in two training sessions, which include some theoretical background around abuse.

"It is definitely not the usual volunteer assignment. The hours are not scheduled and it is very intense with a lot of week-end work," she says.

However, there are few positions that are as rewarding, Nevsky says. "These women have taught us to appreciate our lives and to think about our marriages.

"We really come away with a good feeling about life and about ourselves. We all give our hearts and our souls to these women. Although we have learned to detach ourselves, we go to bed at night thinking about what we can do for them next."

PA school books give negative view of Israel

Continued from page 3

elaborate on "America's role in the establishment of the Jews' state and in its continued existence in Palestine."

The implication is that Israel does not have a right to exist, the report concludes.

The report takes note of the Palestinian argument that Israel is not included in their maps because final borders have yet to be fixed.

But this rationale, the report adds, fails to explain why maps of Palestine are printed in PA schoolbooks.

The city of Jerusalem is presented as exclusively Palestinian and as the capital of the state of Palestine.

Jews are not mentioned in the history of Jerusalem, but for the first time Jerusalem's importance to "the three religions" – Islam, Christianity and Judaism – is noted.

The following passage appears in *Christian Education*: "Jerusalem (Urushalim): A Palestinian city built by the Arab Canaanites... Later it was renamed Urasalem, and after that it was called by many [other] names such as City of Justice, the Holy City, Noble Jerusalem [al-Quds al-Sharif]. The prevalent name is al-Quds."

The ideals of peace, tolerance and coexistence are missing from Palestinian books, the report says.

"Palestinian education does not foster peaceful relations with Israel, nor does it support the peace process between the two parties," the report observes.

Concepts such as war, jihad (holy war) and martyrdom, which were widely dealt with in old texts, do not appear in the latest ones.

In the English final exam, the Palestinians are depicted as victims, while Israel is seen as a brutal aggressor, the report says.

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Building on bagels: Kehilla connection in York

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE
Special to The CJN

It's a long way from bagels to bricks, but the road was paved with warmth and dedication at a Nov. 26 workshop sponsored by Kehilla Residential Programme, the housing agency of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Almost 60 planners, financial analysts, architects, lawyers and representatives of community agencies came together to seek practical solutions for developing affordable rental housing projects in York Region.

Following introductory remarks by representatives of Kehilla and York Region, participants in the workshop, Bagels to Bricks: Focus on York Region, held at Beth Avraham Yoseph Synagogue, split into three groups, corresponding to three pre-selected sites, chosen for their potential for lower-cost housing. Each group was given site plans and a list of special considerations for its location.

For one location, the future site of Temple Kol Ami on Dufferin Street north of Highway 7 in Vaughan, Kol Ami has stipulated that any development must preserve the property's natural maple grove. The other two sites, one also in Vaughan and the other in Newmarket, presented different challenges, from how to deal with hydro lines to parking considerations and public transit access.

Currently, almost half of York Region's renters and one-quarter of homeowners spend more than 30 per cent of their income on housing, a standard measure of affordability. Average resale home prices and rents in York Region have ballooned over the last 10 years, while vacancies have plummeted to 0.7 per cent.

The Jewish community is particularly vulnerable. York Region is anticipating a mass migration of Jews over the next few years, from 45,000 currently to 75,000 by 2011. Meanwhile, the number of seniors will triple, along with other potentially at-risk populations.

No new social housing has been built since the loss of government funds in 1995, a problem addressed by Newmarket Mayor Tom Taylor in his opening comments.

Taylor, chair of York Region's community services and housing committee, said the event was timely, in light of a recent York Region bylaw that offers private-sector incentives in exchange for commitments to provide affordable housing.

The workshop's intense number-crunching was followed by a wrap-up session over a bagel lunch. Representatives summarized their groups' brainstorming efforts, describing the kind of residences they had determined would best suit each location. They also provided detailed construction estimates and the average monthly cost to live in the units.

Several common elements emerged: all plans relied on "stick construction," wood-frame, low-rise structures, which, though they yield fewer units, ultimately offer much lower per-unit costs. The groups also factored in known incentives, such as York Region's Development Charge grants, which could lower the cost of building a two-bedroom apartment or townhouse by $6,000 to $8,000. Proposed monthly rents varied greatly depending on unit size and location, but generally ranged from $700 to $1,100.

Proposals also addressed human factors, describing how structures would meet the needs of at-risk populations, including seniors and people with disabilities. Other considerations, gleaned from participants' professional experience, ranged from accessibility and flameproofing to cost scalability and ownership subsidies.

Bagels to Bricks has become an annual event for Kehilla. The 2001 program focused on project possibilities within the GTA. Kehilla has built and still manages two non-profit housing projects in the GTA, and has partnered with organizations including the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, NaMeRes (Native Mens' Residence) and Ve'ahavta to promote housing solutions for diverse sectors.

Barry Bernstein, vice-president of Temple Kol Ami seemed pleased at the prospect of affordable homes sharing his synagogue's beautiful wooded property.

"We've got almost six acres," he offered with a smile. "There should be enough room."

WHY DEMOCRACIES SHOULD SUPPORT ISRAEL

David Kirk, co-editor, will discuss the revised work of late Dutch-Canadian journalist Pierre Van Paassen. Van Paassen, one of the greatest Christian friends of the Jewish people, was among the first to warn the world of Hitler's intentions and to join forces with the "extremists" who demanded there be a Jewish army.

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IDF choir puts on rousing performance in Toronto

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Orit Karasso, a major in the Israel Defence Forces, was on duty in Toronto and Montreal recently in the combined roles of commanding officer, "mom" and spokesperson for the IDF Choir.

While the six-person troupe – five singers and a keyboardist, plus their 23-year-old sound engineer – rehearsed for an evening performance at Toronto's Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation, co-sponsored by the synagogue and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Karasso, 33, discussed the role of the Jerusalem-based performers.

Although such troupes are part of an IDF tradition dating back more than 40 years, now that terrorism has increased, the choir is more popular than ever, Karasso said.

"The soldiers need a lift. This war was forced upon us."

On the other hand, she noted, there is still normal life in Israel. "It seems that people here think that in Israel, it's one big battle."

The troupe that visited Canada is one of about 20 such groups. Singer Alon Litvak, 20, told *The CJN* that the troupe's performances bring smiles to the soldiers' faces and keep them motivated. "That is why I'm doing this kind of job," he said.

IDF choir member Matan Dagan sings My Yiddishe Mameh to an audience member at a recent concert in Toronto. [Eve Marks photo]

Ilil Tamir, also 20, has always loved to sing. Her father, a professional singer, used to perform in a band. "I said to myself, if I love to make people happy [by singing], why don't I do it in the army?"

But with daily rehearsals, and cross-country travel to places such as Hebron and Gaza, where tensions are highest, it's a lot of work, Tamir said.

"The job they do is very important," said Karasso. "Their goal is to make the soldiers happy, to give them some relief from the fighting, an hour to sing, to smile, to forget all their other problems. The soldiers love them."

The audience at Beth David had a chance to see why later that evening, when the performers strutted their high-energy, rousing, interactive stuff before an appreciative crowd that clapped and danced along for much of the evening.

Although their repertoire includes rock and pop music ("things the soldiers like," Karasso said), here they stuck to more traditional standards – such as *Adon Olam*, a Sephardi medley, *Halleluyah* and a heartfelt version of Naomi Shemer's *Jerusalem of Gold*.

There was even a bilingual Hebrew and Yiddish version of *My Yiddishe Mameh*, highlighting the cantorial prowess of Matan Dagan, 20, who sprinted into the audience to clasp the hand of a white-haired woman and sing to her.

Despite what is happening in Israel, "Israelis still have hope," Litvak told the audience in his introduction to *Ani Noladti La'Shalom* (I Was Born to Peace).

The theme of solidarity with Israel was stressed by the performers and representatives of the evening's sponsors: Cantor Marshall Loomer of Beth David and Dodi Weill, a UJA Federation lay leader, who were both in Israel recently on missions organized by their respective institutions. UJA Federation raised $61.3 million this year to assist terror victims and provide other social services, Weill noted.

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'Hockey mom' gets double dose of naches

By HEATHER CHEIFETZ SHERMAN
Special to the CJN

Andrea Iscoe received a double-dose of *naches* in the mail recently – from royalty, no less.

First, Iscoe received an invitation to an awards ceremony from the Duke of Edinburgh. The invitation announced that her eldest son Alex, 22, was a winner of the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award of Achievement for demonstrating excellence in leadership and skill development, physical fitness and expeditions, and community service.

Days later, another invitation arrived in her mailbox. This time, her husband Dr. Neill Iscoe, a medical oncologist with the Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre, was being awarded with the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal by Ontario Lt.-Gov. James Bartleman.

A Canadian Cancer Society volunteer for more than two decades, Neill was being honoured for his dedication to the charity.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award was founded in 1956 in the United Kingdom by Prince Philip to encourage personal development and community involvement in young people. The program, which operates in more than 90 countries, has Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards, and is open to all young people between the ages of 14 and 25.

To satisfy the criteria for the award, Alex coached hockey several times a week, enrolled in a week-long wilderness emergency response course and worked as business editor of his high school yearbook at Upper Canada College.

"The award is based completely on your own initiative," says Alex, who is currently finishing up a business degree at the University of Western Ontario. "So you have to be really motivated."

Alex, who was hired recently by CIBC World Markets, will begin work in one of the investment bank's New York offices next summer.

Neill's work in cancer treatment and research began when he was at McGill University's medical school in Montreal. Losing his mother to the disease in 1974 also had an impact on his career, he says.

"It gives me a much better perspective into what cancer patients and their families go through," he says. "I think it makes me a better doctor."

Andrea says community service has always been top priority for the Iscoe family, which also includes Ben, 20, and Charlie, 15.

"They all grew up with a great sense of community and giving back," Andrea says, referring to their help in such events as fundraisers for the Sunnybrook Cancer Clinic. "We did it as a family."

But there were sacrifices. Neill's donating close to 40 hours a month to charity work took a significant chunk out of the family's quality time together, he says.

"I missed some hockey games," Neill says. "That's probably what they remember most."

Andrea Iscoe with her two award winners, husband Neill and son Alex.

Andrea, a self-admitted "hockey nut," who has her late father's Maple Leaf Gardens chair prominently displayed in her dining room, says the sport has been the mainstay of the Iscoe family since her three sons were born. She credits hockey with giving them strong self-esteem, a healthy competitive attitude and an ambitious streak.

Both Ben and Charlie have big-league ambitions.

Ben, who is currently studying radio and television arts at Ryerson University, hopes to go to Hollywood one day.

After finishing high school, Charlie hopes to win a hockey scholarship to a top American university, although, he says that at the moment, he has no desire to play professionally in the NHL.

"I haven't got it all figured out just yet," he grins.

No matter, says mom, as long as all of her men are happy.

"I want them to be focused," Andrea says. "But I also want them to be keen and curious, to see and do a lot, to be capable and explore."

A Taste Of Canada

It may take 11 non-stop flight hours to reach Ben Gurion Airport from Toronto, but set aside physical distance and you'll see that Israel and Canada are closely connected. So, if you're looking for a taste of Canada in Israel, eh, here's where to turn.

Canada Centre, Metulla – There's nothing else like it in all of Israel – an all purpose recreation complex, housing two skating rinks – one Olympic size, a large swimming pool a basketball court and even a bowling alley (sorry, it's 10 pin). Canada Centre, built by Canadian donations to the UIA network is the jewel of Metulla, where you're likely to see future skating superstars practising their award-winning moves.

Skating & Hockey – Hockey in Israel is alive and well at four rinks across the country. Israel's first hockey school started in 1986 and the Israeli national team has been competing since the 1989-90 season. There's even an ice skating rink on the Mediterranean coast - in Bat Yam - just south of Tel Aviv.

Ayalon Park – Located between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, the 7500-acre park, built by the Jewish National Fund of Canada, is a huge refuge for recreation or relaxation in the biblical Ayalon valley.

Eilat/Elot & Beersheba – Israel's southernmost region is twinned with Toronto under the Jewish Agency's *Partnership 2000* program. Montreal is closely linked with Beersheba and Western Canada is connected to the Galilee.

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Dessen was 'dedicated to his beliefs and values'

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Community leader Harold Dessen died recently of cancer. He was 81.

Dessen was particularly passionate about Jewish education and scholarship, his granddaughter Sharrona Pearl said at his funeral.

Obituary

Dessen was an active leader at Associated Hebrew Schools, having served as school president, honorary chairman of the board of governors, chair of the va'ad hachinuch and chair of the budget and finance committee and the scholarship and endowment fund committee.

He was also a past president of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) and a life member of its board of directors. As well, he was involved with the funding arms of UJA Federation and its predecessors, and worked to ensure proper funding for Jewish day schools.

For many years, he was also active in the Chug HaTanach, a group that included Rabbi Leo Jacober and Jack Burke of Associated who gathered every second week to study Torah. At least once a year, Dessen led the session.

Pearl said her grandfather was "a proud man, dedicated to his beliefs and values." He had a passion for life, she said.

Dessen was a chartered accountant, who worked with numbers and statistics his whole life, but he had a romantic side.

He loved poetry, Pearl said, and wrote a special poem for every family anniversary, birthday or special event.

Rabbi Benjamin Friedberg, Dessen's brother-in-law, said Dessen was self-disciplined, making it a point to keep fit by adhering to a healthy diet and exercising, even when he was ill.

He insisted on the highest standards, not only for himself, but in the causes he championed, especially education.

Dessen was born in Toronto and grew up on Henry Street, attending shul at Chevra Shas on Cecil Street and later on Bathurst Street, where he continued to go to say kaddish and where he began to study Talmud. He continued to study Talmud every Shabbat.

He grew up, Rabbi Friedberg said, "in a culture of learning," and was able to blend the "immigrant environment with the Canadian reality."

Dessen and his wife Eva recently celebrated their 59th anniversary. "They were the most beautiful couple," Pearl said. "There was magic in how they looked at each other."

Dessen is survived by his wife, Eva, daughters Susan Pearl and Serena Dessen, grandchildren Mayeer and Sharrona Pearl, and brother Sol. He was predeceased by brothers Jack, Harry, Sam and Morris.

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Jewish students on campus celebrate a sweet peace

By SHIRA ZELIGER
Special to The CJN

"Peace by Piece, Peace is Possible" read the colourful poster above a huge table-sized cake with the message of the day written in frosting: "Celebrating 25 Years of Peace: Israel and Egypt."

This display of hope for and celebration of peace on Nov. 20 was made possible by the centres for Jewish campus life at York University, the University of Toronto (U of T) and Ryerson University.

The idea of distributing pieces of cake in celebration of Israel's peace efforts was proposed at the Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS) Israel Advocacy Retreat in October by Mike Schneider.

President and CEO of Rhino International Inc., a training and development company that works with university students, Schneider told the students it is one way Jewish students on campus can bring the issue of the Middle East to the general campus community, in a calm and positive manner.

To celebrate the 25th anniversary of former Egyptian president Anwar Sadat's historic trip to Jerusalem on Nov. 20, 1977, about 3,000 free pieces of cake, as well as stickers celebrating peace and leaflets explaining the anniversary, were handed out in busy areas of the three university campuses.

At York, many students said the Jewish Student Federation should be commended for taking a step in the right direction.

At U of T, hundreds of pieces of cake were distributed. "Everyone enjoyed the event whether it was for gastronomic or political reasons," said Adam Cutler, 20, chair of the student co-ordinating committee at the U of T Hillel-Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life.

"With the help of something universally tempting such as cake, we were able to educate those who were unfamiliar with Israel's continuous efforts to make peace with her neighbours," said Philip Abramson, a second-year engineering student at U of T.

At Ryerson, Gaby Hanna, president of Ryerson's Christian-Arab Association, assisted the Jewish Students Association (JSA) in distributing cake.

"The event was a wonderful way to calm tensions on campus and although the JSA does have a good working relationship with the Muslim Students Association, we wanted to promote Israel and show the campus community that we are a peace-loving and cake-eating group," said Elyse Zarek, a second-year journalism student at Ryerson. "It was definitely one of our best events so far."

Many students said it was a refreshing change to see positive and peaceful Israel advocacy on campus, since just a few weeks earlier, there were frequent outbreaks of disagreement between the Young Zionist Partnership and the Middle Eastern Students Association's Palestinian human rights committee at York University.

Since the event fell during the holy month of Ramadan, Muslim students were not able to participate. However, the Jewish Students Federation (JSF) at York gave the leftover cake to the Muslim Students Association to have when they broke their fast at nightfall.

JCS is preparing more activities that promote Israel in a positive light. The plans for Israel Fest 2003, to be held in January at university campuses across Ontario, are in full swing.

"While we are celebrating peace, we were also celebrating the bravery and vision of Anwar Sadat who made a historic move toward peace. Through Peace by Piece, we challenge the Palestinian leadership to follow in Sadat's vision and take steps toward a lasting peace," said Daniel Held, JSF's Israel affairs co-ordinator.

Shira Zeliger is a first-year religious studies major at York University as well as a member of the JSF Israel affairs committee.

Ont. students to party for Israel in Toronto

Jewish students representing almost a dozen campuses across Ontario are joining forces for an Israel fundraiser, to be held in Toronto.

Doors will open at 9:30 p.m. on Dec. 21 for a Winter Fundraiser for Israel, being held at Planet Hollywood, 277 Front St. W. All proceeds will go to the UIA Federations Canada Israel Emergency Relief Fund and Canadian Magen David Adom. Entry is $5, and all ages are welcome. A wristband policy will be in effect.

In May, a similar event at the Hard Rock Cafe at Skydome raised $3,500 for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Israel Emergency Campaign.

"We hope to exceed that," said Josh Shuval, immediate past president of the Jewish Students' Union at the University of Western Ontario, who is co-ordinating the event with Carly Shiner, president of McMaster University's Jewish Student Association (JSA).

"The vast majority of Jewish students who go to these [Ontario] campuses are from Toronto," said Shuval, explaining the rationale for holding the event in Toronto.

With the May event, and a leadership seminar held in October, "we've begun taking the first steps towards closer ties between campuses," he said.

For further information, contact Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto at 416-785-1465, London Jewish Campus Services at 519-642-3256, the JSA in Hamilton at 905-522-7215 or Regional Jewish Communities of Ontario at 416-697-3575.

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'I was bashert to be a chazzan,' 22-year-old says

By PHYLLIS SHRAGGE
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — The youngest cantor in Canada, Cantor Shneur Bielak, 22, of Beth Jacob Synagogue, thanks God each day for providing him with a lifetime commitment to a calling that defines all aspects of his being.

"I'm eternally thankful that HaShem chose me to pray on behalf of others," Bielak said in an interview.

"Sometimes people regret what they are doing with their life. I respect my own decision. Every day I say the first prayer, and I really mean it. I am thankful to God for waking up in the morning," he said.

"Since I was little, one of my earliest memories was of my mother teaching me how to say the *Shema*. I still take time to speak to HaShem every night," Bielak said, adding he wants to help others make a similar connection.

"The most important thing to me is being a chazzan so I can bring people closer to HaShem. I want to share the feeling I feel with them. The best way I can do it is through the gift God gave me."

Cantor Shneur Bielak

He sees it as his calling.

"There is a difference between doing something you like and doing something that you were created to do," Bielak said. "I believe that this was my destiny. I was bashert to be a chazzan. This was my path."

Bielak, who has officiated at Beth Jacob since July, was certain about his destiny at a young age. When he became a bar mitzvah, he was overcome with a sense of spirituality. He said he felt close to God.

"I became elevated."

As a youngster in Toronto, he and his four brothers grew up listening to cantorial music in what he describes as a modern Orthodox home. "We would listen to it often, even in my father's van. On erev Shabbat, my mother would sing to a CD or a record."

Music was the focus of Bielak's life. He walked for hours to shuls in order to hear various chazzanim sing. He studied cantorial music on his own, using tapes, and he studied with various cantors. He also studied at the Royal Conservatory of Music.

At the age of 16, he was the High Holy Day cantor at a synagogue in Nova Scotia.

"That was the clincher. That was the point when I knew I could do it. I just had to continue to work at this."

He majored in religious studies at York University. Then he attended the cantorial program at Yeshiva University but dropped out after one semester. He now studies with Cantor David Nemtzov and Esther Gershony, a vocal coach, in Toronto.

Bielak was the cantor at Beth Radom Synagogue in Toronto for a year before becoming cantor at Beth Jacob. His position at Beth Jacob includes the responsibility of being administrator of the Hebrew school.

He said the cantor who had the greatest influence on him was Montreal's Sidney Dworkin, formerly of Toronto.

Bielak recalls Dworkin saying: "It is not enough to sing well. You have to incorporate being a chazzan into your life. You have to bring spirituality into people's lives when you are davening."

Bielak lives by that philosophy.

"For me davening and chazzanut are two things that have to come together. When you combine the chazzanut and the respect the liturgy deserves, it becomes something else. You have to get to a person's soul. You have to let them feel that closeness [to God] that you feel," Bielak said.

In preparation for High Holy Day services, he sits in his office for about 15 minutes in order to get into the spiritual mode." The words, "Know before whom you stand," inspire him, he said.

"You have to actually feel you are standing before God and treat the davening with that much respect."

Bielak's interests include an appreciation for opera and a passion for cars. He said the letters on his car license plate, "BRCH HSHM," exemplify the public expression of his love for God.

Catholic students create Holocaust exhibit in Winnipeg

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Jewish Museum of Western Canada's current exhibit contains works related to the Holocaust that come from a rather unusual source – the Grade 8 students at Holy Cross School, a private Catholic school here.

Holy Cross teacher Gerry Bohemier has been teaching a unit on the Holocaust for the past 10 years.

"It grew out of the issue of bullying in our school," says Bohemier.

"What the Nazis did was certainly a form of bullying on a very large scale. We were also discussing *The Diary of Anne Frank*. It just evolved from there."

Bohemier's Holocaust studies program also received a major boost from the late Hersh Zentner (who died last summer), a pioneer of Holocaust education in Manitoba.

"Hersh came to speak to us twice," Bohemier says. "He was a big influence in our moving from studying films and books to creating displays and presentations."

The exhibit at the JMWC, which opened Nov. 14 and runs to Jan. 10, focuses on individual stories of the Holocaust, Bohemier says.

Some of the projects are based on the story of Gerda Weisner, author of *One Survivor Remembers*. One group did a presentation on Katie Simmons, a Winnipegger who was recognized earlier this year by Yad Vashem for sheltering a Jewish family in wartime Holland.

"Some students did a presentation on a book called *The Poisonous Mushrooms*, written in Germany in the 1930s, which taught readers how to spot a Jewish person," Bohemier says.

One of the features of the exhibit, says curator Stephanie Middagh, are masks made by the students painted with images indicating what they learned about the Holocaust and how it made them feel.

Bohemier adds that what his students learn about the Holocaust significantly affects how they feel about people of other races.

"They develop greater respect for each other as well," he says.

The impact on their parents is also profound, Bohemier says.

"The parents were not really aware of what happened," he says. "When we were in high school and studied history, the Holocaust was never discussed. It seems that it has only been in the last 15 years that people have been studying the subject and talking about it.

"The parents have learned a lot from their children's displays and presentations. Some break down in tears."

As to the reaction of the Jewish community, Bohemier says it has been outstanding.

Middagh says more than 400 people showed up for the opening of the JMWC exhibit.

"We presented the displays at our school last year. This was the first time that the museum has invited us to mount an exhibit," Bohemier says.

10-year-old Winnipeger cuts his first CD

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Zach Raizman is in the very early years of what promises to be a brilliant career.

The 10-year-old Shore Elementary School student has already compiled a solid resume in the theatre and performing arts. Now, with the release of his first CD, he has become one of Canada's youngest original recording artists.

Raizman co-wrote the pop radio single *A Child's Prayer*, a call for peace, with Winnipeg-based music producer Danny Schur, who has worked with Canadian artists Chantal Kreviazuk and McMaster and James and wrote the musical *The Bridge*.

Schur describes Raizman as "an accomplished singer and wonderful talent whose song ideas are light years beyond kids his age."

For his part, Raizman says "it was very exciting working with Danny."

Singing is Raizman's passion, his mother, Louisa says.

He started singing when he was two years old and has been performing in musical theatre since he was five. His stage credits locally include *Oliver*, *Ragtime*, *The Sound of Music*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Anne of Green Gables* and *Footloose*.

Earlier this year, Raizman won a gold medal for his singing in the Manitoba Dance Festival and was the recipient of the Child of the Year award and the Best TV Commercial award at a recent Model and Talent Search Canada competition.

Raizman also takes violin and piano lessons and has performed in several violin recitals.

He has also landed a role in *Defending My Children*, a film starring Diane Keaton being made for the Lifetime Cable Network in the United States that is filming in Winnipeg this month.

Louisa Raizman says her son's CD is currently available in Winnipeg, Toronto, Calgary and Los Angeles and more than 60 copies have already been sold.

The young singer-songwriter's goal is to one day become an internationally known singer.

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Mazel Tov MOMENTS

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Rebekah Bayer... you already turned four on Oct. 11. Happy birthday. Love, Mom, Dad, Joshua and Grandma Rose.

Mazel tov Morrie & Sheila Glicksman on the happy occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on Nov. 16.

Mazel tov to Steven Cole & Heidi Mendelson, who were married June 30.

Mazel tov to David & Shirel Derfel on the birth of Naomi Yael. Grandparents are Lillian & Asher Benlolo, Roma Derfel, and Esther & Henry Derfel.

Happy third birthday Spencer Spiegelman, and happy seventh birthday Samantha Spiegelman. Love, Mom, & Dad, Zaidie Bernard, Nana Connie, Zaidie Cy, Bubbie Fay. We love you.

Mazel tov to George & Dorothy Goldman on your 50th wedding anniversary. With love from your family and many friends.

Lindsay Caitlin Abrams recently celebrated her bat mitzvah. Mazel tov from her proud grandparents Sheila & Morrie Glicksman.

Mazel tov on your 85th birthday Great-Grandma Anne Tenenbaum. Love of love, hugs and wet kisses, Jesse and Josh Sahian.

Mazel tov to Jennifer & Darren on your wedding Dec. 1. Excited parents are Barbara & David Redinger and Brigitte & Lorne Levine.

Miriam Malka Borden celebrated her bat mitzvah in June in Teaneck, N.J. Congratulations from Bubbie & Zaidie Szedlecki of Toronto.

Mazel tov Margie & Marc Socol, married Aug. 31 in California. Parents are Christine & Edward Slawinski of Texas; Elaine & Harvey Socol of California.

Mazel tov to Andrea Moscoe on her bat mitzvah. Love from your parents Susan & Randy, and Cassie and Brandon.

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Quebec MP criticized for Arafat greeting

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

Parliamentarians and Jewish community figures alike last week denounced Quebec member of Parliament Jean-Guy Carignan for sending out Christmas cards to his 2,000 constituents with a photograph of him posing with Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat.

Joyeux temps des Fêtes

The outrage was twofold: first, that a photo of Carignan with Arafat would be mailed out at public expense (the cards were printed and paid for by the House of Commons), and second, that an image of a man widely considered to be a terrorist would be used to deliver the traditional Yuletide message of peace and goodwill.

"This is outrageous for all Quebecers," Joseph Gabay, president of Canadian Jewish Congress' Quebec region (CJC-Q), said in an interview.

"This man is using your money and my money to send what he calls a peace message. But peace is not a controversial thing, and Arafat is at the centre of one of the biggest controversies in the world.

"Either this man [Carignan] has no judgment or he knew what he was doing. I suspect the latter. He even said he knew he might get a reaction."

Steven Slimovitch, national counsel for B'nai Brith Canada's League for Human Rights, told *The CJN* he thought it was a joke when he first heard about the card.

"Here you have a card-carrying member of the Liberal party sending out a card like this," he said. "The average person who gets it is sure to think that this is government policy."

Slimovitch called on Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to "distance himself" from Carignan.

Others joining the chorus of condemnations included Canadian Alliance foreign affairs critic Stockwell Day and B'nai Brith Canada national president Rochelle Wilner.

Like Slimovitch, Day said the card would be construed as Liberal policy.

Carignan, 61, is a rookie MP for the federal riding of Quebec East. A member of the Liberal party, he has served as an independent since he quit the caucus following a conviction two years ago on a hit-and-run driving charge he is now appealing.

The photograph with Arafat was taken in Ramallah last May when Carignan spent a week in the Middle East with eight other MPs on a trip sponsored by Palestine House in Mississauga, Ont.

Last week, Carignan, who says he intends to rejoin the Liberal caucus when his case is resolved, acknowledged that he expected the card to arouse some controversy.

He seemed unruffled by the incident, reportedly stating that he had nothing against the "Jewish or Israeli people" and defending his decision on the basis that Arafat was a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Carignan also noted that he'd recently attended a Chanukah party at the Israeli embassy and that if he went on a second junket to the Middle East paid for by the Israeli government, he would send out a card next year of a photo of him with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

It was also reported that Carignan is a member of the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Association.

But Slimovitch rejected Carignan's defence of his actions.

> ***He even said he knew he might get a reaction***

"My taxes are being used to show an MP's support for the PLO. It's completely unacceptable," he said.

Last Friday, an editorial in *The Gazette* referred to Carignan as "Arafat's little helper" and suggested that based on his own words, he was merely "angling" for another free trip to the Mideast.

"It's the only explanation we can come up with for the absurd picture Mr. Carignan has chosen to illustrate his Christmas cards to constituents," the editorial said.

Similarly, Gabay also thought it absurd that Carignan would send his constituents a seasonal message of peace with a picture of a man "whose credentials in terrorism are well-established."

Following the MPs' trip last May, Liberal MP Carolyn Parrish recommended in a report that "the occupation, with its brutality, destruction, humiliation and human rights violations, must end."

Coast to Coast

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מהגרים

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את תפקיד העובדת הזרה עושה סנדרה שדה, אשתו בחיים של מושונוב. שניהם, כמו גם השחקנים האחרים עושים תפקידים מדהימים. כשתסעו לארץ תחפשו את "מהגרים".

הפסנתרן

סרטו של רומן פולנסקי, במאי מהליגה הלאומית וניצול שואה, על הפסנתרן האגדי שפילמן, פסנתרן צעיר ומחונן לפני המלחמה, ששורד את השואה. זהו סרט מלא אכזריות מאין כמוה, דבר שכדאי שתקחו בחשבון טרם יציאתכם מן הבית. שפילמן ניצל, חוזר למעמדו הקודם בוורשה ונפטר בשיבה טובה בשנת אלפיים.

The Danish Play

קורות חייה של לוחמת חרות דנית, אגנס אוטוסן כפי שהומחזו על ידי נכדתו של אחיה, סוניה מילס. זהו מחזה שרץ בתיאטרון טאראגון עד ה 15 בדצמבר, כולל הצגות צהריים בשבת וראשון. הסיפור נוגע ללב עד דמעות ומרתק בו זמנית, וגם הנקודה היהודית מוסיפה לו רלוונטיות. הדנים, כזכור, מילטו את שבעת אלפי היהודים שלהם לשבדיה באוקטובר 1943, כשדלפה הידיעה שהגרמנים עומדים לשלוח אותם למחנות השמדה. המעטים שהגיעו למחנות זכו לביקורי הצלב האדום, ואף שחלק מהם מתו מהתנאים הקשים, איש לא הוצא להורג על ידי הנאצים, עקב הלחץ הדני. רוצו, רוצו, רוצו. זה יהיה אחד המחזות הטובים שתראו.

מה יהיה

ישראל מותקפת היום על ידי חלאות אדם פלשתינאים, על ידי חלאת אל קאידה, ומצטרפים אליהם בשיר ורננה רבבות רבות של חלאות אירופאיות, שאותבות יהודים חלשים, ולא יכולות לסבול אותם מגינים על עצמם. הישראלים הם היום היהודים של העולם. ישראל נתמכת על ידי חלק מהעם היהודי. בתוך החלק הזה התפקיד של ישראלים חייב להיות מרכזי. אסור לנו לשבת בשקט. יכול כל אחד לבחור את הדרך שמתאימה לו ביותר לתמוך- בכסף, בפעילות, בקניית מוצרים ישראליים, בעידכון אלה שאנחנו בקשר איתם, בנסיעה לארץ- אין סוף דרכים. רק אל תשבו על הגדר. אבל שישאר ביינו.

עמוס עוז- סיפור על אהבה וחושך

אף שחזכרתי את הספר הזה עם יציאתו לאור, אני מתכונן לחזור אליו פעמים רבות, כי לדעתי האוטוביוגרפיה הזו היא אחת היצירות הכי מדהימות שנכתבו בעברית.

עמוס עוז, ילד ירושלמי של שנות הארבעים מספר בתחילת הספר: "כמה תל אביב היתה רחוקה! במשך כל שנות ילדותי הייתי בתל אביב לא יותר מחמש שש פעמים.....אצלנו בירושלים הלכו תמיד קצת כמו בהלוויה, או כמו שנכנסים באיחור לקונצרט: קודם שמים את קצה הנעל וטועמים בזהירות את השטח. אחר כך, כשכבר מניחים כף רגל, לא ממהרים להזיז אותה.....מצד שני, אם כבר הגבתת את כף רגלך-אל תמהר לשוב ולהניח אותה: מי יודע איזו פקעת צפעונים רוחשת שם, צוררים, חורשי מזימות. הלוא במשך אלפי שנים אנחנו שילמנו מחיר דמים על פזיזותנו.....

אבל בתל אביב, מה זה! כל העיר היתה חרגול. האנשים נהרו והבתים נהרו והרחובות והכיכרות ורוח חיים והשדרות ואפילו העננים שבשמים..... בתל אביב הלכו אחרת: דילגו- ריחפו, כמו ניל ארמסטרונג על הירח.....(כתר הוצאה לאור).

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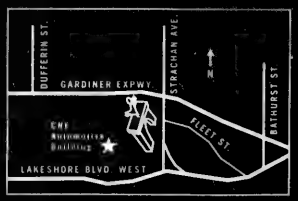

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Dec. 9, is deadline for Dec. 19 issue. As there will be no issue Dec. 26, all items that would ordinarily be in the Dec. 26 issue must be included in the Dec. 19 column. And Monday, Dec. 16. is deadline for Jan. 2. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Friday, Dec. 13

MUSICAL SERVICE

Looking for something different? Temple Emanu-El's Shir Chadash service celebrates Shabbat with a fully participatory, hand-clapping, toe-tapping warm and joyful singing prayer experience. 8 p.m., 120 Old Colony Rd.

Saturday, Dec. 14

STRANGE BEDFELLOWS

Nishma sponsors another religiously incorrect panel discussion, Strange Bedfellows: Orthodoxy and the Christian Right. Moderated by **Rabbi Benjamin Hecht**. 8 p.m. at the Nishma Centre, 322 Wilson Ave. 416-630-0588.

Sunday, Dec. 15

TORAH IN HUMAN HANDS

Shnayer Leiman of Yeshiva University, **Barry Levy** of McGill University and **Eric Lawee** of York University, lead a day of study entitled Not in Heaven: Torah in Human Hands, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.at Beth Jacob Congregation, 147 Overbrook Pl. 416-633-5770.

YIDDISHLAND CAFÉ

The Workmen's Circle Yiddishland Café evening of Yiddish songs with Montreal singer **Bronna Levy** and members of the klezmer group, Beyond the Pale, 7:30 p.m at Workmen's Circle Hall, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Reservations at 416-787-2081.

Monday, Dec. 16

PERSONALITIES OF POP

Take a trip to Tin Pan Alley and meet personalities of pop with guide/composer **Ben Steinberg**, 8 p.m. at Temple Har Zion, 7360 Bayview Ave. 905-889-2252.

YIDDISH AND BROADWAY

Yiddish and Broadway classics, featuring the singing talents of **Cantor Deborah Staiman** presented by the Cranbrooke Friendship Club of United Jewish People's Order (UJPO) and the Winchevsky Centre, 12:30 p.m. at the centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Program preceded by a light lunch. 416-789-5502.

Wednesday, Dec. 18

JEWISH GENEALOGY

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) monthly meeting 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Speaker is **Eli Rubenstein**, religious leader of Congregation Habonim and national director of the March of the Living. Title of the presentation is Stories of a Lost World: How Holocaust Survivors Transmit Their Message to Students on the March of the Living.

PERSONAL GROWTH

For singles. Do you really know who you are? A personal growth workshop, facilitated by **Sam Wales**. 7-10 p.m. Beth Tzedec Congregation. With the Intersynagogue Singles. Reserve. Call **Helen** 416-486-2269.

JEWISH JOKERS

Jewish Jokers and Humour Group meets monthly, all ages, non-profit, prizes, fun. Call **Irv Helpert** for registration 416-661-2541.

And What Else Is New

INNER HARMONY

Body and Soul Rejuvenated, a weekend retreat sponsored by Jewish Russian Community Centre,

Continued on page 27

The Canadian Jewish news

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What's New

Continued from page 26

Friday, Dec. 27 to Sunday, Dec. 29, with **Rabbi Zushe Silberstein** of Montreal. Regain your emotional and spiritual wellbeing at JRCC's annual mid-winter getaway. For information/registration, **Chana Weisberg**, dean of JRCC Institute of Torah Study. 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Shomer Israel Congregation traditional heimish minyan welcomes all non-affiliated. No dues. Shabbat 9 a.m. Shabbat Minchah study class with **Rabbi Sheldon Schwartz.** Sunday morning minyan 8:30 a.m. 60 Rockford Rd. (behind Rockford Road Public School). **David** 416-256-1600.

TEL-AIDE

Are you a good listener? Do you want to help others? Tel-Aide: The Jewish Distress Line is looking for volunteers. 416-636-9610.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Excellent readers with clear speaking voice, good pronunciation and accuracy in reading post-secondary level texts can read material for students with visual impairment. Subject materials are mainly in the area of mathematics, computer studies, sciences and engineering. Volunteers read for approximately 2 hours per week. The time is flexible. The Ontario Audio Library is in the Sheppard Ave. and Don Mills Rd. area. Contact the Volunteer Centre of Toronto, North York branch, 416-631-6117.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors general meeting Thursday, Dec. 19, at 9:30 a.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. **Dr. Fergus Craik** discusses Memory and Aging. For information, **Tammy** 416-635-2860.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Dec. 12, video movie; Dec. 19, free discussion; Dec. 26, sing-a-long **Yitzchak Argaman**. For information, **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Saturday dance Dec. 21; Sunday dance Dec. 15; Pre-New Year's party Dec. 29. Membership open. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors Cultural Club meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. in the boardroom at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

It's not too late to register for the **Young at Heart Seniors** Miami trip at the glatt kosher Saxony Hotel. Call **Helen** 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Let's Have Fun with Yiddish, stories, jokes, anecdotes, videos, speakers, Thursday, Dec. 19, 1 p.m.

Current Events with **Joe Black,** every Monday.10-11:30 a.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Dec. 17, Israeli movie. **Anna** ext. 110.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/ Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Red Cross/Lifesaving Instructor course, Dec. 30-Jan. 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Prerequisites: 16 years of age; Bronze Cross and Emergency First Aid, completed Aqualeaders, Assistant teaching hours completed. 100 per cent attendance required. Register in person at membership desk. For information, call **Graham Ungar,** ext, 252.

Dec. 20, 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 21, 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., at the Leah Posluns Theatre, the Koffler Centre of the Arts presents the ballet, *The Nutcracker.* For tickets, ext. 258.

Monday, Dec. 23 at 8 p.m., the Koffler School of Music presents **David Broza** in concert. For tickets and information, **Adrienne Cohen** ext. 228.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Books and Bagels Sunday, Dec. 15, at 11 a.m. presents **David Kirk**, editor of *Israel: Democracy's Neglected Ally*.

Winter session programs start Jan. 6.Children's Programs, Adult Fitness and Recreation.

Hebrew Language: Hebrew 2, begins Jan. 14, Tuesdays 8-9:30 p.m. Improve your reading. Instructor **Esther Benari-Altmann**.

CHABAD OF MARKHAM ADOPTS FAMILY: Sharon Evans, founder of Adopt-a-Family of Israel, was guest speaker at Chabad Lubavitch of Markham recently. She spoke about how this program connects Diaspora Jews with victims of terror in Israel. Pictured above is the Aluf family, adopted by Chabad Lubavitch of Markham. From left are Yifat, 20; Uri, 18; Gila, a physiotherapist and mother of the family; Barak, 13, who celebrated his bar mitzvah just before his father, Boaz, was killed in a suicide bus bombing last June; Boaz, 54; Ruth, 10, and Tamar, 16.

ASSOCIATION OF HEBREW FREE LOANS: Pictured at the banquet of the 21st annual Conference of the International Association of Hebrew Free Loans, hosted by Toronto Jewish Free Loan Cassa (G'milut Chasodim) Association are Jack Schwartz, left, recipient of the 2002 Maimonides G'millut Chasodim Award, and Allen Luterman, president of the International Association of Hebrew Free Loans.

NA'AMAT INSTALLATION: Anita Blanshay of Montreal (seated, centre) was installed as national president of Na'amat Canada at the 13th Triennial Convention held recently in Toronto. Standing, from left, are past national presidents Ruth Wolfish-Rotman, Etty Danzig, Pearl Mekler and Tillie Margolis, and seated, from left, are convention chair Erika Bloom, Blanshay and immediate past president Marilyn Myers. [Mollie Rothman photo]

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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Coast to Coast

Media reports focus on shift in Palestinian strategy

According to Reports
By PAUL MICHAELS

In his column, "Modest glimmers of Mideast hope" (*Globe and Mail*, Nov. 29), Marcus Gee draws attention to two potentially positive developments in Israeli-Palestinian relations – the reconfirmation of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as Likud party leader, who campaigned against Benjamin Netanyahu on a platform of acceptance of some form of future Palestinian statehood; and the serious rethinking by senior Palestinian officials about the continued usefulness of terrorism against Israelis.

Gee is indeed correct when he writes, "Though most Israelis have lost faith in the Palestinian leadership after two years of suicide attacks, polls still show that most would support a Palestinian state if it brought peace." Israelis prefer the short term security that Sharon represents, while they tend to favour for the long-term the more dovish position of newly elected Labor leader Amram Mitzna.

While endorsing Mitzna's broad vision, a Nov. 22 *Ha'aretz* editorial called "Terror perpetuates conflict" cautions: "Until Palestinian society gives birth to a significant ideological and political movement that rejects the use of terror, it is difficult to see how Mitzna's doctrine could be accepted by the majority of Israeli voters. It is frustrating and outrageous to realize that the Palestinian public and its leaders do not understand that once again they are going to miss an opportunity for a positive change in relations between the two peoples."

This connects with the second positive development Gee describes – the growing recognition by senior Palestinian officials that terrorism has been a disaster for their own people, and has set back rather than advanced their cause for independence.

Citing the stinging criticism of the militants by senior PLO official Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), initially printed in the London-based Arabic daily *Al-Hayat* on Nov. 26, Gee notes that a number of important Palestinian personalities, including former Gaza security chief Mohammed Dahlan, are also calling publicly for an end to Palestinian terror.

Nabil Amr, a former Palestinian Authority minister, also wrote a now famous "Open Letter" to PA President Yasser Arafat in *Al-Hayat al-Jadida* (Sept. 2) in which he decried the lost opportunity for statehood the Palestinians had at Camp David in the summer of 2000:

"Didn't we jump for joy over the failure of Camp David? Didn't we throw mud at the picture of [former U.S.] president [Bill] Clinton who dared to submit a proposal for a state with some modifications? Didn't we do this? We are sincere with ourselves? No, we were not. This is because after two years of bloodshed we [now] accept what we rejected, perhaps because we know that it is impossible to achieve."

The voices of Mahmoud Abbas, Nabil Amr and several others, including prominent intellectual and PLO representative in Jerusalem Sari Nusseibeh (who urges that Palestinians reverse the "right of return" to present-day Israel if they wish to live in a true two-state arrangement) are beginning to resonate in mainstream western media outlets.

The *Toronto Star*'s editorial, "Mideast mixed signals" (Dec. 1), reflects on the implications of such messages for Arafat: "If Arafat cannot bring himself to challenge this view [that terror is justified] publicly and forcefully, he should bow out. To be credible peace partners Palestinian leaders must make themselves heard for peace above the noise of rockets, bombs and guns. They haven't yet."

The fate of Palestinian national aspirations could well rest on Arafat's response to such internal pressure for a fundamental shift in strategy.

Paul Michaels is director of communications of the Canada-Israel Committee.

TORAH DONATED: The Bregman family, members of Holy Blossom since 1988, recently decided to donate a Torah to their congregation in honour of their four children. The new Torah, created in central Europe in the 1930s, was read by daughter Carrie on her bat mitzvah. Seen here (from left) Rabbi John Moscowitz, Sarah, Barbara, Michael, Marcie, Michael's mother Yetta, and Carrie Bregman.

Coast to Coast

Hillel promises to fight CSU ban in court

Continued from page 1

The CSU Council of Representatives passed a resolution by a vote of 8-to-1 demanding that Hillel apologize and that the Concordia administration investigate whether Hillel has violated Canadian law and university anti-racism rules.

CSU councillor Adam Slater, who presented the motion, cited the Foreign Enlistment Act, which makes it an offence to recruit within Canada for the armed forces of any foreign state. The council also mentioned an earlier student decision forbidding military recruitment on campus.

Hillel was also reprimanded because the flyer states the program is for Jews only.

Hillel co-president Noah Joseph, a CSU council member and the single dissenter in the vote, acknowledges that the flyers were displayed on a Hillel information table for about two hours.

Joseph, however, believes the CSU action is unjust because Hillel was not given fair hearing before the suspension was imposed. Hillel also believes the motion was a pretext to shut down the Jewish student group, because left-wing, pro-Palestinian CSU members don't like Hillel's pro-Israel activism.

"The CSU appointed itself judge, jury and executioner, all within half an hour," Joseph said.

The motion means Hillel will not get the $3,000 the CSU has allotted to it in its current budget and the CSU will not sanction its information tables, posters or booking of space on campus.

The suspension comes just over a week after Hillel regained its right to hold activities related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. On Nov. 25, Concordia's administration lifted the moratorium on all such activities, which it imposed after a violent protest on Sept. 9 against former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu

In defiance of the suspension, Hillel held a Chanukah celebration and protest rally against the CSU action last Thursday afternoon in the main auditorium of Concordia's Hall building, with the administration's permission. More than 400 students and community leaders attended the event, where a small group of pro-Palestinian students heckled Rabbi Reuben Poupko while he was speaking.

Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR) activist Samer Elatrash, who is facing criminal charges related to the events of Sept. 9, was arrested outside the hall for what a police spokesperson called breach of the conditions of his bail.

In its lawyer's letter, Hillel noted that Elatrash was present and spoke at the CSU meeting where the resolution was passed, and that this may violate the restrictions placed on his activities on campus while he is out on bail.

At least a dozen police vans with helmeted officers were on standby outside Concordia during the Hillel rally.

Hillel contends the CSU contravened its own bylaws which require distribution of its meeting's agenda at least five days in advance. Joseph said Hillel was informed of the planned motion only on the afternoon before the Dec. 2 evening meeting. The motion was introduced close to midnight as "new business."

"The councillor who moved the resolution obviously put a significant amount of time into the wording of the motion and easily could have submitted the motion earlier and given us a chance to investigate the issue properly," Joseph said. "He decided specifically not to do so and council supported these ambush tactics.

Initially, the motion was ruled out of order by CSU council chair Omar Badawi because of the lack of notice. But that was overturned by a majority vote of the council.

Hillel also contends the CSU is misinterpreting the Foreign Enlistment Act.

Concordia spokesperson Chris Mota said last week the university's legal counsel is studying the matter, but had no further comment.

CSU vice-president Aaron Maté said he feels that if Hillel apologized and agreed to not do the same thing again, the CSU might rescind the resolution. "For me it would suffice, but for others it might not," he said.

The flyer, headlined Volunteer for the IDF/MAHAL 2000, appears to be a printout from Mahal's Web site.

Mahal, a Hebrew acronym for "Volunteers from outside Israel," has been around since 1948, when many Jews from abroad, including Canadians, fought in Israel's war of independence. Today, it is open to Jewish men and women aged 18 to 30. They receive basic training and Hebrew instruction before performing nine months of active service in either combat or non-combat units.

Volunteers receive Israeli temporary resident status before enlisting.

The 1985 Foreign Enlistment Act makes it illegal to recruit Canadians to join a foreign army, but it is not illegal for Canadians to volunteer to join one.

The act states that "any person who, within Canada, recruits or otherwise induces any person or body of persons to enlist or to accept any commission or engagement in the armed forces of any foreign state or other armed forces operating in that state is guilty of an offence."

An exception is made for foreign consular officers who are appealing to nationals of their country.

Anat Uzzan, director of the Israel Aliyah Centre in Montreal, said Canadians have a long history of Mahal service, but the organization does not actively recruit in Canada. "Most people know other people who did it or go to Israel and hear about it, or see it on the Internet," she said.

Hillel is also peeved with the CSU because at the same meeting it rejected a request by Hillel that it be co-sponsor of a conference on anti-Semitism the CSU plans to hold early next semester, an idea put forward by CSU president Sabine Friesinger.

"The CSU wants to have a conference on hatred against Jews and yet... it specifically does not want the Jewish student group to take part in the planning of the conference. I'm afraid we're going to have our own little Durban here at Concordia," Joseph said.

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Health & Lifestyles

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Researcher works toward gene therapy for cancer

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Dr. Varda Rotter reaches for the sugar packets on the table – not to add to her coffee, but to illustrate a point.

A genetic engineer and senior researcher at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Rotter, 55, has been studying the tumour-suppressing P53 gene in cancer development for the past two decades, ever since her days as a post-doctoral researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, just before she returned to Israel and the Weizmann Institute.

Dr. Varda Rotter

Deftly snaking a pink paper packet of sweetener along the table and off to one side, Rotter metaphorically eliminates a P53 gene that has gone "bad," marking an "x" on it in pen for good measure.

The gene, she explained in a recent interview in a downtown Toronto hotel, is normally a "guardian" that signals cancer cells to stop proliferating, first sensing the error that has caused them to become cancerous and then correcting it.

Errors in a cell can be addressed in two ways by the body, Rotter explained.

Either a cell undergoes a DNA "repair pattern," or if damaged cells are not repairable, they are killed off and replaced by healthy new cells. "This is how we take care of ourselves, " Rotter said.

"This is the fascinating thing," she said. "If we understand what nature is doing [when P53 is working properly], maybe we can mimic it."

Almost 60 per cent of primary tumours – representing a variety of types of cancer, including lung, colon and breast cancer – are associated with mutations in the P53 gene, she said.

"Cancer is basically a disease of the genetic material," she said. "Mistakes in the gene can happen when you walk in the street, when you eat, but sometimes we are born with a defective gene."

Theoretically, she said, it is possible to fix such mistakes using cloned DNA from normal cells, although methods need to be refined.

"We have known how for about 10 years... This brings us to a whole new field: gene therapy – to fix genes and to restore genes."

In the case of P53, gene therapy is "a little complicated," Rotter said, "because two things are happening. We lose the 'good' P53 gene, but probably gain a 'bad' one. The strategy has to be in two steps. It's a complicated scenario, to get rid of the bad one and introduce a good P53."

The purpose of Rotter's recent visit here was to strengthen ties with colleagues at Mount Sinai Hospital who are involved in cancer research.

She also hopes to collaborate with doctors there on the prevention of infertility, one of three major thrusts – along with osteoporosis and cancer research – of the year-old Center for Women's Health that Rotter heads at Weizmann and that was funded to a significant extent by Murray and Marvelle Koffler of Toronto.

"We have a number of connections with institutions, but not with hospitals," Rotter said. Joining forces with doctors who treat patients will be mutually beneficial, she feels. "We are really basic [lab] research."

A proposed boycott of Israeli scientists involved with the European Molecular Biology Organization earlier this year, while troubling, has not affected Rotter's research, she said.

"In Israel we cannot live without connections to the outside world, and Europe is our prime base," she said. "We were lucky enough that German, French and English scientists decided in a very strong way to ignore this boycotting of Israel.

"It was a very tough time. We felt that science should not involve politics at all, and here comes politics and dictates science. Science has no countries. Science is freedom of the mind, with no limitations... Science cannot be isolated. We have lots of collaborations with European labs."

In addition, she noted, Weizmann has scientific collaborations in North America and Asia.

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Seniors recall their youth at Club Anon reunion

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

In 1937, a handful of Jewish teenage boys came together to create Club Anon as a music appreciation group. It grew to some 55 members and later their girlfriends and spouses formed their own group called Nona – "Anon" spelled backwards.

Recently, more than 40 men and women between 75 and 85 years old, gathered for lunch at Milk and Honey Restaurant for an informal Club Anon reunion.

Willie (Bill) Rotman, 80, the organizer of the reunion along with Reuben Farberman, Sam Burke and Sid Gladstone, said the original social group met in private homes, but in 1941, they rented rooms at 572 Bloor St. W.

When they had to pay the first month's rent, they needed a club name for the receipt, so it was made out to anonymous. "So we just shortened it to Anon," says Rotman.

The club's first official party was held New Year's Day 1942. The club room had music equipment, a ping pong table and comfortable sofas.

"It was a place where we could shmooze, bring our dates and girlfriends, play music and dance." He adds that the group had some "notable" members – including artist Abba Bayefsky and pianist Harry Yolleck.

Rotman spent five years in the Royal Canadian Air Force and many other Anon members were in the armed forces during World War II.

During those years, younger members were brought into the group. When the war ended and the servicemen returned, they found they were not compatible with the younger group and this eventually led to the club's breakup.

Rotman said Rabbi David Monson was the group's honorary president. "Rabbi Monson would bring in Jewish young men to Club Anon from smaller communities who didn't know many people in Toronto."

Over the years, many of the members lost touch. In 1989, led by Rotman, Club Anon members held their first reunion at Adath Sholom Synagogue.

Seen at the recent reunion of Club Anon are, standing from left, Reuben Farberman and Sid Gladstone. Seated, from left, are Willie (Bill) Rotman and Sam Burke. [Cynthia Gasner photo]

"When we got older," Rotman said, "it became important for us to reconnect. It was wonderful meeting people we lost touch with – many we hadn't seen for more than 50 years. We were very emotional."

At an interview in their home, Rotman's wife Goldie, who was a member of Nona, said she "felt such a warmth between the men. At first, some didn't recognize each other, but when they found out who it was, they were thrilled, they embraced."

Says Rotman: "As the years go by we feel closer and closer. And many of us now keep in touch."

The group now meets more frequently at various places. Sadly, he said, "Our members are dying off and we want to squeeze in more simchas."

At the most recent get-together, Gladstone presented Rotman with a certificate of appreciation on behalf of the members for his leadership in organizing the Anon reunions.

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Israel warned of Al Qaeda threat in Prague

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — As word came Sunday of an Al Qaeda plan to target Jews and Israelis in Prague, a spokesperson for the terror network admitted in a Web posting it was behind twin attacks on Israeli targets in Kenya and in a second audiotaped message warned of more attacks.

Meanwhile, Israel's security establishment believes Al Qaeda activists in Lebanon are directing Palestinian terrorists based in Gaza. As well, the first Palestinian to be charged with undergoing training at an Al Qaeda base in Afghanistan has confessed to most of the charges against him.

In an audiotape message attributed to Al Qaeda spokesperson Soliman Abu Ghaith and broadcast on the Al Jazeera satellite channel, the group promised to pursue its enemies wherever they are.

Prior to the release Sunday of the audiotape message, a security source said, without giving details, that Israel has received intelligence information warning of plans by Al Qaeda to attack Jews and Israelis in Prague.

The capital of the Czech Republic is a popular travel destination for Israelis.

The source said Israel has received information from several foreign intelligence agencies warning of Al Qaeda plans to target Israelis overseas.

After the Nov. 28 attacks in Mombasa, Kenya, the Foreign Ministry issued travel advisories warning of potential danger to Israelis in Ethiopia, Eritrea, South Africa, Kenya and parts of Thailand.

No advisory has been issued for the Czech Republic, the ministry said.

Last week, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon said Al Qaeda is trying to send terrorists to Israel and the territories. They apparently were referring to information about Al Qaeda operatives in Lebanon, refugees from the U.S. assault on Afghanistan who are working with Hezbollah to direct terrorists in Gaza.

Israeli military intelligence believes that despite U.S. operations in Afghanistan, Al Qaeda operatives are still active there and are involved in trying to establish terror cells in the territories. Their main route is through Lebanon. Directives to a Lebanese cell of Muslim extremists who tried to blow up the Allenby Bridge and to attack Christian pilgrims on the eve of the millennium also reached them through Lebanon, with help from Hezbollah.

But over the weekend, both Hezbollah and the Palestinian Authority's Preventive Security apparatus denied Sharon's and Ya'alon's charges and claimed there is no Al Qaeda connection to Hezbollah or to Gazans. Israel believes they were both quick to disassociate themselves from Al Qaeda, fearing a vehement U.S. reaction.

In another new statement attributed to Al Qaeda posted on a militant Web site Sunday, Al Qaeda threatens faster, harder strikes against the United States and Israel "on land, air and sea."

"The Jewish Crusader coalition will not be safe anywhere from the fighters' attacks," the statement said, using a term common among Islamic militants for what they see as a U.S.-Israeli alliance. "We will hit the most vital centres and we will strike against its strategic operations with all possible means."

The Web statement was also attributed to Abu Ghaith. The site, which has posted previous statements attributed to Al Qaeda, included what appeared to be an old newspaper photograph of Abu Ghaith with the statement.

The whereabouts of Abu Ghaith, along with Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, have been a mystery since the network was chased out of its Afghan haven by U.S. bombing after the Sept. 11 attacks.

"We will chase the enemy with terrifying weapons," Sunday's Web statement said. "We have to widen our fighting fronts and conduct more concentrated and faster operations... so [the enemy] feels unsafe and unstable on land, air and sea."

The statement also said a recent Al Qaeda claim of responsibility for the Nov. 28 attacks in Kenya was genuine. U.S. officials have said they consider the claim of responsibility to be credible.

It has been difficult to trace and confirm postings attributed to Al Qaeda that appear periodically on several Web sites. The sites themselves often disappear and reappear, changing addresses as those who run them try to avoid being identified or after the Internet service providers shut down sites that have drawn the attention of law enforcement authorities and journalists.

Neo-Nazis marched in Berlin during Israeli president's visit

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

BERLIN — German neo-Nazis marched in Berlin Monday in protest of a visit by Israeli President Moshe Katsav, compounding awkwardness for a German government already under pressure to supply military hardware to its ally.

Berlin police approved the planned route along the central Unter den Linden avenue, where hundreds of supporters of the far-right NPD party marched with the theme "Hands off Palestine – No German Weapons for Israel."

Police said there is no law to prevent the march, although Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's government is trying to ban the NPD, or National Democratic Party, a party it likens to the Nazis. German authorities had been trying to move the march out of sight to the outskirts of the city.

Three counter demonstrations were also planned, which police estimated would bring out an additional 900 people protesting against the neo-Nazi display and showing solidarity with Israel.

On the second day of a three-day visit to Germany, Katsav was received with military honours Monday by his German counterpart before a meeting with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and a visit to a former concentration camp.

Katsav was greeted at the Bellevue Palace by President Johannes Rau, who had accompanied him at the dedication of a new synagogue in the western city of Wuppertal on Sunday. The Israeli president urged Germans to fight against anti-Semitism before that ceremony, and renewed the message in an interview Monday with the mass-circulation *Bild* daily.

"Hostility toward Jews in Europe is increasing – synagogues are being stoned," Katsav said. "Every leading politician in the free world must recognize that democracy as a whole is attacked by such actions."

Germany, burdened by guilt over the Holocaust, has been a close ally of the Jewish state for decades, but Israel's request has put Berlin in a quandary.

It has agreed to supply Israel with U.S.-built Patriot missiles to help defend Israel if Iraq launches Scud missiles against it as during the 1991 Gulf War, but has balked at the idea of supplying troop carriers.

Germany's Greens, coalition partners to Schroeder's Social Democrats, have been particularly concerned at the idea of German vehicles being used in operations in Palestinian areas.

Delivery of military hardware not exclusively defensive in nature could also hurt Schroeder's anti-war credentials. His firm opposition to joining a U.S.-led war against Iraq helped him narrowly win re-election in September.

But Katsav told *Der Spiegel* magazine on Saturday he would be "very disappointed" if Berlin said 'No' to Israel.

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Sharon may dismantle communities

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said last Thursday that he was not ruling out evacuating Israeli communities as part of a final status agreement with the Palestinians.

Speaking to a meeting of news editors in Tel Aviv, Sharon said that with the implementation of the June 24 plan proposed by U.S. President George W. Bush, Israel would create a contiguous area of territory that would allow the Palestinians to travel from Jenin to Hebron without passing any Israeli roadblocks. The prime minister said he would allow this to take place only after an end to terror and the replacement of the current Palestinian leadership.

In his most detailed acceptance yet of Bush's "vision" for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, Sharon told the Herzliya conference on national security last Wednesday that if he is re-elected, he will form a unity government based on the "Bush framework."

Sharon said, "President Bush's framework will be brought to the government I intend to form after the elections for approval, and I will work with all my strength to make it as broad a unity government as possible."

The prime minister said that in the first stage, the Palestinian Authority (PA) must go through comprehensive security and governmental reforms that would lead to a new government that is "honest and wants peace," while the current PA President Yasser Arafat would be moved out of a position of power and into a symbolic role.

In the second stage of this plan, he said, "Israel will allow the establishment of a Palestinian state with temporary borders." The prime minister said those temporary borders would include 42 per cent of the West Bank, "except for areas vital for security."

Sharon praised the close relations between his government and the United States and said the understandings with the administration "allow us the freedom of action needed for the war on terror." He said he believes that in the coming months, Israel will receive special economic aid from the United States.

He said political concessions are "not retractable," and that Israel will not return to control those areas it withdrew from as part of political agreements.

Ariel Sharon

He said the third and last stage of the Bush plan would mean negotiations for the final status of the Palestinian state and its permanent borders. But, he said, "we will not move from stage to stage until there is a proved state of quiet relations, a change in the Palestinian manner of government and growing and strengthening coexistence."

He finished his speech by saying, "These decisions are not easy for me and I will not deny that I harbour doubts and fears. But I have reached the conclusion that given the current reality, regionally and internationally, the State of Israel must act courageously to accept the political framework I described. There are risks, but the opportunities are enormous."

Both right- and left-wing leaders voiced criticism over Sharon's statements in support of Bush's framework. National Religious Party leader Effi Eitam said the establishment of a Palestinian state poses an existential threat to Israel and Labor party chairman Amram Mitzna referred to Sharon's remarks as a campaign slogan.

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Gazan admits Al Qaeda links

Continued from page 31

Meanwhile, sentencing will be handed down soon in the case of Nabil Ukal, arrested 2½ years ago at the Rafah border crossing on his way to a bin Laden training base in Afghanistan. Ukal, a Jabalya refugee camp resident, is on trial at a military tribunal at the Erez junction. He admitted to most of the charges against him as part of a plea bargain.

After he was arrested, Shin Bet described Ukal as bin Laden's emissary to the territories to establish an Al Qaeda cell there. The corrected charge sheet, however, accuses Ukal of undergoing weapons and sabotage training outside the territories, contacts with a hostile organization and conspiracy to commit a crime. The indictment does not mention the kind of plotting ascribed to him when he was arrested, but does detail Ukal's activities in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

According to the charges, Ukal first went to Pakistan in October 1997, first to undergo training in a base run by Al Ansar, an extremist Islamic group in Kashmir. From there he was sent by a Palestinian clergyman to Kabul, where Ukal met with a man dubbed only Abu Hamza, described as a bin Laden assistant. They went through a month-long training course at a bin Laden camp in Jalalabad. He was in touch with activists in the United States, Britain and Pakistan who are linked to a group called World Jihad, receiving instructions from them on how to set up an independent terror network in Gaza on his return.

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The Week in Israel

Dec. 2

• The Israeli army announced plans to demolish 15 Palestinian-owned properties along a route used by Jewish worshippers going to pray at the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron. Protective walls will be built along the corridor. The project was set in motion after Palestinian terrorists killed 12 Israelis on Nov. 15 on their way back from praying at the tomb.

Dec. 3

• Israel will continue its anti-terror operations in the Gaza Strip, Defence Minister Shaul Mofaz said. Mofaz said that in the past two years, the army has destroyed some 50 underground tunnels used by Palestinians to smuggle weapons from Egypt.

Dec. 4

• The Israeli army closed Israeli-Palestinian liaison offices in Ramallah and Jenin because there was no longer any co-ordination between the sides. Moreover, army personnel were considered to be at risk.

• Israeli inventors won the top three prizes at the 54th International Inventions Exhibition in Nuremberg, Germany. The exhibition displayed 680 entries from 40 different countries.

Dec. 5

• UN workers in the West Bank and Gaza Strip condemned the Israeli army for allegedly impairing their relief work. A petition by dozens of UNWRA workers denounced Israel for "continuing acts of violence against UN workers."

Dec. 6

• Israeli army troops, backed by tanks and helicopter gunships, hunted a fugitive militant in a crowded refugee camp in the Gaza Strip in the early morning, setting off battles that killed 10 Palestinians, including two UN schoolworkers.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Canada splits votes on new UN resolutions

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Six resolutions, some critical of Israel, were passed by the United Nations General Assembly last week.

Canada voted for three of the resolutions while abstaining on three.

The resolutions advocate a peaceful end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, demand a speedy resumption of the peace process, espouse a two-state solution in Israel's struggle with the Palestinians, urge Israel to withdraw to the 1967 armistice lines, call on Israel to repeal its annexation of eastern Jerusalem, and denounce terrorism.

Approved by lopsided majorities, they are not legally binding, as are Security Council resolutions.

Along with 159 other countries, Canada supported a resolution advocating a peaceful settlement of the "Palestine question."

Last year, Canada abstained.

Opposed by four countries – Israel, United States, Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia – the resolution broadly supports a solution in which Israel and a Palestinian state can live side by side within secure and recognized borders.

It urges Israel and the Palestinians to co-operate with all current international efforts, including those of the United States and the European Union, to settle the conflict through diplomatic means.

The resolution also describes Jewish settlements in the territories as illegal and takes note of "the deepening humanitarian crisis" facing the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Expressing "grave concern" about Israel's repeated raids into Palestinian autonomous areas and its reoccupation of major Palestinian towns in the area, the resolution stresses the need for a "complete cessation of all acts of violence."

In addition, the resolution calls on Israel to return to the pre-1967 borders and backs a solution to the Palestinian refugee problem based on a 1948 UN resolution.

In a Department of Foreign Affairs press release, Canada said it supported the resolution "because of our firm commitment to finding a peaceful resolution" to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

"We believe there is no military solution," the release added. "Violence must end and negotiations must resume."

During the debate, Israel's UN representative, Yehuda Lancry, defended Israeli policies and declared that any efforts toward peace would fail if they were not rooted in an unequivocable Arab rejection of terrorism and an Arab embrace of reconciliation and co-existence.

The Palestinian observer, Farouk Kaddoumi, accused Israel of "state terrorism" and of "exploiting" the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington, D.C.

Canada also voted for a separate resolution, backed by 154 nations, that demanded the annulment of Israeli legislation unifying western and eastern Jerusalem.

In the early 1980s, during Menachem Begin's administration, Israel passed the law to buttress its claim to eastern Jerusalem.

Apart from Israel, five countries came out against the Jerusalem resolution – United States, Micronesia, Costa Rica and Marshall Islands.

In previous years, Washington abstained. Its vote represented a major shift in American policy, observers said.

The three resolutions on which Canada abstained concerned the Golan Heights, the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and UN programs dealing with the Palestinians.

The first resolution was in reference to Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights. Israel wrested the Golan from Syria during the 1967 Six Day War, and effectively annexed it in 1981.

The resolution, which passed by a 109-4 margin, says the annexation is "a stumbling block in the way of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region."

Voting against were Israel, United States, Marshall Islands and Micronesia.

The second resolution asked the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to continue assisting the Palestinians in various ways.

Voting in favour were 109 nations. Aside from Israel, it was opposed by United States, Marshall Islands and Micronesia.

The third resolution endorsed UN efforts to organize meetings, prepare documents and disseminate information relating to the Palestinians.

One hundred and eight countries voted for the resolution, and again, the same four – Israel, United States, Marshall Islands and Miocronesia – opposed it.

Canada voted for a somewhat similar resolution urging the UN to distribute information about Palestinian issues.

Voting for it were 159 countries.

The Pacific island of Nauru joined Israel, United States, Marshall Islands and Micronesia in opposition.

World Jewish population down to 12.9 million

Continued from page 1

According to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, the world's Jewish population dropped from about 17 million in 1939 to 11.5 million at the time of Israel's creation in 1948. The figure reached 12.8 million by 1980, but has apparently shown little growth since.

Formed last May and funded with $1 million annually from the Jewish Agency and Jewish philanthropists, the Institute for Jewish People Policy Planning is jointly headed by former U.S. Middle East peace envoy Dennis Ross and Prof. Yehezkel Dror, a specialist in strategic government policy planning.

Its purpose is to create position papers that identify problems facing world Jewry and make recommendations to solve them.

The institute's board of directors and its partners – the Jewish Agency and the United Jewish Communities, the umbrella organization of North American Jewish federations – will then try to put any plans into effect.

Studies published at the conference, said the population decline is apparent in other major Jewish communities around the world. The French Jewish community has declined from 535,000 in 1980 to some 500,000 today, while the number of Jews in the former Soviet Union (FSU) has fallen from 1.45 million in 1989, to some 437,000 now. Most Jews from the FSU moved to Israel during the 1990s.

But according to Prof. Sergio della Pergola, an expert on demographics, "last year alone in Russia there were 8,000 deaths of elderly Jews, and only 600 births recorded to Jewish mothers. This is the end of a long process of assimilation and aging."

The only Jewish community in the world that is growing is Israel, which is home to most of the world's Jewish children under age 15.

Sallai Meridor, the Jewish Agency's Likud-appointed chair, called the population declines "appalling," saying the numbers represent "a point of no return."

He told the conference that "one of the biggest problems is the high cost of Jewish education in the West, and ways must be found to help more people pay for Jewish education for their children."

Meridor said the cost of day school is one of several issues that deter Jews from remaining active in the community. A family with three children in day schools, for example, could pay close to $60,000 (US) each year for tuition.

That can have two effects, he said: Jews who are less affiliated may decide not to pay, and affiliated Jews who want to send their children to day school may decide to have fewer children.

Yet Ross noted that Jewish day schools in America are experiencing a growth spurt that is "nothing short of phenomenal." Still, he added, "it has to be more accessible to more people."

Hinting that he may be shifting his views on the greater Land of Israel, Meridor said the demographic threat inside Israel, because of the increase of non-Jews in the population and the Israeli control over the territories, "must certainly influence our borders policy."

But, he added, "it also means that we cannot concede on the Palestinian right-of-return issue. And particularly, we must increase immigration. That is a vital need for Israel, like water in the faucet."

Meridor called for a more lenient rabbinical attitude toward the issue of converting non-Jewish immigrants.

"I hope that conversion continues to be the only gateway to the Jewish people, because I believe the people of Israel and the religion of Israel go together. But that's as long as religious values do not endanger national needs," he said.

"There will be no significant immigration in the future that does not include non-Jewish members of the family, and those who are ready to forgo those people should already give up the demographic effort."

Ross said "we have to examine which methods worked in the past and which didn't."

He noted that Jewish schooling, summer camps and organized trips to Israel are the best way to keep young Jews interested in the fate of the Jewish people. Furthermore, he said, "if Israel wants to remain the centre of the Jewish people, it must certainly remain a Jewish and democratic state."

With files from JTA.

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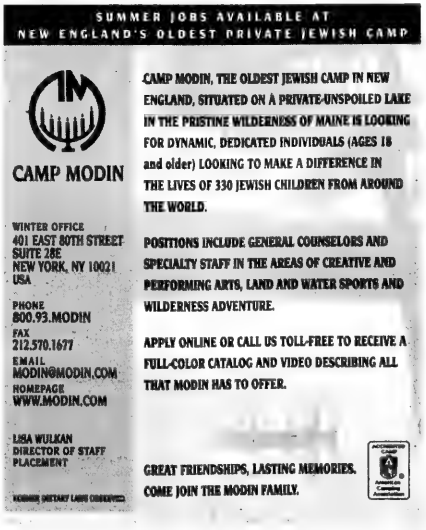
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ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 43.

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Message to *CJN* Snowbirds

If you will be spending all or part of this winter outside of Canada, there are three options available to you regarding delivery of your *Canadian Jewish News*.

1/ Continue regular delivery to your home, and arrange for Canada Post to forward *The CJN* on with your other mail each week.

2/ Advise our Circulation Department to suspend delivery until your return to Canada with no weeks lost in your subscription period.

3/ Arrange with our Circulation Department to redirect *The CJN* to your winter address at a cost of $10.00 per month for U.S. addresses and $11.00 per month for foreign addresses.

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Arts & Travel

The Dreamers *depicts Jewish life in Depression-era Toronto*

By CARRIE BRODI
Special to The CJN

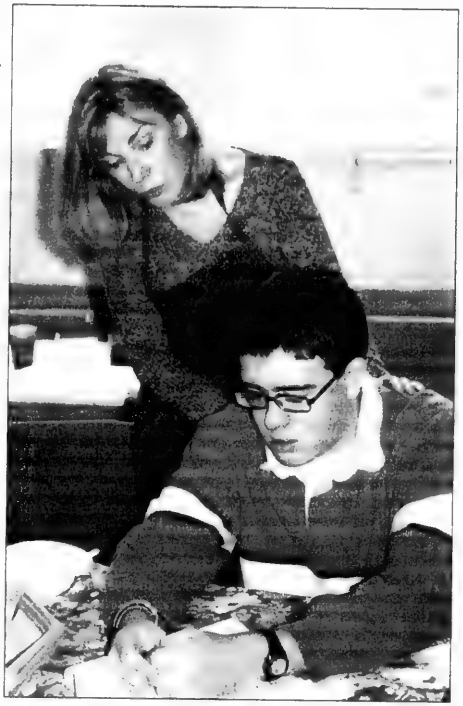
My grandmother never understood why, during my university years, I "chose" to live at Harbord and Grace streets in downtown Toronto.

For her, as a Jewish-Polish immigrant to Canada in the 1930s, that area represented three things: poverty, racial discord and alienation.

"But it's hip now, Bubbe," I would argue. She'd just shake her head, call me "crazy" and return to peeling onions in front of her favourite soap opera, *The Days of Our Lives*, in her Forest Hill living room.

Were she still alive, I'd take her to Holy Blossom Temple to see Irving Hoffman's bittersweet play *The Dreamers*, currently being produced by Stagecraft Company.

In it, a Jewish-Russian immigrant family living at Harbord and Grace struggles to fulfill their passions and pay the rent in Depression-era Toronto.



Susanne Egier and Zach Moull rehearse a scene from *The Dreamers*, directed by Irving Hoffman.

To survive, they must take in boarders, a collection of lonely souls and balabustas who yearn for family they left behind and their rightful place in a new land.

The father, Harry Gordon, (played by Eric Kirsh), plays viola but has just been laid off from his job with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Son Benny (played by Zach Moull) yearns to act but can't afford the $25 it costs to study his craft in New York City.

Daughter Emma (played by Dorothy Harach) loves to play the piano but has her sights more firmly set on marriage to the handsome boarder Michael (played by Ron Boyd).

In between passions, a dysfunctional set of grandparents, played with realistic hilarity by first-time actor John Freund and actress Ellen Karabanov, threaten divorce over the Shabbat table.

If the laughter during rehearsals was any indication, the play should bring down the house.

At one point, Harry asks granddad what he'll do about housing – the most pressing issue on everyone's mind – once he separates from his wife.

"I'll find a room," Freund responds dryly. And grandma? Harry asks. Pause. "She'll have to find a room, too," he replies.

For a retired civil servant, Freund has impeccable comedic timing.

Laughter aside, the play addresses serious issues of the day, including anti-Semitism.

The play is set against the backdrop of a riot at Christie Pits, where, during a baseball game in August 1933, a large street fight erupted between Gentile and Jewish youths.

Joel and Joanne Rose, founders of Stagecraft Company, say that they use the two plays the company produces each year year to bring Jewish material with moral and ethical content to Toronto's Jewish community.

Set against the backdrop of Christie Pits riot

For director Paul Soren, who cued actors between scenes by humming the period music of Al Jolson and the Charleston Chasers, *The Dreamers* has cross-generational appeal.

"This play is about dreams – everyone in it has a dream," he says. "Our dreams today may be different, but the struggles are the same."

The Dreamers runs Thursday, Dec. 12, Saturday, Dec. 14, and Sunday Dec. 15, at 7:30 p.m at Holy Blossom Temple, 1950 Bathurst Street. Tickets are $10 in advance, $12 at the door and $6 for seniors and students on Thursday and Sunday nights.

For tickets, call 416-789-3291, ext. 511.

Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

SPIELBERG ARCHIVE OFFERS JEWISH FILMS OVER THE INTERNET

The Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has begun a major project to make its films accessible online.

The archive's Virtual Cinema Project has already made 112 films accessible and plans to add about 100 films annually in the next five years.

The Archive's Web site (www.spielbergfilmarchive.org.il/) offers five choices of subject matter: Jewish Communities, Holocaust, Pre-State of Israel, State of Israel and the Hebrew University.

Choosing Jewish Communities, for example, soon brings one to an extensive list of choices, such as any of five short films made in 1939 that offer a last glimpse of Jewish life in the Polish cities of Bialystok, Krakow, Lvov, Vilna and Warsaw.

A wide variety of rare and historic films is also available in other categories. With only a few mouse clicks, one may view **Murray Rosenberg's** *First Film of Palestine: Scenes of the Holy Land*, which shows early Zionists heroically building the land in 1911. Equally dramatic is the short but riveting 1948 documentary *A State Is Born*, produced by the Jewish National Fund in celebration of the birth of Israel.

The films are screened in a box about three inches square on the computer screen.

The archive's eventual goal is to make more than 500 films viewable over the Internet. "It is the archive's hope that this pioneering effort will be of benefit to all users, whether for purposes of study, research or production," an online message explains.

* * *

Broza in Toronto: The Koffler Centre of the Arts' School of Music presents Israeli singer-songwriter-guitarist **David Broza** in concert. Broza's flamenco-tinged folk-rock melodies, his ability to breathe musical life into sensual snippets of poetry and his dark and sultry good looks have made him a superstar in Israel. Many of his 19 recordings, including *The Woman By My Side* and *Away From Home*, have reached gold or platinum status.

Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. Tickets $45. Dec. 23, 8 p.m. Adrienne Cohen, 416-636-1880, ext. 228.

* * *

Books & Bagels: David Kirk is the editor of *Israel, Democracy's Neglected Ally*, which tells the remarkable story of how the Jewish people fought alongside the Allies to help defeat Hitler. The book is based on the writings of Dutch-Canadian journalist **Pierre van Paassen**.

Kirk speaks at the Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. Non-members $5, members free. Coffee and bagels included. Sunday, Dec. 15, 11 a.m. 416-924-6211.

* * *

Recent & Noteworthy CDs

• Clarinetist **Martin van de Ven's** and guitarist-pianist **Brian Katz's** recent collaboration, *Collected Stories*, features fresh, often jazz-inspired, renditions of klezmer classics, as well as Armenian, Israeli and Bulgarian flavourings and a few original compositions. With guest violinist **Monique Lansdorp**. brian.katz@utoronto.ca.

• *Sunflowers Light the Room*, a debut recording by **Howard Gladstone** of Toronto, features 14 original compositions that combine surefooted folk-pop melodies, a Dylanesque lyrical sense and **Tony Quarrington's** upbeat arrangements: www.howardgladstone.com.

• A recent YIVO release, *Songs Are All I Have: The Musical Legacy of Vladimir Heifetz*, features **Zalmen Mlotek**, the **New Yiddish Chorale**, **Adrienne Cooper** and others: www.yivoinstitute.org.

* * *

At the Galleries

• Toronto-based artist **Charles Katz** is one of five artists from five countries represented in an exhibition at Gallery Bohin & Zuo in Berlin, Germany, on view through Dec. 31.

• Toronto publicist extraordinaire **Gino Empry** has published a memoir, *I Belong to the Stars*, which offers intimate portraits of 22 of his favourite entertainment people. The publisher is Mosaic Press.

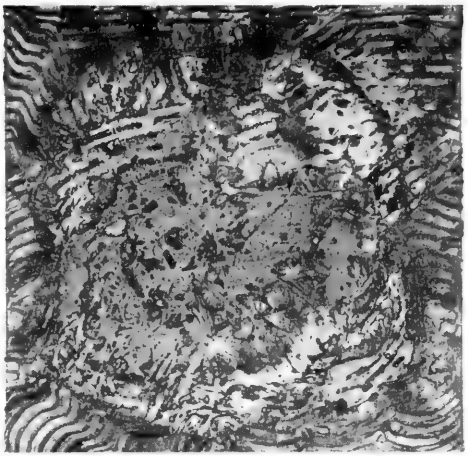
* * *

Arts Briefs

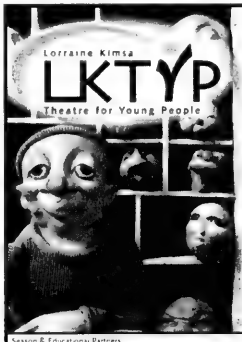
• Yiddish and Broadway Classics with **Cantor Deborah Stainman**, Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. $7, includes lunch. Monday, Dec. 16, 12:30 p.m.

• Platform 9 Theatre presents *Five Fingers*, by **Robin Fulford**, starring **Suzanne Hersh** and **Mark Cassidy**. Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace, 16 Ryerson Ave. Previews Jan. 10 to 12, 2003, runs Jan. 14 to 26. 416-504-7529.

• Encore Entertainment presents the **Ira Levin** thriller *Deathtrap*. Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St. $24. Jan. 16 to 26, 2003. 416-733-0558.



Heart Blue by Charles Katz, now showing in Germany.



"Beg, borrow or mooch a ticket if you can -- with or without kids!" - The Edmonton Journal

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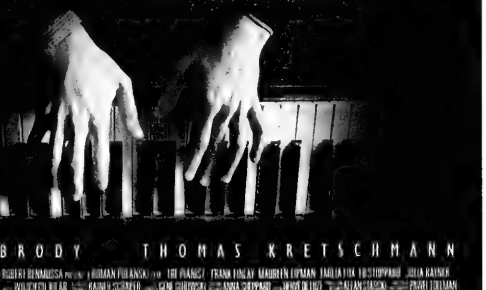

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ELAL AIR CANADA

TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

A staff shall grow out of the trunk of Jesse, and an offshoot shall flourish from its roots. – Isaiah 11:1.

Multitudes of biblical and talmudic-era plants grow at Neot Kedumim

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Rules: To be eligible to win a pair of tickets to Disney's The Lion King, please print your name, address and daytime phone number on a piece of paper along with the answer to this question:

How many
"new tickets are now on sale"?
(Hint: the answer can be found in their advertisement printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by Wed., Jan. 8/03 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Thurs., Jan. 9/03 at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: 'Lion King' Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, ON M3B 3K4 or fax to: 'Lion King' Contest, 416-391-0949.

Please submit only ONE entry per person.

Employees and family members of Mirvish Productions, The Princess of Wales Theatre or *The CJN* are not eligible to enter.

Kedumim, a 625-acre nature reserve that was once so barren its founder had to cart up topsoil from the valleys to cover the rocks and make the land fertile again.

Since 1965, when the Israel government offered ecology author Nogah Hareuveni this tract near Modi'in to make his dream of a biblical nature reserve come true, he and others have built a wonderfully diverse pastoral landscape to teach visitors about the various roots, herbs, trees, plants, fruits, flowers and spices mentioned in the Bible and the Talmud.

On these rolling hills, which lie near Lod Airport almost midway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, one may better understand the meaning of the biblical description of "a land dripping with milk and honey."

Here, one finds all the biblical "seven species" – wheat, barley, vines, figs, pomegranates, olive oil, honey – and many more.

"Neot Kedumim is one of the amazing stories of modern Israel of someone who had a vision and made it happen against great odds," says our guide, Beth Uval.

"Among other things, this is one of the best examples anywhere of restoration agriculture – bringing the land back to what it was in ancient times. We know that there was agriculture here in ancient times."

She plucks a handful of olives from a gnarled old tree. "No one ever ate an olive off the tree in ancient Israel. It tastes awful," she says. "Olives were valued for their oil, which was used for food, medical purposes and lighting. It was also used for annointing princes. The Hebrew word *Mashiach* [messiah] refers to the one who was annointed."

Nearby, new growth is sprouting from the dead and withered stump of an olive tree, and a sign refers to Isaiah 11:1 and to Psalm 128: "... your children shall be like olive shoots surrounding your table."

Alongside each station in the reserve, similar signs highlight passages from the Bible and Talmud, as well as from the Christian Bible for Christian visitors.

A group of schoolchildren take turns rotating the handle of an Archimedes' screw, an ancient device by which water is brought upward from a pond. A sign carries the explanation of Rabbi Simeon ben Gamliel (Tosefa Mikvaot 4) that "water that is channelled into the mikvah by the Archimedes' screw does not invalidate the mikvah because the water is not disconnected from its source."

We walk along a series of paths and soon pass date palms, grapevines, myrtle bushes, willows and a succession of plants and trees whose branches are laden with citrons, etrogs, sycamore figs and pomegranates. Even cedars native to Lebanon are being lovingly coaxed into the sky.

We encounter the schoolchildren again at a water-powered flour mill where, amidst much levity, they grind wheat into flour that they will then bake into delicious pita bread. Soon we retire to the dining-hall for a simple biblical lunch. *Neot* means pastures or places of beauty and *Kedumim* means ancient but also suggests the forward movement of time, Beth tells us, adding that we've only seen a small part of the whole.

"There are lots of nature reserves in Israel, and thousands of places where people study the biblical texts, but this is the only place where the two come together."

She invites us to return.

An independent, nonprofit educational institution, Neot Kedumim also features a cistern, threshing floor, winepress, Torah scribe demonstration, biblical breakfasts and lunches, two large amphitheatres, herds of sheeps and goats, a shepherd's tent and a well-stocked gift shop. Displays on the various Jewish holidays are presented in season.

For more information, call 011-972-8-977-0777, visit <www.neot-kedumim.org.il> or e-mail <gen_info@neot-kedumim.org.il>.

* * *

Israel Notes

• The Simon Wiesenthal Centre has announced plans to build a Museum of Tolerance in Jerusalem to be designed by world-famous architect Frank Gehry. Its main objective is to promote understanding between Jews and Arabs and among Jews themselves. The museum is slated for a three-acre site at the foot of Mount Scopus.

• Israeli archeologists recently discovered papyrus documents, ancient coins, wooden arrows and well-preserved coloured cloth in a small hard-to-reach cave near the Dead Sea. All the items date back almost 1,900 years to the period of the Bar-Kochba revolt against Roman rule.

• Tourist traffic to Israel has been slowly climbing over the past few months, with an average of five per cent more visitors, compared to previous months this year. Israel is expected to welcome just under one million tourists in 2003.

Collection recalls duo's comedic repartee

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The late Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster of Toronto were Canada's most famous comedy team from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Before their breakthrough appearance on the *Ed Sullivan Show* in New York City, an event that catapulted them to great heights in the entertainment industry, they drew laughs on their own CBC weekly radio show.

The best of these shows are now available on four one-hour audio cassettes from a Toronto company – Scenario Productions.

Wayne & Shuster: The Radio Years offers a tantalizing glimpse of their talents. Time and political correctness have dimmed some of their lustre. Nevertheless, they do tickle your funny bone.

The Jewish comedians specialized in cut-and-thrust repartee.

"I'm sorry I'm not a doctor," Johnny says.

"Look how many lives you saved," Frank quips.

Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster.

"Let's take a trip around the world," Frank suggests in another exchange.

"There's so many other places I'd rather see," retorts Johnny in deadpan fashion.

Being university graduates, they were fond of word plays.

In two sardonic sets, they have great fun dissecting the dateline "Sault St. Marie" and the word "ballet."

And in a skit about the perils and pleasures of romance, they connect lonely hearts to a mythical institution known as "Neck Tech."

Occasionally, they engage in grim gallows humour. Extolling the bumper wipers on a late-model car, they explain that its function is to "wipe off pedestrians."

Some jokes, such as the aforementioned and the ones in a skit titled History of the Automobile, simply fall flat.

"I found it, I found it."

"What did you find?"

"A parking spot downtown."

These lapses, obviously, do not burnish their reputation. But neither do they detract from the fact that Wayne and Shuster were pretty much on the ball most of the time.

Roundup of 'Jewish' films available on video

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

The past year has seen a handful of "Jewish" films released on video and the beginning of Jewish films appearing on DVD. Here are some of the leading "Jewish" videos released in 2002.

• *The Man Who Cried* tells the story of a Jewish girl who is looking for her father. The father had gone to America to earn enough money to bring the whole family over, but before he could do that, a pogrom threatened the village and the daughter was sent away to safety, winding up in Britain. There she was raised in a Christian home and at the age of 18 she became a dancer in Paris in an attempt to earn enough money to continue her search for her father.

Christina Ricci, Kate Blanchette, John Turturro and Johnny Depp are featured.

•*Kippur* is Amos Gitai's film about the Yom Kippur War and the experiences of two young soldiers who don't arrive in time to join up with their unit. As a result they spend the war retrieving the wounded and the dead from the battlefield, until they themselves are wounded.

•*Conspiracy* features Kenneth Branagh and Stanley Tucci, who portray Reinhard Heydrich and Adolf Eichmann, the organizers of the infamous Wannsee Conference that set the guidelines for the Nazis' final solution.

•*Focus* is based on Arthur Miller's first novel, written over 50 years ago, and deals with intolerance, racism, anti-Semitism and mistaken identity.

The story revolves around an ordinary man, Lawrence Newman (played by William H. Macy), who does not want to stand out from the crowd. He has a secure but boring job and his life has settled into a safe, uncomplicated mode.

When a Jewish storekeeper in Newman's neighbourhood allows his relatives from Eastern Europe to move in with him, the bigots in the area view this as an invasion of their turf and join an anti-Semitic group in order to keep the area free of Jews.

Laura Dern and William H. Macy star in *Focus*.

At first Newman refuses to get involved. But when his wife (Laura Dern) is attacked because people mistakenly think that he is Jewish he decides to fight back.

William H. Macy, Laura Dern, David Paymer and Meat Loaf star.

•A relatively unknown Russian film, *We Are Going To America*, is based on a Sholom Aleichem short story, "Boy Motl". This "tragicomedy" tells of the trials and hardships faced by a Jewish family which leaves its Russian shtetl in order to search for a better life in America.

The voyage is shown through the eyes of 11 year old Motl and is filled with symbolism and mysticism. Produced in 1992 and directed by Efim Gribov, *We Are Going To America* is mainly in Russian, with English subtitles.

• *Stolen Summer* is a charming film set in Chicago in 1976. Eight-year-old Pete O'Malley comes from a large Catholic home and has been taught in school that the path to heaven is through faith and a belief in Jesus. And in order to ensure his own entry into paradise, he goes on a quest to convert the local rabbi's seven-year-old son to Christianity.

The result is often humorous and always enchanting. Not only is Pete's understanding of theology limited, but he must overcome the obstacles placed in his path by the adult world around him.

The film features Aidan Quinn, Bonnie Hunt, Kevin Pollak, Brian Dennehy and Adi Stein as Pete O'Malley and Mike Weinberg as Danny Jacobsen.

• *Kissing Jessica Stein* stars Jennifer Westfeldt as a sensitive but neurotic Jewish woman living and working in New York. Although successful in her professional life as a journalist, her personal life is a mess. Everyone around her is getting married or having babies, while she can't even find a boyfriend. And the harder she tries, and the more dates she goes out on, the worse it gets.

One day she comes across an intriguing personal ad and decides to answer it. As a result, she meets a fascinating woman (Helen Cooper, played by Heather Juergensen) and they click almost instantly.

The results are funny and very poignant and form the basis of a terrific comedy with some curves and surprises in the story line.

• *Late Marriage* is a social commentary on the values and mores of the Georgian community in Israel. Zaza is a 31-year-old bachelor who is studying for his doctorate degree. His parents feel it is time for him to get married and arrange for him to meet a succession of young women.

Unknown to them, Zaza is in love with a single mother and spends much of his time at her apartment. When the parents discover his secret, they attempt to break up the two lovers. *Late Marriage* is a unique comedy about the battle between the modern concept of love and the world of tradition.

• *Time of Favor* created a certain amount of controversy because of its theme – the blowing up of the Dome of the Rock on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. The story centres around Menachem, an Israeli army officer who has established an elite all-Orthodox company and who is also studying at a Yeshiva run by a charismatic rabbi. The rabbi, played by Asi Dayan, preaches about the need for Jews to be able to return to pray on the Temple Mount.

At the same time, the rabbi is trying to make a match between his daughter, Michal, and his best Yeshiva student, Pini. Michal isn't interested. After Pini is rebuffed by Michal, he organizes a plot to blow up the Dome of the Rock.

In many ways, the film mirrors some of the tensions and forces within Israeli society today and all this makes for an intriguing film that mixes politics, religion and entertainment.

If you have trouble finding any of these in your video store, you can always ask the store to order them for you or you can go to www.videoflicks.ca, www.amazon.ca or www.facets.org and order them through the internet.

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BATHURST-ATKINSON - A MUST SEE!
Best priced home in Thornhill, 4 bdrm with enormous master bdrm, kitchen, liv rm & din rm. Walk-out basement. *Carey Rosenzweig

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BATHURST-FINCH - ON PREMIUM LOT!
Reno 1½ stry with 3 bdrms, hdrwd throughout. Has self-contained bsmnt apt w/separate entry! Close to all amenities! *Ted Waxman

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"ROSEDALE NORTH" BATHURST-CENTRE
Lovely 4 bedroom with finished walk-out basement, upgraded floors++ *Larry Wronzberg

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BATHURST-STEELES TOWNHOME
Large 4 bedroom with finished basement, gas fireplace, balcony off master bedroom, asking $287,500. *Larry Wronzberg

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STEPS TO PROMENADE MALL
Just listed! 3 bdrm townhome w/fin bsmnt, strip hdrwd flrs, 2 parking spaces, walk-out to yard. Asking $259,900. *Larry Wronzberg

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BATHURST-STEELES "EIFFEL TOWER"
Just listed! Fabulous 2 bedroom, 2 bath penthouse, designer decor! *Sarah Tamin

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YONGE-CLARK - ABOUT 1600 SQ. FT.
Beautiful 2 bdrm + den, hardwood floors throughout, completely upgraded, 5 appls, 2 parking, locker, balcony. *Lora Yakobson

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BATHURST-STEELES AT 7 TOWNSGATE
Luxury condo, split 2 bedrooms, large unit, locker on same floor. Priced to sell at $329,900. *Larry Wronzberg

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BATHURST-CENTRE - $229,000
2 bdrm condo, parquet flrs, great room sizes, appliances, central air. Across from Promenade Mall. Shows well!! **Mark Waxman

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YONGE-STEELES $205,000
2 bdrm condo with balcony & tandem parking, new kitchen with window, appliances & air. Bright & clean, shows well! Ted Waxman

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Bathurst-Sheppard 2 bdrm condo in new building, about 1,260 sq. ft. @ $1,700/month Or at Clark & Hilda (The Conservatory) about 1,750 sq. ft. for $1,950/month. Both great value! *Perry Waisglass

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Stunning updated 4 bedroom, 4 bath. Finished lower level. 10++. Anna Pollock* 416-488-2875

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

ROYAL PROMENADE - THORNHILL
Luxury building, 2 bedroom, 2 bath, balcony + Rec. facilities. Steps to mall, TTC, 407. L. Marks* 416-226-1987

FOR LEASE - 500 GLENCAIRN AVE #206 $1,750/MO
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150 HEATH ST. W. - $599,000.
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BATHURST / LAWRENCE - $399,000.
Luxurious & spacious penthouse suite. 2 bdrms. 3 baths. Large family room. Walk to synagogues, shops & TTC. ***Elaine Goldenberg-Pike**

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3000 Bathurst, avail. Jan. 1. Main floor, lrge 1 bdrm with balcony, 28' liv. rm. + dining, 5 appl., 24 hr. sec., $1350 cable + util incl. Lv. mess. Call will be returned, 416-782-9989.

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60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE

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CARTER, Bryce & Tamara (nee Kerner) are thrilled to announce the birth of their daughter, ***MAKAYLA AVIVA***. Born Nov. 13th, 2002 at 8 a.m. at Oakville Trafalgar Hospital. Big brother Ethan (Dec. 30/01-Jan. 12/02) would have loved to meet his baby sister and will be watching over her. Proud grandparents, Mel & Phyllis Kerner, Lynn Holden & Gage Love; great-grandmother, Regina Krengel; ecstatic aunts and uncles, Dena & Geoff Silverberg and Sean & Annette Kerner.

ENGAGED

Dr. Greta Rosenthal-Markowitz & Harvey Markowitz, proudly announce the engagement of their daughter **Emma Sara** Markowitz of Toronto to **Lorne Eric Ptack**, son of Marsha & Irving Ptack, brother of Elana Ptack of Montreal.

FORSHAW, Paul & Jacklyn (nee Blustein) are proud to announce the birth of their son **Zachary Samuel**, born Nov. 27th at 5:20 a.m. at the North York General Hospital. Proud grandparents are Jerry & Phyllis Blustein, Clyde Forshaw, his great-grandmother and all his ecstatic aunts, uncles and cousins.

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Greater Toronto Area

Student bracelet sales aids terror victims

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

To demonstrate solidarity with Israeli victims of terror, developer Vivienne Ziner and artist Marla Buck have started a grassroots fundraising and awareness project for Jewish day and congregational schools.

Their Blue and White Solidarity Bracelet Initiative, called L'Chaim Beads, Buck said, lets students make bracelets from attractive blue and white beads to be sold through their schools to families and friends, and to the greater community through synagogues, Jewish organizations and Judaica shops.

"The impact on families in Israel, knowing aid has come through this youth effort, and the impact on youth here, knowing they are taking an active stand to make a difference, is tangible and immeasurable," Buck said.

"All the profits are to be donated to Israeli children and families whose lives have been forever altered through the most recent attacks of terror in Israel," Ziner said.

"The Blue and White Solidarity Bracelet Initiative… serves to remind us of our solidarity with the people of Israel and our mutual vision of peace, safety and hope."

Ziner and Buck have prepared bead kits at a cost of $9 each, with a minimum purchase for schools being a dozen. Also, finished bracelets are available for $36 each.

Vivienne Ziner with her children (from left) Eton, Jon and Tiphaera.

A tax receipt will be issued to people who buy more than $36 worth of bracelets.

The bracelets make great gifts for birthdays, holidays and bar/bat mitzvahs, and they also make great loot-bag stuffers, Ziner said.

Funds collected will be directed through Beit Halochem's David Rosenzweig Memorial Fund.

Buck said that if 500 students in a school each sell two bracelets, they can raise more than $30,000 "to make a difference in the lives of Israeli families whose lives, unlike their own, have been drastically altered and forever changed."

Ziner told *The CJN* the consul general of Israel in Toronto is wearing a bracelet and gives the project his full support, as do many community leaders.

For more information or to order the L'Chaim Beads or bracelets, call 416-480-2001.

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Divorced female with one son, 43 years old, hard-working, ambitious, outgoing, who enjoys dining out, dancing, eating, cooking, swimming, movies, reading, internet, hiking seeking male 43-50 yrs old, handsome, out-going, ambitious and hard-working **AD#1134**

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Attractive female, early 30's, long brown hair, brown eyes, fit, intelligent, adventurous with a good heart who enjoys movies, dining out seeking handsome male in his 30's with similar interests **AD#1214**

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Professional female in her 40's, 5'5", brown hair, hazel eyes who enjoys travel, theatre, fine dining seeks male 43-53 yrs old who is fit, established, sincere and spontaneous with similar interests **AD#1503**

♀ men seeking women

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Single male, 73 yrs old, 5' 7", widower, a people-person, considerate, huggable handsome, organized, orderly, well mannered, who enjoys dancing and the Glen Miller band seeking attractive female 65-73 yrs old who is easy-going, likes dancing, cooking and baking **AD#1214**

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I am in my early 60's, 5' 5", 135 lbs who enjoys walks, laughter, classical music Some of my paintings are in exhibits. I am seeking a caring, warm, compassionate lady for companionship **AD#1474**

ATTRACTIVE & OUTGOING
I am an attractive outgoing jewish lady 5' 7", medium build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, with a great smile who enjoys singing, and dancing I am seeking a tall attractive jewish male with a full head of hair, in good shape, outgoing with similar interests **AD#1373**

GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR
I am single, 50'ish, non-smoker, conservative, classy, kind, who enjoys dining out, dancing, travel and the beach I have a good sense of humor who is seeking a male 50-65 yrs of age, non-smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured with similar interests **AD#1261**

HARD WORKING FEMALE
I am 40 years old, slim, attractive, hard-working female who enjoys dancing, dining out and sports. I'm seeking a male between the ages of 40-50 with similar interests for a long term relationship **AD#1011**

ATTN: WIDOWS & WIDOWERS
I would like to start a small social group for 50-60 yrs old only. No divorcees Thank you **AD#1273**

BALANCE YOUR LOVE
Hello my name is Michael. I'm a 41 yr accountant and I've been working for a number of years. My spare time during the summer I play baseball, bike riding and hiking. I like to get together with friends and I'm looking to meet a young lady with similar goals, hopefully leading to a long term relationship **AD#1370**

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
I am a 37 yr old male I have brown hair, blue eyes and like nature and the outdoors. I am seeking a Jewish lady 25-39 years of age for a long term relationship **AD#1064**

FOR FRIENDSHIP
I am separated, mature and self employed, and would like to meet a woman in a similar position in her 50's for friendship, exploring Toronto's Entertainment & Restaurant venues Should have a good sense of humour and enjoy long walks. **AD#1006**

MY BABY JUST CARES FOR ME
Hi, I'm a separated 43 yrs old, mother of 2 teenagers, very pretty, intelligent, loves to laugh. I enjoy jazz, dancing, theatre, outdoor walking, and I'm looking for an accomplished, intelligent, fun loving, warm, cuddly gentleman who can be a great partner to enjoy life with **AD#1155**

MATCH MADE IN EDEN
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DOCTOR OF LOVE
My name is Dan, I'm 51 yrs and work as a medical doctor I have 2 daughters that live with me and I'm a devoted father I'm slim, fit, energetic, intense, and I'm always looking to learn new things. I take course most of the time Interests range from art, philosophy, foreign languages & ballroom dancing. **AD#1293**

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LOOKING FOR YOU
Hi I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs. I'm a warm person, honest, very open and out going. I'm a good listener and good to communicate with. I'm friendly, and I enjoy people I'm looking for a widow 54-62 yrs for friendship first **AD#1403**

PROFESSIONAL AND SINGLE
I'm a professional woman in my mid 50's I have been widow over a year and I like to meet someone who is single, who is also professional, with whom I can share my interests with I am looking for someone who lives in the Metro Toronto Area I am outgoing, fun to be with and easy to talk to **AD#1461**

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ROMANTIC MAN
Hi, I'm a Jewish male, late 50's, who's looking for a sharing & caring woman, non smoking, 45-58yrs I'm a romantic who likes long walks & enjoys nature, quiet evenings cuddling together at fireside. **AD#1478**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
I'm a man in my 50's w/ blue eyes, dark brown hair, who would like to meet a woman, also in her 50's. She should enjoy travel, museums, the arts & musical theatre. Looking for someone who can share lots of laughs w/ a good sense of humour Home cooked meals would be a definite bonus **AD#1234**

ARE YOU MY MATCH?
Hi there, I am a feisty, fun, focused, funky, sometimes foolish, flirtatious and perhaps a little fussy female, who has yet to find her match. I am a successful & accomplished 35 yr old Jewish gal who is looking for an equally successful & accomplished 35-40 Jewish guy **AD#1086**

LET'S MEET
Hi I am a youthful, 58 yrs old, warm, kind compassionate female. I don't smoke, I'm financially secure and would like to meet someone to share my interests I enjoy going to movies, theatre, and taking romantic walks. I'm looking for loving partner for enjoying life with **AD#1032**

PASSION & ZEST
Do you have a passion and zest for life & adventure? Hi, I'm a mysterious, European female I'm 5' 2", 43 yrs mother of 2, with an adventurist spirit & wide range of interests and a very easy going nature I'm looking man between 38-55 yrs, 5' 10" who's up for friendship leading to marriage **AD#1113**

HEALTHY WEALTHY
Hi my name is Arnon, I'm a white executive living in Thornhill. I look in the mirror & I see a healthy young 1939 model w/ no deficiencies. I'm told that I'm not bad to look at either. I've got salt & pepper hair, beautiful blue eyes, slim, 5' 10" and I have good teeth too. My passions are the sun & sea **AD#1005**

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IFA fears report of Al Qaeda plot will hurt future of Israeli soccer

By ORI LEWIS
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Unsubstantiated reports of an alleged Al Qaeda plot to attack Israel's national team could do serious harm to Israeli soccer, the Israel Football Association (IFA) said in a statement last week.

Publication of such allegations threatens Israeli participation in international soccer events and "could cause great harm internationally [to Israeli soccer] which will be very difficult to rectify in the future," the IFA statement said.

According to a report in Israel's *Yediot Achronot*, an attack on the team had been planned for a European Championship qualifier in Malta on Oct. 12, but was prevented when a Tunisian national was arrested in the Mediterranean island country.

"We were surprised to hear of the publication of the apparent plot to attack the national team, but we are unaware of any proof that the story, which relies on foreign and Internet sources, is true. There has not been any confirmation from any [Israeli] security source," the IFA said.

"The IFA was informed of the arrest of a man prior to the match in Malta, but there has not been any confirmation or proof provided by any official security source that the arrest had anything to do with the national team's presence in Malta. The delegation was not aware of anything out of the ordinary and the sense of security was absolute," the IFA said.

"In view of this, and as long as there is no confirmation from the relevant security authorities, the IFA does not consider that an exceptional situation has arisen. All the IFA's delegations, including the one to Malta, travelled with the usual security arrangements in place," the organization's statement said.

Israel coach Avraham Grant said the team did not feel threatened or suspect anything unusual had taken place. "While we were in Malta we heard an Al Qaeda suspect had been arrested, but we did not consider this to be particularly significant. We hear of potential threats on almost every trip," he said.

"On every trip we receive protection from the Shin Bet and from the local security organizations. We rely on them to do their jobs while we get on with our sporting affairs," Grant added.

More worrisome, he said, was that Israel is becoming too much of a hot potato for foreign opponents.

"We are no longer sought after as opponents by other national teams [for international friendlies]. We have to scrape and scratch in order to arrange practice matches. Nobody is in any hurry to host us. I would go so far as to say they really don't want us," Grant said. "I expect that after the publication of this story, it will be even worse."

Last March, UEFA, European soccer's governing body, deemed Israel off limits to visiting teams due to the deteriorating Mideast security situation.

Since then, the IFA has sought alternative venues for internationals, and last week, Watford's stadium in Great Britain was named as Israel's home away from home for the Euro 2004 qualifiers, the first of which is March 29 against Cyprus.

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Toronto's Eric Murray and Sami Kehela made up the most successful partnership in the history of Canadian bridge. For most of the 1960s and 1970s this pair was not only unrivaled in our country, but they were widely considered to be among the very finest partnerships in the world. Eric and Sami also happen to be two of my personal bridge heroes.

A study in contrasts, Eric was a "flair player" whose great table presence and fierce competitive spirit made him extremely difficult to play against. Sami was a bridge player of a different breed. He was a technical player of the highest order who almost never made a mistake as the declarer or on defence.

Together this partnership really put Canadian bridge on the map. This deal comes from one of the last major tournaments that Sami and Eric played in as a partnership – the 1982 World Championships where Canada emerged with the Bronze Medal. This deal comes from a match between Canada and Sweden.

Sami's 5♦ contract was not a thing of beauty, but the great Canadian found a way to bring home his vulnerable game (with a little help from the defence). West led a top spade and switched to the ♥J. Sami won in his hand and led the ♦Q. East allowed the declarer to win the trick and ducked his ♦A again when Sami led a second round of trump (East would have done better to win this trick and play a spade).

Deciding that trumps were probably 4-2 given the exuberant bidding by his opponents and the defence that he had received, Sami turned his attention to the club suit. He cashed his ♣A and played a club to the dummy's ♣K. The sight of East's ♣Q was good news for the declarer, but it was not quite over yet.

Sami played a heart to his ♥Q and returned to the dummy's ♥K in order to start leading winning clubs through East. It didn't matter if East discarded, ruffed low, or ruffed with the ♦A at any point. The Ace of trump would be the last trick for the defence. A brilliant effort by one of the few true legends of Canadian bridge!

South deals
NS Vul

West
♠ AKJ98
♥ J4
♦ 75
♣ 7653

Eric (North)
♠ 3
♥ K76
♦ KJ92
♣ KJ1082

Sami (South)
♠ 10542
♥ AQ83
♦ Q108
♣ A9

East
♠ Q76
♥ 10952
♦ A643
♣ Q4

West	Eric	East	Sami
1♠	2♠	3♠	1♦
4♠	5♦	Pass	Pass
Pass			

Fred Gitelman is one of Canada's most successful tournament bridge players. His Las Vegas-based company, Bridge Base Inc., is a world leader in the development of educational software for bridge. You can find out more about Fred and his company through www.bridgebase.com. Fred's columns will appear once a month in the Canadian Jewish News. Questions and comments from readers are welcome, but we cannot guarantee a personal response.

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Soon the future will continue

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Israel is weeping. Terrorism is gaining in momentum and as it does, more and more people are being killed on the streets, in buses and on vacations outside of Israel.

A few years ago, many Jews felt that things were changing and peace was about to be made with our Arab neighbours. It seemed as if the Jewish agenda had finally evolved, moving away from war to items such as Jewish continuity and how Jews would survive into the future.

It was an exciting time and we had the sense that if external peace could be found, then we should be able to find internal acceptance, unity and creativity among our people.

We hoped that Jewish education would take centre stage, and that Diaspora and Israeli Jews would create wonderful literature and conceive of new ideas. We have such great minds, with important things to say. Imagine the books. Think about the words.

We believed that, like other nations, the Jewish people would finally have the chance to look inward.

In truth, although many Jewish resources have been funnelled toward the safety and security of Jews everywhere, we can still be confident and proud of the brilliant creativity that emanates from Jewish communities throughout the world.

Jewish schools are filled to capacity and Israeli-developed technology is blossoming. Immigration continues from the former Soviet Union, France, Argentina and other countries.

Social services in Israel are performing brilliantly, especially in light of the added burden of assisting an enormously increased client base. One such organization is Elem, considered to be the voice of distressed youth in Israel.

Elem has launched a number of programs assisting youth in trouble, be they residents of long standing, immigrant Israelis or Arabs. It is well known for its van program, which organizes nightly rounds in some of the tougher areas of the country. At cafes and outdoor parks, social workers and professionals set up makeshift shesh besh (backgammon) board games. As the dice roll, they attempt to gain the trust of teens who are suffering from the turmoil of their home life and the ugly ramifications of war.

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

We Jews are a strong lot, and we will survive this thorny period. We are sturdy and we are a force. Travel the streets of Sefad and study the art; read about the Jews of Argentina, who although suffering horrendously are rebuilding with painstaking hope; take a Sunday afternoon drive through Vaughan and downtown Toronto and see the growth of Jewish communities, commercially, spiritually and physically.

We have been here before and have survived. This was not by chance or exclusively as a result of our faith. We have survived and are intact because the Jewish way is to never give up, to wrestle and always maintain a sense of belief that this too will pass.

It's important as the bombs explode, and our children cry, and our families die, that those of us who are strong encourage others to pray in unison as we have done throughout history, and plan for the future, when the bombs will stop and we will once again challenge ourselves.

Israel is weeping. God-willing, soon those tears will dry up and Jews everywhere will once again forge our future – through our own merit, tenacity and sweat. God bless the souls of those who have died in these wars for our struggle, and will not be with us physically to join in our splendid Jewish future. Never give up. Never give in.

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BAKED BRIE

A fabulous hors d'oeuvre ... or serve on a dessert buffet for your holiday entertaining

1 WHOLE round of brie cheese (any size)
slivered almonds
brown sugar

Slice off ***top layer*** of brie with cheese cutter or sharp knife. Place brie on large piece of foil wrap or in an ovenproof serving dish on a large piece of foil.

Toast slivered almonds until just lightly brown. Cover brie with very generous amount of brown sugar, covering completely. Sprinkle toasted almonds on top. Fold foil wrap over to loosely cover brie. Bake at 350°F for 20 mins. or until bubbly. Remove foil. Serve with crackers or cocktail bread, on the side. Brie should be very loose on the inside when poked with a knife.

After sitting out, the brie can get hard. Just pop back into oven to reheat and it will become melted again.

WE NOW SELL MATTRESSES!
See opposite page for this week's specials.

About Life

Dear Ella,

Before you read on, I want to make it perfectly clear how much my grandchildren mean to me. I love them more than life itself.

That said, here is my problem. I have five wonderful, happy, healthy grandchildren (pooh pooh). My son has three kids and my daughter has two. When my son's kids were growing up (they are all teenagers now), I was invited to their home all the time to enjoy the kids. I wasn't asked more than twice in their whole upbringing to babysit.

My daughter, however, is a whole other story. She thinks I'm her regular babysitter. I love those kids to pieces, but I can't manage them. They are six and four years old, spoiled and rowdy. I feel guilty saying no, as both she and her husband work very hard and need the break. My husband doesn't see why I am making a fuss. He says, "Let's go see the kids." Am I the horrible bubbie I feel like?

Bummed Out Bubbie

Dear Bummed Out Bubbie

Congratulations on being blessed with five wonderful grandchildren. I bet you and your husband worked pretty hard all your lives to get to this point. Now it's your turn to sit back and enjoy. The key phrase here is "sit back."

Your daughter loves and trusts you; therefore, she is putting her children's lives in your hands. She sees you as the young, strong woman who did a good job raising her, and she is more than comfortable putting her kids in the same situation. Although in her mind, this is the ideal way for her and her husband to have a worry-free evening, she is not being fair. You should not be put in this position.

Sit down and have a mother-daughter talk. Maybe she doesn't realize that this is too much for you. Try this for a compromise: tell your daughter to hire a sitter she has checked out. To help her be comfortable with the transition, you will be there to supervise the first few times, and you'll also drop by from time to time afterwards. This way, you can still enjoy the kids without the work and guilt.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN *or e-mail at eb@cjnews.com But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

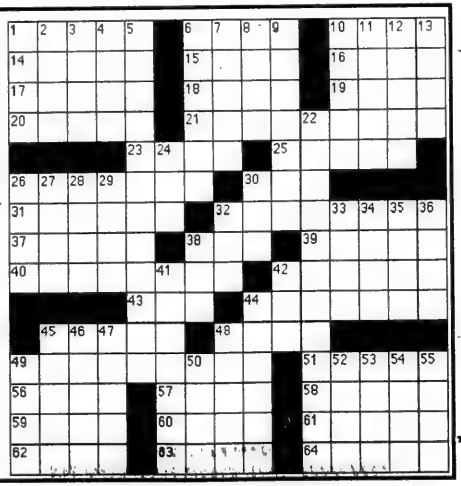
The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 34.)

Canadian Caper
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Short text for cover jacket
6. Read an image for your computer
10. ___ Spumante
14. Relating to kidneys
15. Rent
16. Heat measurements
17. The acronym for an eastern U.S. power agency ____. (form a sentence)
18. "...., sitting in _____"
19. Famous radio Ranger
20. Silent and strong under stress
21. Explorer who gave name to a city and an island
23. European canal
25. Ecolé des Beaux-_____
26. Chooses
30. Simian
31. G&S refrain syllables
32. Site of Expo 67
37. Aurelian ___ Papo, Romanian clarinetist
38. Goo
39. Starr
40. City or its north-flowing river
42. Players, uncommon usage
43. English for yeshnam, or sont
44. Northern conifer fruit
45. Houston ballplayer
48. Needles' partners
49. Edge of Erie or Huron
51. ___-barbital
56. Dry
57. Above
58. An object that leaks out
59. Referring to feet with digits
60. Singer Horne
61. Non-urban
62. Home of the 500
63. Cockney for Paris' abductee
64. Kishke

Down
1. Boy's 8-day old event
2. For fear that
3. "__ others that which you would have..."
4. Shankar
5. Roes of certain sturgeons
6. Barrel parts
7. Reef builder
8. Variant spelling for 45 Down
9. Ship crew jargon for boss' replacement
10. Bath or wash-up, for short
11. Wood burning, keeps one warm
12. Airs
13. Added to "m", makes for one stingy guy
22. Great Lakes mineral carrier
24. "___ the buzz!"
26. Store or cache something
27. Add this to "m" to say thanks in Quebec
28. Rome's lang.
29. Spirit of the group
30. Internet service provider
32. British princess, familiarly
33. Frost
34. Mid-alphabet letter, written twice
35. They gathered, in Hebrew
36. ___ Boy, as in Peter Pan
38. Haw's partner
41. In favor of U.S. Revolutionary Nathan
42. Victorious word at end of rummy game
44. Accessory for baking an apple desert
45. Moses' brother
46. Did the Laurentians
47. Pooh
48. Susceptible
49. Tude preceder
50. Cockney inn
52. Sixty minutes
53. My helpmate, in Hebrew
54. Kind of tide
55. Heraldic border motif



MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL
www.mtsinai.on.ca
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YOUR HOSPITAL, YOUR NEWS

Mount Sinai Hospital Opens One-Of-A-Kind Men's Wellness Centre!

Men need to take the same approach to their bodies as they do their cars. Most men know more about what's under the hood of their cars than they do about their bodies. Mount Sinai is hoping to change that with the opening of the Murray Koffler Urologic Wellness Centre. The Centre is the only one of its kind in North America that blends the essentials of patient care with clinical research to diagnose and treat men's health-related issues.

"We need to raise awareness about the importance of men's health," says Dr. John Trachtenberg, Director of Prostrate Services at the Centre. "For every 100 men, 12 will develop prostate cancer in their lifetime. Three or four will die from it. In addition, as many as 30 per cent suffer from some form of sexual difficulty, but only one or two will seek treatment. By the age of 80, every man will have experienced one of these afflictions."

Marvelle and Murray Koffler at the opening of the Murray Koffler Urologic Wellness Centre

The Murray Koffler Urologic Wellness Centre provides a comprehensive range of services in an environment specifically designed to be inviting and comfortable for men. Those services include:

- **prostate health** (the prevention, screening, and early detection for prostate cancer);
- **male infertility and sexual health;**
- **andropause** (male menopause);
- **urology care; and**
- **research.**

In addition, the Centre will offer genetic counselling, psychosocial support, nutrition counselling; and on-site diagnostic services, thereby reducing waiting times and minimizing the number of patient appointments.

Dr. Keith Jarvi says comparing a man's knowledge of his car with that of his body can be revealing and unsettling. "Show me a man whose car is 500 km overdue for an oil change, and I'll show you a truly guilty man," says Dr. Jarvi, urologist and Director of the Murray Koffler Urologic Wellness Centre. "Show me a man whose body is 500 days overdue for a regular medical checkup, and I'll show you Mr. Average. I hope this Centre will help men become as conscientious about caring for their health as women are about breast health and that by providing men with a place they feel comfortable in, they will become less reluctant to talk about their health issues with their doctor."

The Murray Koffler Urologic Wellness Centre was made possible through the generous support of Murray Koffler and family. This is the second world-class facility that the Kofflers have funded at Mount Sinai, the first being The Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre. Established in 1995, it is an outpatient facility that specializes in all aspects of breast health.

"We are profoundly grateful to Murray Koffler and his family for their generosity and support for this important centre," says Joseph Mapa, Mount Sinai's President and CEO. "Not only will it provide men with important care but the research here in prostate care and infertility will address the needs of patients today and in the future."

HEALTHY LIVING
Lecture Series

Successful Aging
Tuesday, January 28, 2003
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Sala Caboto, Villa Colombo
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Men's Health
Wednesday, February 26, 2003
7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.
Leah Posluns Theatre, BJCC
4588 Bathurst Street

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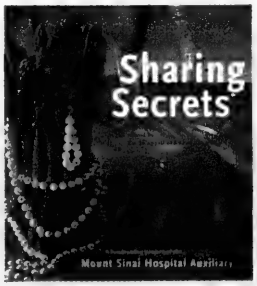
Specials available only until Dec. 31st



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Holiday Greeting Cards are still available - check our website at for order information and other Auxiliary activities http://www.mtsinai.on.ca/auxiliary

Keep up with our events on our website www.mtsinai.on.ca

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- ☐ $180 Social activities for youth
- ☐ $360 Young people to assist with the program
- ☐ $500 Volunteer training
- ☐ $1,000 A course for an Israeli teen
- ☐ $5,000 Equipment and materials
- ☐ $14,000 Community Youth Volunteer Coordinator
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Please enclose your contribution in the attached envelope.

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Ve'ahavta, Hebrew for "And you should love," is dedicated to Tikun Olam – making the world a better place for all humanity. Our volunteers are motivated by a belief in the Jewish people's unique role on this earth, and the opportunity to bring a little more light to an often harsh, dark world.

Now Ve'ahavta is bringing that light to Eretz Yisroel, the Jewish homeland, by giving Israel's distressed youth a chance for a brighter future.

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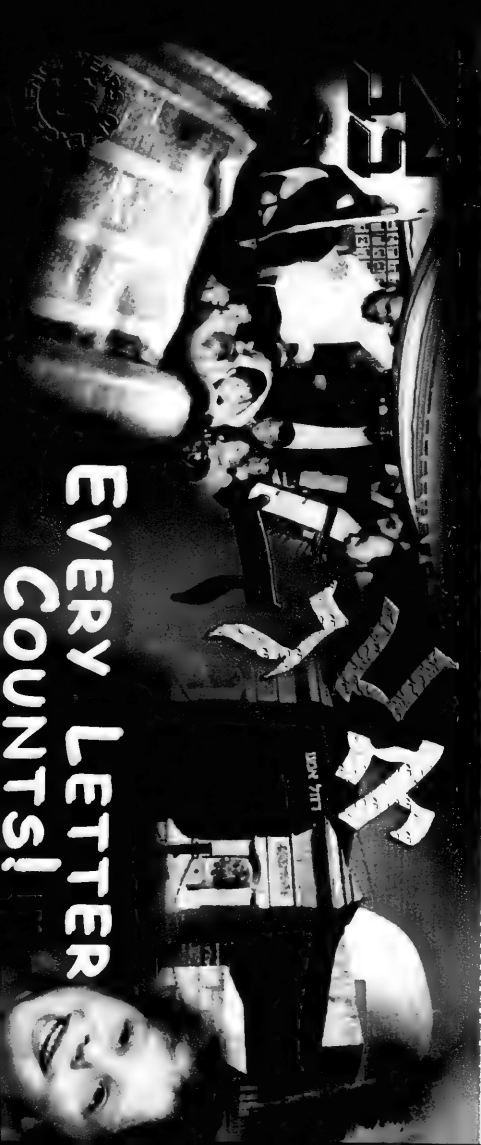

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The Canadian Jewish news
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This Week

National

Number of Yiddish speakers in Canada dwindling. *Page 7*

Rabbi Goldstein's sabbatical will be a lesson in life. *Page 14*

Judaica exhibit depicts Jewish life of the past. *Page 17*

On Campus

Interfaith panel discusses peace. *Page 21*

Arts & Travel

Polanski's *Pianist* wields immense power. *Page 33*

Young violinist brims with enthusiasm. *Page 35*

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Ban on Hezbollah prompts threat

By RON CSILLAG
and DIANE KOVEN
CJN Reporters

Succumbing to months of pressure from the Jewish community and the Canadian Alliance, the federal Liberals last week finally banned all activities of Hezbollah in this country – which triggered a not-so-veiled threat from the group that the move would subject Canada to "increased enmity and hate."

In a statement from Beirut, Hezbollah said Ottawa banned it because of pressure from the United States and Israel.

"Canadian authorities have committed a grave mistake that will undoubtedly have a negative effect on [Canada's] relationship with the peoples and countries of our Arab and Islamic nation, and increase enmity and hate toward it," the statement said.

It added the "whole world knows Hezbollah is a resistance movement against the Israeli occupation as provided in international laws."

'A grave mistake', says terrorist group

In Canada, Ottawa's move led to hints from Arab groups that they will seek a similar crackdown on domestic aid to Jewish settlements in Israel.

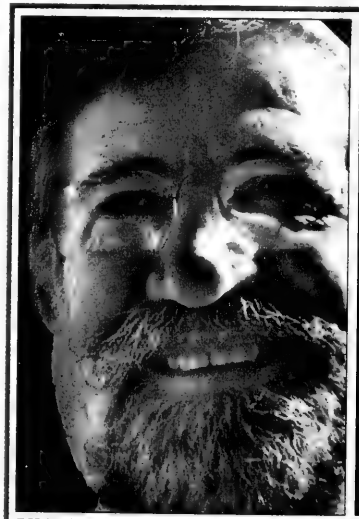
Reacting angrily to Ottawa's outlawing of the political wing of Hezbollah, a major Arab group said the government should also ban fundraising for Jewish settlements.

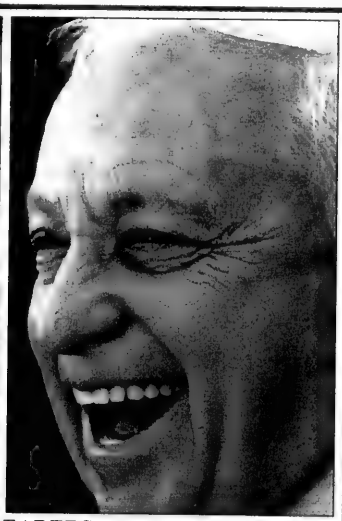
Mazen Chouaib, executive director of the National Council on Canada-Arab Relations, said the Jewish National Fund, B'nai Brith Canada and other groups that "support" the Israeli settlements should be subject to the same kind of restrictions on activities now faced by Hezbollah.

Frank Wilson, Toronto president of JNF and a former vice-president of B'nai Brith Canada, said neither organization directly funds or raises funds for Jewish settlements.

"Hezbollah has no branches, representatives or fundraising activity in Canada," Chouaib was quoted as saying. By contrast, he said Jewish groups "openly" support Israeli settlers, who have been responsible for "destroying" Palestinian villages – a comparison dismissed as invalid by B'nai Brith Canada.

Continued on page 20





KNESSET LISTS ARE READY, LEADERS ARE SMILING... NOW: **Last week in Israel, party lists were finalized for the Jan. 28 elections to the Knesset. Likud leader Ariel Sharon, right, is considered to have much more reason to smile about the outcome than Labor Party leader Amram Mitzna.** *[RNS/Reuters photos]*

Anti-Semitism on Senate agenda

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

For Sen. Jerry Grafstein, the parallel could not be more disturbing. While visiting Germany last summer, he and his wife planned to attend synagogue services in Berlin, but to do so, they were forced to pass through heavy security screening before they could enter. Disturbing, no doubt, but perhaps not surprising considering Germany's history and the upsurge in anti-Jewish incidents throughout the continent.

Back in Canada, he had a feeling of déjà vu when he and other members of the Beth Tzedec Synagogue, one of Toronto's largest congregations, were made to enter the building through a parking lot entrance and pass through security screening not much different than what he experienced in Germany.

For Grafstein, the idea that Canadian Jews would have to be protected during High Holy Day services was galling, even "personally demeaning."

Continued on page 31

Shabbat: Vayechi
Candlelighting: 4:25
Havdallah: 5:30

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The CJN will take a short holiday. Our next issue is Jan. 2

The News in Brief

CANADA

Svend Taken Down

VANCOUVER — The Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver's board will address the issue of censorship at a meeting in the new year after artist Jeannie Kamins said she was asked to remove a portrait of local MP Svend Robinson, an outspoken critic of Israel, from an exhibit of her paintings at the centre following complaints from members. Kamins, a former JCC employee, said she didn't include the painting to make a political statement, but because it is one of her best works.

ISRAEL

Fence Updates

JERUSALEM — Israel's High Court of Justice last week barred the army from starting construction of a safe-passage route between Hebron and nearby Kiryat Arba. In a ruling Tuesday, the court issued a temporary injunction barring the army from destroying any Palestinian homes along the planned route. The plan was initiated after Palestinian gunmen killed 12 Israelis in a Nov. 15 attack near the Tomb of the Patriarchs. Meanwhile, leaders of several towns in northern Israel said they will start building a section of a security fence along the West Bank and have hired a private contractor to do the work because they could not wait for the government.

Beilin Bolts

JERUSALEM — Leading doves Yossi Beilin and Yael Dayan quit Israel's Labor Party last week after placing so far down its list of candidates in internal party primaries that they would likely not have been elected to Knesset in January's elections. Beilin and Dayan have reached a deal to run on the leftist Meretz Party's list, where they will hold 11th and 12th spots, respectively.

Movie Banned

JERUSALEM — Israeli censors have banned a film by an Israeli Arab on last spring's battle in Jenin that depicts alleged Israeli atrocities during the anti-terror operation there. A spokesperson for Israel's censor board said it banned *Jenin, Jenin* because it presents fictional events as truth and is "propaganda that represents a biased view of the group with whom Israel finds itself at war."

WORLD

Fellowships Available

NEW YORK — North American high school students in grades 10 and 11 are invited to apply by Feb. 15 for 60 fellowships to join 2,000 other teens at this year's Lauder/JDC International Jewish Summer camp in Szarvas, Hungary. For more information on the camp and the fellowships, which are administered by the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, visit www.szarvas.org. Also, North American students in Grade 12 are invited to apply by Jan. 31 for 26 Bronfman Youth Fellowships in Israel, which cover five weeks of study and travel. For details, call 518-475-7212 or visit www.bronfman.org.

Dead Jews Baptized?

NEW YORK — Jewish and Mormon officials met last week to discuss new allegations that church members are still posthumously baptizing deceased Jews, including thousands of Holocaust victims. Seven years after the church signed a deal to do all it could to stop the practice, new evidence has emerged that the church's International Genealogical Index lists as many as 20,000 Jewish Holocaust victims and perhaps many more, all evidently baptized by proxy after their deaths. Ernest Michel, a Holocaust survivor who chairs the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors, said Mormon leaders who attended the meeting reiterated the promise to end the practice.

Catholic Lawsuit

NEW YORK — The Catholic League filed suit against New York City schools last week for allowing Jewish and Muslim holiday symbols but barring Nativity scenes, saying the policy is unconstitutional.

War Criminals in Oz

SYDNEY — Australian police have confirmed that nine of 22 alleged Nazi war criminals named last year by Lithuania are still in Australia. Lithuania has said the 22 served in local police units and were responsible for murdering thousands of Jews in Lithuania and Ukraine in World War II.

A Russian Chanukah

TORONTO — Some 1,000 members of Toronto's 40,000-strong Russian Jewish community attended the first-ever Chanukah Carnival, sponsored by the Jewish Russian Community Centre (JRCC), at Fisherville Junior High School.

The kids-oriented event included holiday-themed games, performers, a menorah-making workshop and an authentic olive press that children could use to make oil, much like the oil that burned miraculously for eight days when the ancient Temple was rededicated after the Maccabees reclaimed it from Israel's Greek oppressors.

"There were so many fun games and performers, and the kids really got to learn hands-on what Chanukah is all about in a wonderfully festive atmosphere," said Natasha Kogan, who brought her three children to the carnival. "The truth is, I also learned a lot of new things."

Earlier, a 13-foot Chanukiyah was lit in G. Ross Lord Park at the spot where Dmitri "Matti" Baranovski was beaten to death by a group of young people in November 1999. The ceremony was attended by more than 100 people and a dozen dignitaries, including Olga Baranovski, Matti's mother.

"Chanukah is the celebration of light over darkness," said Rabbi Chaim Hildeshaim, the JRCC's director of holiday programs. "It is very fitting that we light a menorah each year to add light to a place of darkness for so many people."

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CSU eases sanctions against Hillel, lawsuit goes ahead

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL – About 100 members of Hillel walked out en masse from a Concordia Student Union (CSU) meeting to protest what they considered a "coercive" motion requiring it and all other student clubs to sign an agreement that includes a clause banning recruitment for any military or paramilitary organization.

The motion, put forward by CSU president Sabine Friesinger, passed with 10 in favour and one abstention at an extraordinary open meeting of the CSU council of representatives last Thursday night.

The new resolution replaces one passed Dec. 2 that suspended Hillel's CSU funding and its privileges to use student space on campus.

The second motion, which came a day after Hillel said it would sue the CSU, means Hillel is again able to have information tables, put up posters or book space. But its funding – which amounts to $3,000 – will not be restored until it signs the agreement.

Like the first, the new resolution condemns Hillel for disseminating information about Mahal, a program that allows young Diaspora Jews to serve in the Israel Defence Forces, and it demands an apology from Hillel.

The CSU contends Hillel may have violated the Foreign Enlistment Act, which forbids recruiting for a foreign army in Canada. It also objects to the flyers explicitly appealing only to Jews, which the CSU feels is racist.

Councillor Naomi Sarna, a Hillel member, denounced the motion before debate on it had opened. She called it a "propaganda instrument" and said it was "patently absurd" that the CSU, which she said has "condoned violence here and abroad," should make such a rule.

Another council member, Hillel co-president Noah Joseph, accused the CSU of being more interested in advancing its political views than in respecting the rights of Jewish students.

The new resolution also specifically demands that Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights (SPHR) immediately sign the agreement, or its funding will be frozen as well. SPHR leader Laith Marouf indicated at the meeting the SPHR is in favour of it.

Under the agreement, CSU-affiliated clubs commit to principles that are similar to those worked out among the university administration, SPHR and Hillel as a condition for the lifting of the moratorium on Middle East-related events Nov. 25. It speaks of a commitment to mutual respect and non-violent, non-racist and non-discriminatory behaviour.

These principles differ from those proposed by the CSU previously in one way: the banning of the "advocacy of war" has been dropped. Hillel rejected that proposal, its lawyer Michael Bergman said, because it would have made it appear that Hillel opposed the war on terrorism or any military action against Iraq.

On Dec. 11, Youri Cormier, a CSU representative on the Concordia board of governors, was unsuccessful in having an "emergency motion" passed that would have had the university condemn Hillel for the Mahal flyers.

Last Wednesday, Bergman announced he would file a petition in Superior Court early this week against the CSU and name Concordia as co-party.

The suit would seek an injunction preventing the CSU from "further interfering" in Hillel's functioning, restitution of all funds allocated by the CSU to Hillel (to be placed in trust with an independent, impartial third party), unspecified punitive damages for impingement of the constitutional rights of Concordia's Jewish students, and the reimbursement of Hillel's legal fees.

Hillel initiated the lawsuit after the CSU failed to respond to a lawyer's letter calling on it to rescind the Dec. 2 motion and apologize to Hillel. Late last week, Sarna said the suit is going ahead.

Bergman said the Dec. 2 resolution was passed in violation of "countless" CSU regulations, most notably lack of notice and due process.

Hillel also wants the university to fulfill its "duties" in overseeing the fair use of campus space. The CSU should be placed under trusteeship, "if necessary," Bergman said.

Bergman, who was joined by Hillel co-presidents Noah Sarna and Noah Joseph at a press conference last week, described the CSU action on Dec. 2 as "the first time since 1930s Austria [that] a Jewish student organization has been shut down."

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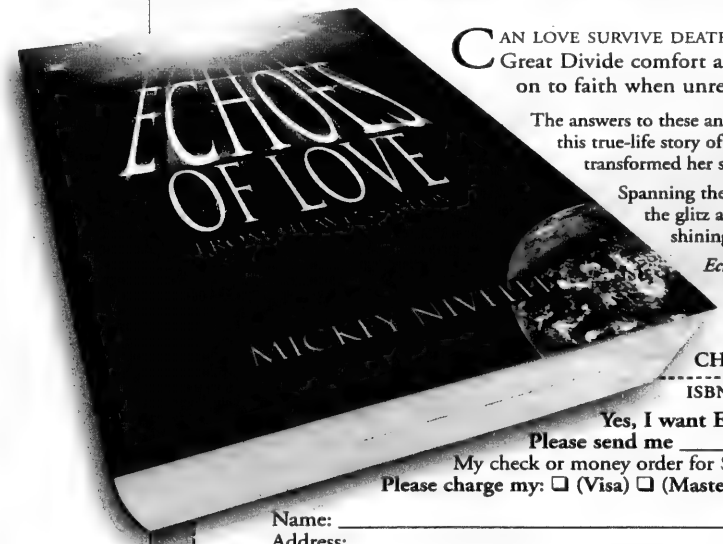

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From the editor's desk

As most of our readers know by now, in the last issue of every month, we publish in this space, a review of a book written by an Israeli. It is part of *The CJN's* effort to counter a campaign being conducted in many quarters around the world, which is aimed at singling out and isolating Israel and Israelis.

* * *

Much like Israeli society, *Husband and Wife*, by Zeruya Shalev, (Grove Press, New York) bristles with sharp intensity.

From the very first paragraph on the very first page, the author captures the reader. The story, along with a great many of the stories emanating these days from the imaginations and pens of young Israeli writers, is brooding, deeply introspective and crisis-oriented, perhaps a reflection of the times and atmosphere in which they write.

The narrator, Na'ama Newman, rises one morning to discover that her husband, Udi, has suddenly, inexplicably, suffered an illness that deprives him of the use of his legs.

Udi, a tour guide, is in peak physical condition and has returned only the night before from the desert plain of the Arava. Yet, when he awakens, his legs are paralyzed. Overcoming the confusion and fear that naturally accompany so startling a discovery, Na'ama manages to get Udi to the hospital where a collegium of doctors and experts diagnose Udi's illness as psychosomatic.

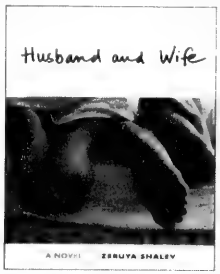
This is the beginning point of a plot that will eventually unwind like a bright thread being pulled from a densely woven, compact skein of flaming human emotion and distressing marital turmoil.

Shalev is a bold and daring writer, stylistically and substantively.

Her method of writing is quite powerful at times, intertwining short, clipped statements of far-reaching insight with broad, descriptive passages of finely nuanced detail. Dialogue between the characters is rendered in long, run-on paragraphs reminiscent, at times, of James Joyce. Yet, even in dialogue, the writing enfolds within it descriptive passages that depict vast expanses of geographical, physical, emotional and psychological terrain.

The following passage describes Na'ama's feelings after Udi has undergone his first set of examinations in the hospital. She has been running between nurses and doctors, struggling to contain her emotions and to understand Udi's problem.

"Were you crying, he asks in a hostile voice, and I mumble, of course not, it's just a cold, and the nurse swallows a smile, she doesn't miss a thing, you're going up to the ward, she informs him, and he's taken aback, but a glimmer of pride flashes in his eyes, like a pupil promoted to the next grade, and she's already filling his chart with blue lines, sending me to get the forms signed, and I hurry away, the aging messenger girl of the emergency room, and miss their farewells, because when I return his bed is already standing in the middle of the hall, him looking like some kind of birthday boy, his body covered with the papers and envelopes that have accumulated over the past few hours, like the gifts of generous relatives, and under them all his delicate face peeps out, and perhaps I'm mistaken but it seems to me that between his lips I see the tip of the tail of a secret smile of triumph."



Even in so brief a passage, Shalev deftly depicts the ambiguity of Na'ama's relationship with Udi. Na'ama's anxiety and self-doubt are the reference point for the description of the chaotic goings-on in the hospital.

Shalev confronts the myriad complexities and vulnerabilities of marital life without shrinking from the detail that some will undoubtedly consider a trespass into the core physical and emotional intimacy that defines the relationship. She is as explicit in uncovering the inner essences of her characters as she is with their physical aspects.

Shalev is uncannily insightful and perceptive about self and others, with searing sorties of unembellished observation. The reader often "witnesses" acts of tenderness and comfort between the characters, which quickly explode into hard, sharp-edged shrapnel of aggressive confrontations by the blow of a harsh, errant word, an ill-expressed jealousy or an ill-timed, intrusive, harmful memory.

Shalev was raised on a kibbutz and now lives in Jerusalem. She is a celebrated poet and novelist in Israel with a master's degree in biblical studies; she is chief literary editor in one of Israel's publishing houses.

Husband and Wife received the prestigious Corine Prize for literature in Germany. Shalev's previous novel, *Love Life*, also a story about the emotional and psychological entanglements of married life, has been translated into 17 languages. Somewhat controversial in Israel because of its unflinching, descriptive manner, it was awarded the Golden Book Prize and the Ashman Prize.

* * *

Next month we shall turn our attention to a work of non-fiction, *The Capacity to Govern*, by Yehezkel Dror, one of Israel's most visionary and expansive strategic thinkers.

—MBD

SeeJN

HEBREW SPEAKERS ARE CHAPTER OF THE YEAR: Jewish Women International of Canada named Toronto-based Kinneret Chapter its Chapter of the Year at the organization's recent Biennial Leadership Conference in the Laurentians. Pictured at the meeting are Kinneret members, top row, from left: Lily Zorer, Sabina Winer, Michelle Weinberg, Stela Gal, Dafna Schandorf; middle row, chapter president Meny Rom, Juliette Hershkovich, Miriam Pinhas, and front, Ziva Brigler. The organization improves the quality of life of women, children and families worldwide through education and advocacy.

Boaz Nol presents plans for a different Israel

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Boaz Nol is young, energetic and driven by a vision of a different Israel.

Nol, 26, is the leader of a new political party, Yisrael Acheret, that hopes to capture at least three seats in the upcoming January elections by focusing on issues of concern to mainstream Israeli youth.

"Many of my friends have left Israel in search of better lives" abroad, while others are standing in lines outside the Canadian embassy hoping to get immigration visas, he said.

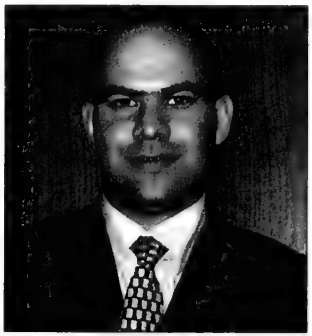
But it's not terrorism that is driving them away.

They're leaving because they feel abandoned by a country controlled by special interests, Nol told a group at Holy Blossom Temple recently.

Funds for education and pensions – issues that affect the average Israeli – are allocated to programs favoured by smaller parties in order to cobble together a majority in the Knesset, Nol said.

Over the past two years, thousands of young Israeli have left the country, he said, and it is no longer tolerable to be complacent about the leadership and politics of Israel and "do nothing about changing it."

Some Israeli critics have called Yisrael Acheret's leaders naive, while others suggest their platform is ill-conceived. In addition, Shinui, a competing political party, has been trying to prevent Yisrael Acheret from running in the upcoming elections by appealing a decision by Israel's party registrar that allowed it to register as a new party without the usual waiting period.



Boaz Nol

However, a recent rally in Tel Aviv that attracted thousands shows the party is gaining momentum among the post-army, twenty-something generation, Nol said.

Yisrael Acheret, which means "a different Israel," began as a youth movement involved in social welfare projects such as the establishment of kindergartens in Bedouin villages.

"Our movement started with 5 naive people" and has "grown to a political party with more than 10,000 [members] that now includes Bedouins, Ethiopians and Russians," Nol said.

The party will be guided by what it calls a new Zionist vision – that "Israel is the democratic state of the Jewish people, allowing all its citizens to live with dignity in accordance with their principles and faith."

The most fundamental change to Israeli politics Nol envisions is restructuring the government based on the U.S. model.

"Politicians should be elected to the Knesset to pass laws" and ministers should be appointed to manage departments because they are the best managers the country has to offer, Nol said.

According to Nol's plan, governing parties will be able to appoint their own slate of ministers drawn from the most experienced professionals in Israel.

He said the plan and the party already have the support of Ben-Gurion University president Avishay Braverman and former Shin Bet chief Ya'acov Perry.

Among its other proposals, Yisrael Acheret will demand that all Israeli citizens serve in the Israel Defence Forces – Orthodox men could serve in units without women and Israeli Arabs could be drafted into a civil service, Nol explained.

Other party goals include adopting a principle of "freedom of religion and freedom from religion" for Israeli citizens, which would allow for such things as marriages and divorces from more than one denomination. The party also favours using education as a tool to achieve social mobility and equality, and promoting investment in national projects to reduce unemployment.

As far as the Palestinian conflict is concerned, Nol would support the dissolution of smaller Jewish settlements on the West Bank, the creation of a Palestinian state and the building of a wall between the two countries.

"There will be a Palestinian state, but there will not be peace with the Palestinians" in the short term, he said.

After serving in Jenin and Nablus, Nol said, he believes Israelis understand that it will be a long time before they can achieve peace with a people who put up pictures in their classrooms of "martyrs" (suicide bombers) with a number underneath each photo representing the amount of Jews they killed.

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CCCJ honours three for fighting prejudice

By ADAM SEGAL
Special to The CJN

When Joseph Rotman tells his children and grandchildren about the anti-Semitism he encountered as a boy, they have difficulty imagining it happening in Canada.

"The fact they find it hard to believe is proof of what a wonderful, liberal society Canada has become," the businessman and philanthropist told hundreds at the Royal York hotel recently.

Making Canada a more equal and just society is the raison d'etre of the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, which awarded Rotman, his wife Sandra and former federal finance minister Michael Wilson with its 2002 Human Relations Award for their efforts in combating prejudice and promoting understanding.

Several hundred were on hand for the gala dinner and awards ceremony.

Longtime contributors to various fields including health care, academia and the arts, the Rotmans are known for donating money and time to important causes.

"If either of them commit themselves to something... they're out there with tremendous enthusiasm," said Dr. Don Stuss, founding director of the Rotman Research Institute at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric care. "And their advice is always thoughtful."

A former educator at United Synagogue Day School, Sandra Rotman has established a chair in neuropsychiatry at Baycrest, as well as a chair in social work at the University of Toronto.

She is a strong supporter of the arts and has served on several committees with the Art Gallery of Ontario.

Joseph, who currently serves as director of the Bank of Montreal, Barrick Gold Corporation and other firms, is involved in furthering the advancement of life sciences. He is on the executive of several committees relating to the field, including serving as chair of Ontario BIO Council.

Both Rotmans are honorary chairs of the Canadian Friends of the Israel Museum.

Israel and the rising tide of anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism were central topics in Joseph's speech.

"When learned academics compare Israel to the Nazis, [it appears to be] a new, unique form of intolerance using Israel as a surrogate for intolerance," he said.

"The irony is that Israel has at least as much freedom and liberty as most countries, including Canada and the United States."

Another type of intolerance addressed by the CCCJ is the stigma that surrounds people with mental illnesses.

It is an issue Wilson is very familiar with. His son Cameron's struggle with mental illness resulted in tragedy when he took his own life as a young man.

"[There is a] myth that mental illness is a life sentence," Wilson said. "Yet more than 70 per cent of those who suffer can and do return to having normal lives."

First elected to the House of Commons in 1979, Wilson served in a variety of capacities, including as finance minister in Brian Mulroney's Conservative government.

Along with his current role as president and CEO of Canadian operations with UBS Global Asset Management, Wilson is heavily involved in fundraising and community projects to raise awareness and develop treatment for people with mentally illnesses.

As chair of the 1999-2000 fundraising campaign for the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Wilson helped raise $11.5 million.

Wilson said people with mentally illness frequently find themselves isolated, feeling as if they have to hide their problem or face serious repercussions.

"Don't tell anybody where I am because if they know, I won't get a job," is what Cameron told his parents shortly before his death.

Wilson encouraged people to be more open about mental illness. He stressed that medication is not the only cure and perhaps more important is the support from family and friends.

BUY ISRAEL: Student Council representatives from day schools across the city recently joined together to trade ideas about how to encourage students (and their parents) to buy Israeli products. In a meeting sponsored by the Board of Jewish Education, student representatives from twelve day schools were joined by their staff advisors and members of BJE staff. Many exciting and original ideas were generated which the reps will take back to their respective schools.

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Yiddish speakers dwindling in Canada

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

The number of Canadians claiming Yiddish as their mother tongue continues to decline.

Figures released last week based on the 2001 census show that 19,295 Canadians listed Yiddish as their mother tongue, described by Statistics Canada as the first language learned at home and still spoken by the individual.

The 2001 numbers represent a 10 per cent decline since 1996, when the mini-census found 21,420 people with Yiddish as their mother tongue.

The numbers suggest that Yiddish as a mother tongue continues its steady decline in this country.

In 1981, for example, 32,800 Canadians, or 11 per cent of Canada's total Jewish population, had Yiddish as their mother tongue. In 1961, the figure was one third of all Jews in Canada. In 1931, 96 per cent of Canadian Jews said their mother tongue was Yiddish.

Observers say it's possible Canada's Jewish population has broken the 400,000 mark (the numbers on religion won't be released until May). If that's the case, less than five per cent of Jews in Canada now speak Yiddish as their mother tongue.

The latest numbers show Montreal has more Yiddish speakers than Toronto, a trend first noticed in the mid-1980s.

In 2001, 9,280 Montrealers listed Yiddish as their mother tongue, compared to 9,955 five years earlier.

In Toronto, 7,210 people spoke Yiddish as their mother tongue in 2001, a drop of 11 per cent from the 1996 figure of 8,175.

Prof. Jim Torczyner of McGill University's school of social work, who has been analyzing census data on Jews for years, says the decline in the number of Yiddish speakers probably reflects the fact the language is still spoken predominantly by older people, who have a higher death rate.

Torczyner said the number of Yiddish speakers in Canada will have to be parsed to see how many are immigrants. He said the figures also reflect the fact chassidic families often still use Yiddish as a mother tongue.

As for Hebrew, 12,435 Canadians listed the language as their mother tongue on the 2001 census. That's a drop from the 13,125 who said the same thing five years earlier.

The numbers were stronger in Toronto: 7,390 listed Hebrew as their mother tongue, while 2,945 did so in Montreal.

Overall, the 2001 census shows that Canada has become more multilingual. Chinese is the third most common language as a mother tongue, after English and French, followed by Italian, German, Punjabi, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Polish. Language groups from Asia and the Middle East reported the largest gains over the previous five years.

Amazon.ca pulls controversial book off Web site

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Amazon.ca, the online book retailer, has agreed to remove from its Web site a best selling novel from Europe that sympathetically portrays a young Palestinian who becomes a suicide bomber.

The move to pull *Rever la Palestine* (Dream of Palestine), written by Randa Ghazi, a 15-year-old Egyptian living in Italy, came after protests by the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, which lobbied Amazon.ca as well as two federal ministers.

In a letter to Marven Krug, director of Amazon.ca, Wiesenthal Canada representative Leo Adler noted the book's hero calls for jihad against Jews, "while the main character is encouraged 'to kill hundreds in his suicide bombing.'"

The novel portrays Palestinian teenagers who fight "bloodthirsty Jews who assassinate children and old people, profane mosques and rape Arab women," Adler stated in his letter.

Adler also called on Justice Minister Martin Cauchon and National Revenue Minister Elinor Caplan to consider laying charges in connection with the importation and publication of the book.

"In my view, its importation breaches Tariff item #9899.00.00, while its publication in Canada (if it is published here) is in contravention of Criminal Code section 320(8) (Canada's hate law)," Adler stated in a letter to the ministers.

The centre also contacted Flammarion Ltd., the French publisher's Canadian distributor, asking that the company recall the book from retailers.

However, Jean Michel Sivry, Flammarion's Canadian general manager, said that decision would have to be taken by the head office in France. Sivry said that only 40 books were allotted to the Canadian market.

He defended the book saying, "the analysis of the contents by elements in the Jewish community has to be balanced with the fact that it's been published in many countries."

The book's message, he continued, was aimed at bringing Palestinians and Israelis closer together and its plot revolves around a love story between a Palestinian and Jew.

In France, where the book quickly sold out in major Parisian bookstores, the publisher faces several lawsuits for incitement to hatred and violence and homicide bombing.

Following the decision by Amazon.ca to pull the book from its inventory (it was also unavailable last week at the U.S-based Amazon.com), Wiesenthal Centre associate dean Rabbi Abraham Cooper urged the French publisher and the parent company that owns it, Italian media giant Rizzoli Corriere della Sera, "to remove the books from store shelves in France, Germany and Italy."

Adler rejected suggestions the Wiesenthal Centre was promoting censorship or book banning. "The issue is whether a book which has as its sole purpose the promotion of murder, hate and anti-Semitism, ought to be sold by reputable businesses with a global reach," he said.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE YOUTH CONVENE: More than 150 youngsters age 10 to 18 took part in the Eastern Canadian Region USY (ECRUSY) regional convention (fall kinnus) and Kadimah Kallah held in late November at Camp Trillium. The weekend's theme was Jews Around the World. From left, Cliel Gilbert-Schachter, communications vice-president; Leora Jackson, eastern area membership/Kadimah vice-president; Leora Kimmel, splinter city membership/Kadimah vice-president; Elise Loterman, social action/tikkun olam vice-president; Daniel Silverman, religion/education vice-president; Liat Tzoubari, executive/Israel affairs vice-president; and David Goldberg, president.

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Dry Bones

WE JEWS HAVE TWO NEW YEARS EACH YEAR.
THE JEWISH ONE WAS ALL ABOUT GUILT...
WHILE THE SECULAR ONE WILL JUST BE MINDLESS FUN...
WHICH ALWAYS MAKES ME FEEL "GUILTY"...
©2002 Kirshen

As 2002 passes away...

As the pages of the general calendar year 2002 fall away into the irretrievable pile of possibilities we call the past, we note with disquieting unease that the campaign against Israel, Israelis and Jews continues apace, and that the anti-Semitism unleashed by that campaign, felt worldwide, has not abated. Even Canada has been a staging ground of sorts for that campaign, and in some places, a hospitable arena for that anti-Semitism.

Last week, for example, we had the bizarre spectacle of the former chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the Assembly of First Nations, David Ahenakew, telling a group at a Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations conference that "the Jews damn near owned all of Germany prior to the war. That's how Hitler came in. He was going to make damn sure that the Jews didn't take over Germany or Europe. That's why he fried six million of those guys, you know. Jews would have owned the goddamned world. And look what they're doing. They're killing people in Arab countries."

We are reluctant to make too much of Ahenakew's statement, for he no longer holds any public position. But it betrays both a grotesque ignorance of history and a grotesque embrace of the vilest, most sinister prejudices against Jews. At the same time, however, we cannot simply glide past the remarks as if they were not made. The fact that an individual who once occupied an important public position believed the thoughts, let alone uttered them, is a cause for grave concern. Graver still is the fact that Ahenakew must have felt the times "allowed" his ogreish thoughts to be expressed publicly.

Of equal concern last week was the fact that on the very day the federal government outlawed Hezbollah, the CBC aired what can only be described as an apology for the terrorist group. Writing in the Dec. 14 *National Post*, Robert Fulford summarized the report filed by Neil MacDonald. The CBC "implied that Canada made a dreadful mistake in naming Hezbollah a terrorist organization." The editorial in the *National Post* that same day was more hard-hitting: "Our national broadcaster manufactured controversy by suggesting the decision was unfounded and due only to a partisan campaign mounted by the pro-Israel lobby."

MacDonald ended his report with the following statement: "Is Hezbollah a national liberation movement or, as Israel and its supporters maintain, a murderous global menace? To a great many people in this part of the world, to label Hezbollah a terrorist organization is to choose sides in the defining conflict of the Middle East, an intensely political decision for any government."

Is it only "Israel and its many supporters" who maintain that Hezbollah is a terrorist organization? How clever, how mischievous, how dishonest, this type of reporting. It is nothing less than advocacy masquerading as reporting. Yet, how inexplicable and unfair that the CBC takes no remedial steps. One would think that the CBC would be mindful enough of its obligation to integrity, if not to the taxpayers, that it too would be offended by this manner of reporting.

That was the type of week it was, disquieting and uneasy, as the pages of the calendar fall away into that irretrievable pile of past tense.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farhad Saleh, Dani (Hamid) Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIA:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz. **KIDNAPPED:** Elchanan Tannenbaum.

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Nothing on campus has changed

Concordia Student Union's censure of the university's Jewish Student Union/Hillel reminds me of the time Hillel was banned from the University of Ottawa 20 years ago. As a member of JSU on campus, we were censored for our support for the Jewish state. Those were the days of heightened anxiety over Israel's incursion into Lebanon. The student council invoked the UN's pernicious "Zionism is racism" clause to justify the ban. Their contorted logic was since JSU/Hillel supported Israel and Israel is Zionism, therefore it must be racist. And since student council must be vigilant of racism, JSU/Hillel must have its rights as an organization to meet with student union subsidies suspended. Clearly, it was a pretext by the student executive to stifle debate. The meeting of the council in which the JSU banishment was to be debated was scheduled for Erev Yom Kippur.

JSU/Hillel at the University of Ottawa took up the challenge and secured a petition of 1,000 students necessary to impeach the student executive. A tribunal was held with two prominent Ottawa lawyers representing JSU. After a heated trial, the tribunal voted in favour of impeachment – an importamt victory for freedom of speech. Incidentally, one of the lawyers representing the University of Ottawa student executive was Doug Christie, who had represented Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel on a number of occasions.

Unquestionably, the university environment was acutely uncomfortable then as it is now for Jewish students, with debasement of Jewish symbols and hyperbolic accusations thrown at the Jewish state. Nothing has changed. Student councils with leftist leanings trample on the rights of Jewish students to suppress debate and to alienate them from the body politic on campus. Our students must not waver.

Norman Epstein
Thornhill

* * *

In defence of Concordia's student union

You are entitled to your opinion when you speak of thuggishness on the part of the Concordia Student Union. We're tired of depictions of these student activists as thugs and extremists. Our experience with this organization differs.

In the wake of last year's events, we decided some pro-activity was needed. we offered a speaker, Edwin Black, who wrote *IBM and The Holocaust*, to the student union. They helped to book a room, and put up posters around the school.

We had a great deal more trouble when we took this event to the wider Jewish community. Perhaps it was due to the fact that We never see speakers in this community who address the American and corporate collaboration with the Nazi genocide of our people. That subject was right up the alley of the anti-corporate types. The Jewish community has far too much pro-capitalist rhetoric, and apologists for corporate extremism.

And let's not keep calling these people anti-democratic. We never voted for the leadership of Montreal's Jewish community. In fact, we find their unabashed support for Israel, no matter what is done there, to be an embarassment. When will our community welcome dissent, as a sign of strength and not of weakness?

Jeremy Wallace, Anne and Max Bailey
Centre For Human Rights & Cultural Diversity
Montreal

* * *

Flawed Peace Now logic I

In the article "Peace Now thriving in Canada despite intifadah" (Dec. 5), Sheldon Gordon of Peace Now is quoted as saying that kibbutzim in pre-1967 Israel, such as Kibbutz Metzer, the site of a terrorist attack that killed five people, are "defenceless" because the Israeli army is "busy defending settlements." I am puzzled by Gordon's reasoning. Would he also blame the settlements for recent terrorist attacks in Tel Aviv, Netanya and Kfar Saba?

Peace Now claims that relinquishing lands captured in 1967 will solve the conflict with the Palestinians. Yet the Palestinians have consisiently vowed to "liberate" all of Israel from the Jews. Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak offered 97 per cent of the West Bank and Gaza to Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat in return for an agreement to end the conflict. The response? Terrorist attacks, suicide bombings and the killing of more than 600 Israelis. The Arab world has never made a distinction between lands settled by Israel before or after 1967. Neither should we.

Kenny Fisher
Toronto

* * *

Flawed Peace Now logic II

I am astounded that while Israelis are leaving the movement "in droves" following their disillusionment after the failure of the Oslo accords, Peace Now in Canada goes from strength to strength. Sheldon Gordon clearly has his finger on the pulse of what is happening in Israel today. He has much to teach us about settlements, the army and the Israeli election campaign. How fortunate we are that Israelis become "disillusioned and enthusiastic more readily" than Canadian Jews such as Gordon, who can see matters so clearly, and who so generously share their wise counsel with us.

But it's not so simple and there are no easy answers. This is what Israelis – whatever their politics – agree today and why neither the extremist left nor right speak to our reality. That is why Peace Now is becoming weaker in Israel while it thrives in Canada – far removed from an intifadah that targets all Israelis daily and indiscriminately.

Martin Kalson
Ginot Shomron, Israel

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

What's the score? Assessing the efficacy of Jewish parliamentarians and other friends of Israel

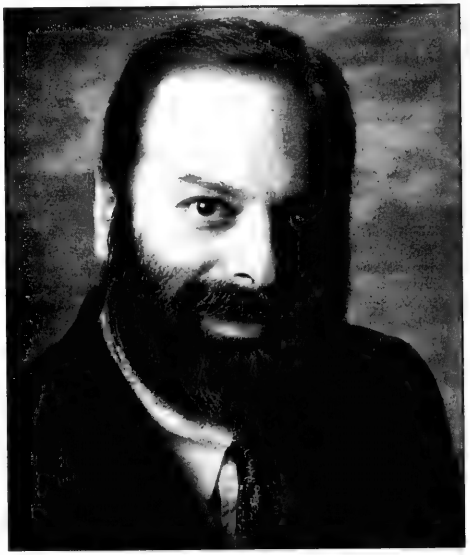
By SHIMON FOGEL

The *Canadian Jewish News* recently approached me with a request to provide a year-end scorecard on the performance by Jewish parliamentarians on Israel-related activities. One would think the task fairly easy for someone who earns his living interacting with the Canadian political sector on these issues. But it represents a far more difficult challenge than might be imagined at first blush.

First, one has to ask, "Why Jewish parliamentarians?" Is it reasonable for the Jewish community to have special expectations of Jewish MPs and senators regarding support for Israel? And does that imply that non-Jewish parliamentarians have less of a responsibility to express support and friendship for Canada's only sister democracy in the Middle East? More insidious, even, is the possible implication that on its merits alone, Israel does not warrant support from the Hill and that only by virtue of their ethno-religious ties can the pro-Israel community harbour certain expectations of specific politicians. And, finally, who hasn't heard – or made – the argument that declarations of support for Israel or criticism of anti-Israel forces is far more effective when articulated by non-Jewish parliamentarians? So exactly what is being asked of Jewish politicians?

Even after we consider these questions, there are more. On what basis can one evaluate the performance of a Canadian politician? There is not much room for personal expression in the parliamentary system. Rarely is Parliament asked to consider legislation that touches on the Middle East, so there are no votes to track. Party discipline mostly obliges caucus members to toe a party line, so there isn't much room for independent thinking there, either. Caucus meetings themselves are conducted in secrecy, so it's difficult for a politician to publicize his or her interventions concerning a specific issue. Thus, visible support for a cause is pretty much limited to statements, participation in rallies, speeches (generally in a riding) and public letters. Frankly, that's not much to go on!

Assuming these problems are also overcome, there is one last matter to resolve. Who is doing the assessment? As one who works daily on these issues, I have the benefit of some insight into the contributions made by various politicians. However, the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) does not comment publicly on the performance of parliamentarians, Jewish or otherwise, though perhaps that ought to change. Nor have these comments been vetted by the CIC board or executive. Even the national chair has not seen a draft of this essay! I belabour this point only to caution that the following comments do not reflect the CIC's official position. If anything, they are a collection of my observations that may help the reader get a sense of the level of engagement of various politicians in the pro-Israel advocacy effort.



Shimon Fogel

Having posed the questions and rendered the caveats, it's time to turn to the answers.

No Jew has ever been elected to Parliament simply because she or he is Jewish. More importantly, members of the Jewish community do not typically cast a ballot based solely on a candidate's position on the "Jewish agenda." Yet, there is an expectation that when elected – or, in the case of the Senate, appointed – Jews will, or at least should, champion the issues central to the community's concerns. While one could debate whether such expectations are fair, it should be noted that this expectation extends beyond the Jewish community. Colleagues in a caucus take for granted that Jewish parliamentarians will serve as a conduit both to and fro, communicating sensitivities, views and concerns, and advocating for adoption of community positions. Indeed, Canadian political culture assumes this role for parliamentarians of all ethnic backgrounds. To be sure, it is not always a comfortable place to be, but it is a reality that cuts across all partisan lines.

Moreover, the question that is so often just beneath the surface – no, not that one – is: "If support for Israel is not most evident among Jewish politicians, from where should that support flow?" Friends of Israel on the Hill generally, though not always, look to their Jewish colleagues for insight and direction on emerging developments and situations that require policy statements, and take their cue from their reactions, or, they look to their Jewish mates for leadership.

Well, one cannot find a stronger leader than Mount Royal Liberal MP Irwin Cotler. In the course of my 15 years interacting with the political sector, no one – Jewish or otherwise – approaches Cotler's level of passion, determination and efficacy in making the case for Israel. He does it publicly through statements inside the House and outside in any forum, Jewish or otherwise, in Canada. He spends countless hours in serious conversation with other parliamentarians about the issues of the day and more hours sharing his compelling observations with the media. He carries the message to conferences, bi- and multilateral meetings, and governmental organizations throughout the world. And, by virtue of his other accomplishments as a legal scholar and defender of human rights, Cotler brings an unparalleled credibility to the debate.

> When Jews are elected, they are expected to champion issues central to the Jewish community's concerns

But style and talents are as unique as fingerprints. Few parliamentarians have the depth of Cotler's knowledge of the issues and others have various constraints on their ability to visibly demonstrate their support for Israel. Cabinet ministers are particularly handicapped in this regard.

I recall an incident a few years back, when I was trying to get a handle on a rookie MP. She had spent some time at Queen's Park, so I spoke with a valued friend who was working at that time for then-Ontario premier David Peterson. He shared the following story that has forever defined her in my eyes. When the news of Refusenik Natan Sharansky's imminent release broke, she was in the legislature. After my friend shared the news with her, she quietly stole off into a far corner. When he drew near to her, my friend found her sobbing – tears of joy for Sharansky, tears of despair for the other refusniks still imprisoned, tears of raw emotion that flow for one's own. Thornhill Liberal MP Elinor Caplan has never disappointed me since.

I cannot provide you with any information on what interventions Caplan has undertaken within Cabinet. I would never suggest that she ever acted inappropriately in her capacity as a minister by giving preferential treatment to Israel-related causes. I do, however, submit that Caplan is a cherished friend of the CIC and the pro-Israel community, despite having taken some tough lumps from elements within the Jewish community.

Other Jewish MPs, individuals such as Jacques Saada and Raymonde Folco from Quebec, and Anita Neville from Manitoba, have not enjoyed the same profile as Caplan or Cotler. But all three Liberals have shown strong support for Israel. They have always provided the CIC with ready access; have always been willing to carry our concerns to caucus and Cabinet; regularly support the efforts and activities of the Canada-Israel Parliamentary Association; eagerly seek to become fluent with the issues and developments related to the ongoing crisis; and, in the case of Neville and Saada, joined with the CIC on an unprecedented parliamentary solidarity mission to Israel earlier this year. (Folco could not attend since she was a parliamentary secretary at the time). In my experience, each of them has provided invaluable assistance during their parliamentary careers and more importantly, each has been comfortable and proud to be recognized as a Jew and a steadfast supporter of Israel.

Likewise, Jewish members of the Senate have made significant contributions to the pro-Israel advocacy effort. From Jack Austen in British Columbia to Mira Spivak in Manitoba and Jerry Grafstein in Ontario, all have been sources of support and advice. They have also been the source of occasional criticism, too – but only as individuals who share the community's concerns and want to see as effective and meaningful an effort as possible on Israel's behalf.

Before leaving the Senate, and since this is a bit of a personal commentary, I must confess a special regard for the two other Jewish senators. Leo Kolber can be a tough nut and his years of high finance and the rough texture of the political backrooms are evident. But his love for Israel and burning desire to see the strongest possible relationship between Canada and Israel is nothing short of inspirational. He was the first parliamentarian with whom I met after joining the CIC and he has been a ready font of advice, insight and encouragement ever since. Similarly, Richard Kroft has become a singular and sage resource since his appointment to the Senate in 1998. Truth be told, he was a generous friend in all the years prior to his appointment and the value of his wisdom and council are immeasurable.

So there you have it. My experience points to a desire on the part of all Jewish parliamentarians – past and present – to stand with Israel and in support of Israel. There is, however, one small codicil… They don't stand alone.

Within every party represented in the House of Commons and the Senate, there are to be found friends of Israel, great friends of Israel. Only limitations of space prevent me from naming them. But I suggest that the Jewish community be made aware of the wonderful efforts that have been undertaken by so many parliamentarians – not because they are Jews or because they have large Jewish constituencies, but because they believe in Israel and want to see that belief reflected in the nature and quality of the Canada-Israel relationship. They merit our support and appreciation and our challenge is to find ways to express that appreciation.

Shimon Fogel is the CEO of the Canada-Israel Committee.

The complexity of identity

Jews living in the Diaspora who try to integrate into the majority population have usually struggled with their identity.

They would ask: "Can we be loyal citizens of our country and still remain loyal Jews?"

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

For Canadian or American Jews in the year 2002, that has long ceased to be a problem, but for an earlier generation it posed a bothersome question.

I still remember vividly my early days in the rabbinate when this issue turned up regularly and Jewish identity was vigorously debated.

I am reminded of this because recently, while in Washington, D.C., I went to the theatre in the beautiful John F. Kennedy Center and saw a play called *Blood Knot*, written by South African playwright Athol Fugard.

The title is a metaphor for the apartheid era in South Africa and depicts a time I still remember all too clearly from my visits to that beautiful country.

Fugard's drama features two brothers, one light skinned and one dark skinned, both of them trying to explore their identity during that time.

What both brothers really want from life is to be white, an impossible wish that exposes the complexity of racial identity.

For me, the most memorable moment came when one brother, disturbed by the fallout of a racial debate, called his brother "nigger."

It reminded me that the term has not yet vanished from our vocabulary, and while fewer and fewer people are stupid enough to use it, its sound still disturbs a fragile communal psyche, even when it is integrated into a make-believe play on stage.

There was no specific Jewish aspect to Fugard's fascinating drama, but sitting in the audience, I could not help but think of the struggles our own community experienced in years gone by, struggles that resembled the problems depicted in the play.

Fortunately, those days, when Canadian as well as American Jews tried to find their proper place, are a distant memory and rarely more.

But, as the play brought out forcefully, others in our society are still facing a tough struggle to accept who they are.

It is something we should understand with a sense of gratitude that the problem no longer threatens us as once it did.

Payback time for the churches

The movie *Rabbit-Proof Fence* tells the story of three aboriginal children in Australia who were kidnapped from their home village and sent to live with white settlers. As children of white fathers and aboriginal mothers, they were part of the Australian government's plan to destroy aboriginal culture.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Canada wasn't far behind with its plan to eradicate the "Indians." Let me tell you a Canadian story. Some years ago, I was sitting in a band office with a nurse. Earlier that week, the nurse said, a woman had come in, obviously distraught. A drug addict, she was desperately seeking help. Could the nurse find her a detox centre?

The nurse began phoning around. As an "urban native" the desperate woman did not qualify for certain treatment centres. I don't remember the details, but the bottom line was this: while the nurse frantically tried to find help, the woman disappeared into the washroom, fixed, and left – returning to the nightmare that is life for so many native women. I fear she is still on the street, if she did not become a murder victim.

"Do you know why so many natives have no teeth?" the nurse asked me later. "It is because in the residential schools it was easier to pull all the teeth than to fix them – so the children of those residential kids have no idea about how to care for teeth."

I am talking about one of our local First Nations reserves. I was there to strengthen the band's case for a full-fledged health centre funded by our local health board, as other community health centres were being set up around the city. To skip to the end of the story, the band didn't get its centre.

Why am I telling you this? Because Ottawa has recently agreed to pay 70 per cent of the cost of settling thousands of lawsuits alleging sexual and physical abuse of native children years ago at residential schools run by the Anglican Church, which would pay the remaining 30 per cent. I have no doubt this precedent will translate into 70 per cent for all the denominations that stand guilty of egregious cultural genocide and outright physical and sexual abuse of native children.

I realize our federal government, as titular guardians of natives under the despicable Indian Act, was totally derelict in its responsibility to protect these children, and so it should bear some of the burden of the damage done to generations of native Canadians. The government consciously tried to destroy native culture.

But 70 per cent? Oh no, not for the same church whose primate, Archbishop Michael G. Peers, lectures the Jews of Canada and the Israelis on their moral responsibilities to Palestinians.

No, not for the church whose clergy should – as should those of all other guilty churches – walk on their knees before the descendants of those children torn from their homes, deprived of parents, language and heritage, and often beaten and raped as well.

As a Canadian, I accept responsibility for what my government did. I would never have agreed to its policies, which outlawed the potlatch, sold off indigenous artifacts, stole native children and forced natives onto humiliating reserves.

We must now, all of us, make restitution. But I strongly object to allowing the actual guardians of those children, the churches and Christians who allowed this abuse, to walk away so unscathed.

Think of Jews in Czarist Russia whose children were snatched and forced into the Czar's brutal army, where most were lost to their people. How would we feel if, in the early years of Jewish settlement in Canada, our Torah scrolls had been seized and sold to museums as remnants of a dead or dying culture (as the Nazis indeed planned to do)? What if we had been denied the right to build synagogues, or open day schools and teach our children Hebrew? What if we were forced to live in ghettos in isolated spots where no economic development could take place?

Yes, we all must pay, but let the churches who stood on the front lines stop whining and pay up as well. And if that means passing the hat, selling their properties, enduring some financial hardship, so be it.

My solution: let government pay 30 per cent of the cost of settling the lawsuits and let the churches pay 70 per cent.

It will be a cheap way to rid themselves of guilt.

Don't wish me season's greetings

On Chanukah this year, I made a point of bringing in enough jambusters – or, as non-Winnipegers call them, jelly doughnuts – for all my colleagues at work. I sent around an e-mail announcing that it was Chanukah and invited all to partake in the sweet, greasy treat.

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

They made short work of the diet-defying dainties and were gracious while they littered the office with powdered sugar and jam blotches.

I am proud to talk about Chanukah and other Jewish holidays, and I expect my non-Jewish friends, neighbours and colleagues to be equally proud of their traditions, rites and rituals. I'm happy to hear about Ramadan, Divali, Kwanzaa and Christmas. (I do, however, draw the line at eating Christmas fruit cake. The last time I ate a piece, I thought it tasted like chewy, expired Children's Tylenol. I'd be happy to put a fruit cake in my trunk to help the car retain its grip on icy roads, but I can't imagine actually consuming it ever again.)

I don't take offence at people wishing me "Merry Christmas." I'm more bothered by the lack of parking in front of the mall at this time of year than by the Christmas music playing in it. I like the fact people seem friendlier at this time of year. I like when people talk about peace. And Santa, well, old Saint Nick makes me feel thin.

Frankly, I'm not bothered by all the yuletide chatter. I think it's healthy and I'm proud to live in a Canadian society that permits the open recognition and celebration of religion. The culture that permits shopping mall Christmas trees and Santa Claus parades is the same one that encourages newspaper articles about Ramadan and menorahs at city hall.

What does trouble me is some of the political correctness that rears its careful head at this time of year. I don't want non-Jews trying so hard not to offend me that they mask or hide their own holiday spirit and celebrations. I don't need the word "holiday" substituted for "Christmas" in every conversation about this time of year.

I don't know what "Season's greetings" means, let alone feel touched by its utterance. I'm not bothered when the store clerk wishes me Merry Christmas. Jews make up about two per cent of the population in Winnipeg. I don't expect the clerk to say "Thank you for shopping at Safeway. Chag sameach."

The more people feel free to utter the words and share the symbols of their own holidays, the prouder I am to be Canadian. I'd rather that schools and public institutions saw this time of year as an annual opportunity to respectfully share facts, knowledge and insights about the celebrations of all religions as opposed to a burdensome time of year when new methods to obscure cultures and religions must be found. After all, Canada is a multicultural society, not a non-cultural one.

The key to preserving Jewish and other minority identities in Canada is not to hide or diminish the majority culture in the hopes of compensating for a population imbalance. The key is for our people to celebrate our holidays proudly, with colour, vigour and creativity.

As my kids get older, I'm sure my wife and I will face the same challenges so many couples do when their kids see the lights and magic of Christmas all around them. They'll want to know why they can't have the same. I hope our solution will neither be to diminish Christmas nor to surrender to it. I hope the solution will be to celebrate Chanukah and other Jewish holidays with increasing, contagious excitement – the type of excitement that has the potential to generate pride and increased curiosity.

I want my kids to feel Jewishly confident, proud and literate. It is through that Jewish lens that I want them to participate in Canadian, multicultural life and it is through that lens that I want them to view the "holiday season." And I hope they will also learn about other religions and cultures through that lens – while rejecting fruit cake.

Contact Stuart Slayen at stu_column@hotmail.com.

The passing parade...

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

They died recently, leaving footprints in time...

Israel Amir was the first commander of Israel's air force, holding the job for just 10 weeks. He transformed a fledgling arm of the Haganah, with only eight second-hand aircraft and no functioning airstrip, into the forerunner of a formidable strike force. **Binyamin Peled** was the eighth commander of the Israeli Air Force, rebuilding it after the unexpected losses of the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

Uzi Gal, an Israeli armaments expert, invented the widely-used Uzi submachine gun, the cheap, accurate and efficient weapon of choice in armies and secret service organizations around the world. **Zorach Warhaftig**, a rabbi and a lawyer, was one of the signers of Israel's Declaration of Independence and a founder of the National Religious Party.

Per Anger, a Swedish diplomat, and his colleague, Raoul Wallenberg, saved tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews in Nazi-occupied Budapest by giving them temporary Swedish passports and identity cards. He was later Sweden's ambassador to Canada.

Paul Wellstone was one of the most liberal voices in the U.S. Senate, a Democrat who represented the state of Minnesota from 1992 until about two months ago. **Eugene Rostow**, dean of Yale's law school from 1955 to 1965, was under U.S. secretary of state for political affairs during president Lyndon Johnson's administration. **Charles Lichenstein** was deputy U.S. ambassador to the United Nations from 1981 to 1984, serving under Jeane Kirkpatrick. **Sidney Spivak** led Manitoba's Progressive Conservative party from 1973 to 1977, and was a cabinet minister in several Tory governments.

Lionel Bernstein, a white South African revolutionary, played a pivotal role in drafting the African National Congress' 1954 freedom charter. **Percy Yutar**, his polar opposite, was the South African government prosecutor in the 1964 Rivonia trial, at which African National Congress leaders, including Nelson Mandela, were given life sentences.

William Phillips (Litvinsky) was the co-founder and editor of *Partisan Review*, one of the most influential literary and political journals in the United States immediately before and after World War II. **Chaim Potok**, the American Jewish novelist, wrote *The Chosen*, *The Promise* and *My Name Is Asher Lev*, best-selling books in the 1960s and 1970s. **Phoebe Gilman**, a Canadian children's writer and illustrator, wrote the Jillian Jiggs series after writing her first book, *The Balloon Tree*. **Joseph Nathan Kane**, a master of minutiae, produced exhaustive reference books ranging from *Famous First Facts* to *1,000 Facts Worth Knowing*. **Robert Friedman**, an investigative journalist, wrote *The False Prophet*, a biography of Meir Kahane, the founder of the Jewish Defence League; *Zealots for Zion*, a study of the Jewish settlement movement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and *Red Mafiya*, an examination of the Russian crime mob in the United States. **Otto Orban** was one of Hungary's leading poets. Among his books were *The Blood of Walsungs* and *The Journey of Barbarus*.

Zvi Kolitz wrote *Yosl Rakover Talks to God*, a classic of Holocaust literature, and co-produced *Hill 24 Doesn't Answer*, Israel's first full-length motion picture (1954). **Joseph Bau**, one of the last surviving Jews on Oskar Schindler's list, was Israel's first animator of films, and known as the Israeli Walt Disney.

John Frankenheimer, a Hollywood film legend, directed *The Manchurian Candidate*, *Birdman of Alcatraz* and *Seven Days in May*. **Karl Reisz**, a Kindertransport child, rose to prominence directing movies such as *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning* and *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. **Sidney Pink**, a pioneer of 3-D feature-length films, was the producer of *Bwana Devil* and *The Angry Red Planet*. **Bruce Paltrow**, the father of Academy Award winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow, directed the television series *St. Elsewhere* and *The White Shadow*. **Charles Guggenheim** won four Oscars as a documentary filmmaker. His finest movies were *Nine From Little Rock*, *Robert Kennedy Remembered*, *The Johnstown Flood* and *A Time for Justice*. **Doris Wishman** directed 30 "B" films, from nudist camp romps to the cult classic *Bad Girls Go To Hell*.

Ted Ashley, an ex-Hollywood talent scout, was chief executive of the Warner Brothers studio from 1969 to 1980, when it released such landmark films as *A Clockwork Orange*, *Chariots of Fire*, *Deliverance*, *The Goodbye Girl* and *All the President's Men*. **Marvin Mirisch**, an independent film producer, made *The Apartment*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The Pink Panther* and *In The Heat of the Night*. **Rod Steiger**, an actor who starred in the latter, also appeared in *The Pawnbroker* and *On the Waterfront*. **Seymour Rexite (Rechzeit)** was a matinee idol of the Yiddish theatre and starred in a number of Yiddish films, one of them being *Mayne Yiddishe Mame*. **Dean Riesner**, a scriptwriter, dreamed up Clint Eastwood's most famous tough-guy line: "Go ahead, make my day."

Larry Rivers (Yitzroch Loiza Grossberg), a proto-Pop Art painter and a sculptor, was instrumental in changing the course of American art in the 1950s and 1960s. His works included *History of Matzo*, *Washington Crossing the Delaware* and *Dutch Masters and Cigars II*.

Richard Bernstein was an illustrator whose portraits of celebrities, from Andy Warhol to Cher, graced the covers of *Interview* magazine. **Emily Genauer**, a Pulitzer Prize art critic and a champion of 20th century painting and sculpture, wrote for the *New York World Telegram* and the *New York Herald Tribune*. **Carole Kismaric** was a book packager and editor who helped start *Time-Life*'s photography series and was the editorial director of the Aperture Foundation, a non-profit publisher of fine art photography books. **Morris Berman**, a newspaper photographer, snapped one of the most memorable images in sports – the 1964 photo of professional football player Y.A. Tittle kneeling dejectedly in the end zone. **Sid Avery** was a Hollywood photographer whose glamorous photos of stars – Rock Hudson, Elizabeth Taylor, James Dean – were published in *Life*, *Look*, *Colliers* and *The Saturday Evening Post*.

Earl Warren (Segal) was the host of Toronto's highly rated CFRB radio show *House of Warren* from the 1960s to in the 1980s. **Jerry Goodis**, a founding member of The Travellers, a folk music group, and co-author of the Canadian version of *This Land is Your Land*, established a successful advertising agency whose catchy jingles included "Harvey's Makes Your Hamburger a Beautiful Thing" and "At Speedy You're a Somebody."

Adolph Green, a playwright/lyricist, was co-author of Broadway musicals such as *Bells are Ringing* and *On the Town* and screenwriter of *Singin' in the Rain*. He composed the words for *Make Someone Happy* and *The Party's Over*. **Buddy Kaye**, a songwriter, wrote *Till the End of Time* and *A – You're Adorable (The Alphabet Song)*.

Seymour Solomon co-founded Vanguard Records, the home of Joan Baez, Buffy Sainte-Marie and Ian & Sylvia. **Vlado Perlemuter**, the French pianist, was an interpreter of the works of Ravel and Faure.

Ronald Malt, a Boston surgeon and Harvard professor, was the first doctor to successfully reattach a human limb to a body. The operation took place in 1962. **Monroe Wall**, a chemist, helped discover Taxol, an important anti-cancer drug. **Martin Kamen**, a scientist born in Toronto, was one of the discoverers of the carbon-14 atom, which enables archeologists to date artifacts and bones and biologists and botanists to decipher chemical processes in plants and animals. **Erwin Chargaff**, a biochemist, laid the foundation for research into the chemical composition of DNA. **Sanford Palay**, a neuroscientist, helped uncover the detailed anatomy of the nerve cell. **Martin Deutsch** discovered the positronium, a kind of atom whose existence had previously only been theorized. **Peter Bergmann** wrote the first textbook about Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity. **Clifford Frondel** was one of the first American mineralogists to examine moon rocks. **Julius Kane**, a Holocaust survivor, headed the medical mycology laboratory in Ontario's ministry of health.

John Weitz, a major fashion designer, was one of the first to enter into licensing deals. **George Barrie** created Brut, the men's fragrance. **William Rosenberg** founded Dunkin' Donuts, one of the world's largest coffee and baked goods chains. **Arnold Weinstock** was president of General Electric Company, Britain's biggest industrial conglomerate. **Harry Walker** was the founder of a speakers' agency that represented heads of state and celebrities. **Harold Oshry** founded one of the first car leasing companies in the United States.

John Wallach founded Seeds for Peace, which promotes understanding between Israeli and Arab children. **Ehud Sprinzak**, a Hebrew University professor, was an expert on Israel's far right. **Gerald Gunther**, a Stanford University legal scholar, wrote *Constitutional Law*, the standard text on the subject. **Walter Weiss** was the legendary maitre d'hotel at Manhattan's 21 Club. **William Pierce**, founder of the National Alliance, a major American neo-Nazi organization, wrote *The Turner Diaries*, the incendiary novel that promoted race war and supposedly inspired Timothy McVeigh to perpetrate the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

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We need some light to get our kids' attention

By RABBI E. AVRAHAM PLOTKIN

A story is told of a simple man, a railway guard, whose job was to stand at the railway crossing and look out for oncoming trains. When a train would approach, he would wave his lantern to the local traffic, warning them to stop for the train.

Rabbinic Reflections

One evening, upon noticing the usual 10 p.m. train, he routinely grabbed his lantern and waved it at an oncoming car to stop. To his great horror, the car ignored his signal and proceeded as if he were not there. Helplessly, he waved his lantern and shouted out at the top of his lungs, but to no avail. The car collided with the train and was totally demolished, killing all the passengers in the car instantly.

Subsequently, the family of the deceased passengers filed a major lawsuit against the railway company. At the court hearing, the simple railway guard was called to the stand as the star witness. After a gruelling cross-examination, the case was dismissed without any cost to the railway company.

On the way out of the courtroom, the president of the multi-million dollar railway company walked over to the simple guard, congratulated him for a job well done and thanked him for his testimony, which literally saved the company millions.

The proud, simple man turned to the president of the railway company whom he truly respected and said: "In all honesty, sir, I wonder what would have happened if the judge had asked me if the lantern was lit?"

In many ways, we are all like the simple railway guard in the story. We too, have been entrusted with the special duty of protecting our children and communities from the oncoming trains that present a grave danger and threaten the future of our people. These are the trains of ignorance, assimilation and intermarriage. We must do everything within our power to protect our families from these ominous trains.

Of course, like the simple guard, we are inclined to react by yelling, shouting and waving our lantern at them. "Don't you dare assimilate," we tell our children. "If you intermarry, you will hurt me very deeply," or "I will jump off the nearest roof," we say. These are scare tactics — desperate attempts to deal with the train heading right for us. But alas, the lantern is not lit. Without any light in the lantern, no one will pay attention to the message.

As a rabbi, over the years I have had many parents consult me on what to do with their uninterested children or how to stop their children from marrying out of the faith.

The answer I give them is not to wave their hands in desperation, but rather to present to their children a warm and glowing light, the light of Torah and mitzvot. The positive approach has proven to be the only effective one.

Let's give our children a positive and enthusiastic Jewish experience throughout their childhood years. Only through a wholesome positive Jewish experience based on education and love of Hashem and the Jewish people will we succeed in receiving the nachas we all truly crave.

Let's light our lanterns today. Our future depends on it.

Rabbi Plotkin is spiritual leader and director of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham, Thornhill.

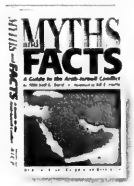
Loan guarantees are not grants

MYTH:

U.S. loan guarantees provided Israel with billions of dollars from American taxpayers that was used to build settlements in the West Bank and Gaza to house Soviet Jews.

FACT:

Since 1989, approximately one million Jews have immigrated to Israel. The majority, roughly 80 per cent, have come from the former Soviet Union. Israel must provide these immigrants with food, shelter, employment and training.



To meet these challenges, Israel has invested billions of dollars, and the Diaspora Jewish community has contributed hundreds of millions of dollars through various campaigns.

Still, the task has been so daunting that Israel asked the United States for help. To put the challenge in perspective, consider that the United States – a country of nearly 300 million people and with a multi-trillion dollar GNP – admits roughly 125,000 refugees a year. In 1990 alone, nearly 200,000 Jews immigrated to Israel.

The United States was a leader in the fight to free Soviet Jews. In 1972, the U.S. Congress began helping to fund their resettlement in Israel. Since 1992, $80 million (US) has been earmarked for this purpose.

After the Soviet Union opened its gates, the number of immigrants grew from fewer than 13,000 people in 1989 to more than 185,000 in 1990.

Israel then requested a different kind of help, and in 1990, the United States approved $400 million (US) in loan guarantees to help.

Guarantees are not grants. The United States simply cosigns loans for Israel that give bankers confidence to lend Israel money at more favourable terms: lower interest rates and longer repayment periods — as long as 30 years instead of only five to seven.

These loan guarantees have no impact on U.S. taxpayers, unless Israel were to default on its loans, something it has never done. In addition, much of the money Israel borrows is spent in the United States to purchase U.S. goods.

When the flood of refugees became even greater than anticipated, and tens of thousands continued to arrive every month, Israel realized it needed more help and asked the United States for $10 billion (US) more in guarantees.

In 1992, Congress authorized the president to provide these guarantees in annual increments of $2 billion over five years. While the cost to the U.S. government was zero, Israel paid the United States annual fees totalling several hundred million dollars to cover administrative and other costs.

Under existing guidelines, no U.S. assistance to Israel can be used beyond Israel's pre-1967 borders. Moreover, to underline U.S. dissatisfaction with Israel's settlement policies, the president was authorized to reduce the annual loan guarantees by the amount equal to the value of Israeli activities in the West Bank and Gaza the previous year.

The U.S. State Department determined Israel spent just under $1.4 billion for settlement activity from 1993 to 1996. The president was authorized, however, to rescind deductions when making funds available to Israel was deemed to be in the security interests of the United States. Former president Bill Clinton used this authority in the last three years of the program, so the actual reduction in the amount of guarantees available to Israel was $774 million.

The money related to settlements had nothing to do with the new immigrants, none of whom were forced to live in the territories. In fact, only a tiny percentage voluntarily chose to do so.

By all measures, the loan guarantee program was a success. Israel used the borrowed funds mainly to increase the foreign currency available to the its business sector and to support infrastructure projects, such as roads, bridges and electrical plants. The guarantees also helped Israel find housing and jobs for virtually all new immigrants.

Besides helping Israel absorb immigrants, the program also sent a strong message to international capital markets about U.S. confidence in Israel's ability to bear this economic burden. As a result, Israel's credit rating was upgraded.

Source: Myths & Facts Online – A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict, *edited by Mitchell G. Bard, www.JewishVirtualLibrary.org.*

Jewish Life

Tzedakah & kids – part 3

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Today, we continue our look at tzedakah and the Web. Tzedakah, of course, is a habit best developed when young, and there are many sites on the Internet geared to developing a sense of community and commitment in young people.

In Tzedakah and Community: Living Jewish Day to Day, you'll find this advice from Rabbi Eliyahu Dressler: "Parents are obligated to help their children convert their self-centered orientation into an altruistic one – that is, to learn to love their fellow as themselves... The first step... is acquired naturally in the family, when parents accustom their children to do things for them and for each other." **[http://shlk.com/248]**

Jewish Parenting Today has several suggestions for getting your kids thinking about tzedakah. How about "cleaning out your kids' closet for clothes to give away before the new school year starts? Let your children know about the mitzvah of Halbashat Arumim, providing clothes for those who are in need of them. Make sure your kids are aware that this Jewish tradition stretches back many centuries." **[http://shlk.com/250]**

I also recommend Virtual Jerusalem's Tzedakah: Why Should we Give? As the site explains, "Did you know that the root of the Hebrew word 'to give' is 'Natan' – 'Nun, Taf, Nun'? Notice that you can read it backwards and forwards. What does that tell us? That through giving, you get back." **[http://207.168.91.4/vjholidays/rosh/whygive.htm]**

How do you teach kids to give regularly? B'nai Brith Interactive recommends colouring in a Jewish calendar with plenty of tzedakah reminders. For example, "Write 'Pocket Change' on every Friday on the calendar. On Erev Shabbat, put your remaining change in a pushke, (tzedakah box) just before lighting candles." **[http://shlk.com/251]** And here's a simple way to get kids in the habit of giving tzedakah – at no cost to them. By registering at GiveDaily.org, the Web site will donate on your behalf a penny a day for a year to various charities. The only catch (if you can call it that) is that you'll receive regular e-mails telling you where the donation is going. You can choose whether your donation goes to such causes as Israel, Jewish education or medical research. **[http://www.givedaily.org/]**

As adults know, sometimes you have to make tough decisions when choosing which charities to support. Some schools are challenging their students to learn more about various organizations and to learn how to decide where their money will go. When the kids at Greenburgh Hebrew Center Religious School in Dobbs Ferry, N.Y., ran a Tzedakah Fair, they invited representatives of Friends of the Israel Defence Forces, Mazon, the Jewish National Fund and the Israel Guide Dog Center. The students were given play money and challenged to decide how they would distribute their money. **[http://uscj.org/ metny/dobbsghc/rlschool/tf.html]**

Meanwhile, students at Congregation Shir Hadash in Los Gatos, Calif., established their own "tzedakah council" and studied several worthwhile projects around the world. They decided to support "Jewish solidarity, the Cuban Jewish Relief Fund, and AIDS research" and at a later point decide on the next tzedakah projects. **[http://www.uahc.org/congs/ca/ca006/notes9706/educ01.html]**

If you are a teacher or a youth group leader, you may be interested in a program offered by the Jewish Fund for Justice Web site. The three-part Tzedakah Partnership Program consists of a course about the causes and consequences of poverty; a hands-on project that students carry out in partnership with local community-based groups; and the giving of tzedakah. **[http://www.jfjustice.org/tzedakah_partnership.htm]**

Finally, all children – and adults – should learn the famous commentary on tzedakah by Moses Maimonides, the great 12th century rabbi/philosopher. Maimonides maintains all giving is *not* equal and says there are actually eight levels of giving – from the lowest level, giving reluctantly, to the fourth level, giving before one is asked, to the highest, which is helping another by enabling that person to become self-sufficient through a gift or loan, or helping the person gain a skill or find employment. **[http://www.jopp.org/mc_kits/tikun_olam.htm]**

So, whether you've just helped someone find a job or donated a few pennies from your allowance, *yishar koach*!

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based Web site producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

Communal dialogue ultimately fails

Books
Bernard Baskin

***One People, Two Worlds*, by Ammiel Hirsch and Yosef Reinman, Random House, $40.00.**

This stimulating book is based on an e-mail dialogue between Rabbi Ammiel Hirsch, executive director of the Reform Zionists of America, and Rabbi Yosef Reinman, an Orthodox expert on talmudic law, that took place from January 2000, to October 2001, in an attempt to explain to each other their beliefs about Judaism.

In their exchange, they discussed many issues, including the nature of truth and religious authority, God and revelation, biblical history, the role of women in Judaism, the Law of Return, the Jewishness of Russian immigrants, the authorship of the Talmud, the Holocaust and Zionism.

Unfortunately, yet perhaps understandably, there is ultimately little agreement; their views on almost every subject are divergent. They are polite to each other, and both are extremely knowledgeable, persuasive and provocative in presenting their points of view, but, essentially, they remain in two different worlds.

A fundamental difference in opinion between them is on the authorship and authenticity of the Torah. Rabbi Reinman believes in the absolute truth of the Torah and its origin as revelation at Mount Sinai.

Rabbi Hirsch responds that even if a Jew believes with perfect faith in the literal transmission of the Torah from God to Moses and ultimately to today's generation, the Judaism practised today is not at all the Judaism practised in biblical times.

"Rather," Rabbi Hirsch says, "it is the Judaism of successive generations of Jews who interpreted the Bible, who pronounced verdicts, expounded upon and expanded points of law, custom, tradition and theology throughout our history."

In defending the rights of women to worship on an equal basis with men, Rabbi Hirsch wonders why, if men are distracted by women, they – rather than women – are not placed behind the mechitzah?

Rabbi Reinman states that exposure of the woman's body is inflammatory, not the man's.

"In a casual conversation between an attractive man and an attractive woman, the man's thoughts will easily turn in a libidinous direction, but the woman's will not. Therefore, putting men on the other side of the mekhitzah and having women conduct services accomplishes nothing. As for your female rabbis and cantors, what can I say? If you're striving for holiness, this is not the way."

At one point in their correspondence, Rabbi Reinman proclaims that "Orthodoxy will never recognize Reform as a legitimate stream of Judaism, because it is not."

Though the book ends on a positive note – Rabbi Hirsch writes, "The publication of this book conveys in symbolic and tangible ways that it is possible for Jews to reason together" – unfortunately, a scheduled 17-city book tour by both rabbis was cancelled when Rabbi Reinman, under pressure from The Council of Torah Sages, a haredi advisory group, withdrew.

Garry Rosenblatt, editor of the New York *Jewish Week*, was outraged. "One wonders if the sages are mindful of, or care, that the perception many non-Orthodox Jews have is that their Orthodox brethren look down on and fear any social contact between the two groups. Misunderstanding, resentment and anger would seem to be a natural byproduct. It is more than a shame that this noble effort to close the denominational gap between Jews has only resulted in its growing wider."

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Rabbi Goldstein's sabbatical will be a lesson in life

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, executive director of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, is planning to have an extended Shabbat.

Rabbi Goldstein

Sabbatical comes from the word Shabbat, she says, and she wants to return from her upcoming six-month sabbatical as renewed and refreshed as if she had experienced an extended Shabbat.

She is planning her first ever sabbatical after 12 years in her current position, and just prior to the 20th anniversary of her ordination as a rabbi.

Together with her husband Baruch Sienna and their three sons ages 13,11 and nine, they are "travelling the long way to Israel"

Starting Jan. 1, they are visiting New Zealand, Australia, China and Thailand. They then plan on a two-month stay in Israel, after which they will return home via Greece and Italy.

She said she plans to do no "teaching, no speaking, no preaching," but while in Israel she plans to study with Haviva Ner-David, an Orthodox feminist studying privately to become the world's first female Orthodox rabbi, and with her former professor, Rabbi Ben Hollander.

"It's important for me to study with partners who will challenge me. I need to bring that back to our own community."

At a recent tribute dinner in her honour chaired by Helen Zukerman and Dorothy Shoichet, Rabbi Goldstein said she was brought up in a very insulated neighbourhood of New York City.

"My life was a fairly straight path to the rabbinate – youth groups, Jewish summer camps, Israel in high school, then on to Judaic studies at Brandeis University.

"That is why this sabbatical is so special. I need to expand my horizons, to open my mind to other cultures, and to come home to Judaism refreshed and renewed."

She wants to learn what it is about Judaism that speaks so deeply to her by understanding what speaks deeply to other people.

For six months, she says, her children, all students at the Toronto Heschel School, will be part of "the school of life."

The family plans on keeping a sabbatical Web site where students can drop in and ask questions, she says.

"It will be an on-line schooling experience for everyone involved. My children will connect with their friends at school while they are learning their own lessons, and the other kids will know what we are up to."

Thinking back to the beginnings of Kolel, Rabbi Goldstein said that 12 years ago, she could not have dreamed where it would be today.

"It is very humbling to build an institution. It is like raising a child. One minute they're a baby; the next minute they're a bar mitzvah. Going into our 12th year, I'm a bat mitzvah again in a sense."

In the fall of 1991, Rabbi Goldstein taught all of Kolel's four courses.

"We started our advanced Torah class with the first word of Genesis, and [just this month] we celebrated studying the end of Exodus. Half the students who began that class are still there."

The tide turned somehow, she said, "and somehow, Kolel has become a big place.

"We have this gorgeous building, a building which not only houses our classes, but also houses our values: hachnassat orchim, welcoming the stranger; tikkun olam, Torah study that leads to action [that makes] a better world; and shalom bayit, a spiritual place with a peaceful feeling."

She is leaving Kolel in good hands, she said, and when she returns she wants it to emerge as an institution that serves the needs of the whole community.

"I would like to see the programming expand, and I would like more leadership courses as well as more long-term courses.

At the tribute, Zukerman and Shoichet announced the establishment of a rabbinic endowment fund in Rabbi Goldstein's honour.

Hundreds enjoy annual NCSY concert

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

More than 1,700 people of all ages sang along, cheered and waved glo-sticks at last week's 22nd annual National Conference of Synagogue Youth (NCSY) concert, held at the newly renovated Roy Thomson Hall.

NCSY is the synagogue youth arm of the Union of Orthodox Hebrew Congregations (OU).

Popular international Jewish music stars Dedi and Yehuda were joined by Toronto's Avanim and Kol Chaverim choirs, DoviDovid and the Nafshenu Orchestra.

Dennis Klein, founding president, chair and CEO of Denninghouse Inc., was presented with the first annual OU/NCSY National Business Leadership Award. Klein, his wife Gabrielle, a physician, and their six children recently made aliyah, and live in Efrat.

Also honoured were Sara and Andrew Novak, who received the NCSY alumni award for distinguished community service.

The hit of the evening was the new singing group, Avanim, conducted by accountant David Young. Its members are dentist John Gasner, businessmen Robert Gasner and Mordie Shields, and Randy Spiegel, executive director of Zareinu Educational Centre, as well as four of their sons, Zev Gasner, Ariel Shields, Koby Speigel and Jakie Young.

The group came out in identical black turtleneck sweaters, which the younger members soon changed to Maple Leaf hockey sweaters to the appreciative hollers of the audience.

Besides giving a solo performance, they accompanied singer Yehuda and later appeared in the finale.

Yehuda, who received enthusiastic applause for tossing glo-sticks and frisbees into the crowd, sang some of his most popular songs, including *Shir Hadas* and *Tikvah*. In a moving performance, he also sang along to tapes of his musical mentor, Shlomo Carlebach.

The Kol Chaverim choir, a group of men who originally came together simply because they liked to sing, has gained in popularity and now serves as backup for several Jewish music stars. Dressed in their trademark paisley vests and wing-tip shirts, they were particularly effective with their renditions of *Ata Shoalti* and a haunting *Oseh Shalom*.

Headliner Dedi interspersed his set with jokes, often about his weight. His sweet voice was perfect for the anthem of the Six Day War, *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*, the melancholy strains fitting the scenes of today's troubled Jerusalem that were shown on an onstage screen.

Also performing were DoviDovid, a musical duo consisting of David Kerzner and David Ifrah, who often work with the Nafshenu Orchestra, and who have recently released their second CD.

Throughout the evening, the screen showed pictures of recent NCSY trips and programs, and interviews with young people studying in Israel with the organization's help.

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York profs take a multi-faceted look at Jewish Toronto

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Toronto's Jewish community must try to acknowledge the distinctiveness of local Russian and Israeli Jews and not expect them to "walk into the synagogues and join community-based organizations as 'Jews, period' because they consider themselves to be [culturally] distinctive."

That admonition by York University sociology professor Rina Cohen was part of a 2½ hour panel discussion on the Multi-Faceted Judaism of Toronto at the American Academy of Religion conference held recently in Toronto.

Speaking on the panel with Cohen were fellow York professors Irving Abella, Stuart Schoenfeld and Alex Pomson, each offering a window on a specific part of the community.

Abella, a historian, discussed When Toronto Jews Became White; Schoenfeld, a sociologist, addressed the phenomenon of the burgeoning downtown Jewish community, and Pomson, who heads York's Jewish teacher education program, talked about changing day school demographics. Martin Lockshin, director of York's Centre for Jewish Studies, moderated the program at the Sheraton Centre Hotel.

Cohen classified today's immigrants from Israel and the former Soviet Union (FSU) as "transnational" ethnic communities that are simultaneously part of, and distinct from, the larger Jewish community.

Unlike their predecessors who immigrated before the technological advances of the late 20th century, they don't experience the same need to integrate and their immigration is not viewed as irreversible. Many, she said, have extensive networks of family and friends in the United States, Israel, Europe and Russia and 15 to 20 per cent return to their countries of origin almost every year.

Toronto's ex-Soviet Jewish community is estimated at between 25,000 and 30,000 people, with 40 per cent over age 65.

"The challenge for the larger community," Cohen said, "is to try to acknowledge the distinctiveness of these two sub-communities [from Israel and the FSU] and to understand that in today's technological and transnational atmosphere, the absorption of ethnic subgroups cannot happen the way it used to."

The non-Jewish community in Toronto has also changed. "Toronto is a very diverse city," said Abella. "A generation or two ago, it was a far different place: parochial, narrow-minded and intolerant."

By 1948, attitudes reflected in employment and housing discrimination were beginning to change, and by the early 1950s, pervasive anti-Semitism had receded, said Abella.

The 1960s, he noted, were watershed years when all the barriers, restrictions and quotas against Jews were removed.

Changes for which Jewish activists lobbied over the years have helped other minority groups as well, said Abella. While racism, homophobia and xenophobia have not been eradicated, Canada is undeniably a better place, he pointed out.

The increasing legitimacy of multiculturalism in America is one of the primary causes of an increase in Jewish day school enrolment over the past 20 years, Pomson said.

He said figures from UJA Federation Board of Jewish education indicate that about 34 per cent of Jewish children in Toronto between Grades one and eight are educated in all-day Jewish schools.

Other significant causes for enrolment increases are a decline in funding and quality of education at public schools; greater disposable income enabling Jewish parents to afford private school fees; and recent fears regarding Jewish continuity in the wake of a 1991 survey in the United States indicating that Jewish intermarriage rates exceed 50 per cent, said Pomson.

Although Jewish day school attendance in general has risen in Toronto – with 11 new schools opening in the last seven years – attendance at the city's three largest schools, which cater to a broader base of students, has fallen by 8 to 16 per cent, said Pomson.

Many of the new schools might be classified as "boutique" or even catering to "marginal" tastes, he added.

Schoenfeld, who chairs the Downtown Jewish Community Council, also spoke about Jews who are bucking trends, or who were perceived to be 20 years ago when they moved to downtown Toronto, an area he defined as south of St. Clair Avenue.

"Many Toronto Jews thought 20 years ago, 'Why would Jews want to move back to the neighbourhoods we worked so hard to get out of?' "

Today Jewish life in downtown Toronto is seen as "fully legitimate," said Schoenfeld. There has been significant institutional growth, he noted, including five new congregations, a third Jewish supplementary school and a day school. In addition, the Bloor JCC is one of the three focal points of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's Jewish Toronto Tomorrow program, which is developing or re-developing that site, the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre/Lipa Green Building site, and a new site to be built further north along Bathurst Street in Richmond Hill.

The downtown phenomenon is not unique to Toronto, Schoenfeld said. Among the implications, he noted that "it's probably a good bet that intermarriage rates are higher" than in Jewish neighbourhoods in the suburbs.

It's not necessarily a downtown phenomenon, however, he noted. He compared downtown Jewish living to Jewish life in a small town, or in suburban areas with a similar Jewish density (usually less than 10 per cent Jewish residents per block).

The Canadian Jewish news

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The Pianist leaves audience breathless

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

The credits rolled and the audience sat silently, barely moving, except for the odd sniffle and long exhale. They had just finished watching a special screening of Roman Polanski's two-and-a-half hour Holocaust-era drama, *The Pianist*.

Playing one night only at Varsity Cinema in Toronto last week, the Polanski film attracted 220 people to an event hosted by the Polish Jewish Heritage Foundation (PJHF) and Feniks Polish Film Promotion.

According to Peter Jassem, the president of PJHF's Toronto chapter, the tickets sold out in three days. The film made its return to Toronto, three months after it debuted in North America at the Toronto International Film Festival.

The Pianist, to be released across Canada on Dec. 25, recounts the true-life horrors of pianist Wladyslaw Szpilman (Adrien Brody), a Polish Jew in Warsaw who escapes Nazi persecution. The film details his struggle to survive in a ruined city and the kindness he receives from the most unlikely of strangers.

"This shows the human condition is such a tragic circumstance," said Jassem, noting that *The Pianist*'s representation of war-era Warsaw is bound to become a fundamental piece of Holocaust filmography.

The crucial factor in the film's overseas success, European film critics say, is Polanski's own wartime experiences – he survived the Krakow ghetto and the bombing of Warsaw – and what he has said is his desire to direct a meaningful Holocaust picture that would recreate his childhood memories.

After reading Szpilman's 1946 memoirs, *Death of a City*, the Polish director knew instantly the renowned pianist would be the subject of his next film.

His efforts haven't passed unnoticed. *The Pianist* won the prestigious Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival this year, and also took the 2002 European Film Academy Award for Best European Cinematographer (Pawel Edelman).

After the screening, viewers praised more than the film's cinematic style.

Margaret Steawicki, close to tears, said it didn't simply show one side of the problem, which she said occurs in other Holocaust films. Steawicki was only a child when Warsaw was ravaged by the fleeing German army, but she never forgot the crumbling houses framed by the smoky sky.

"[The movie] truly captured the black nothing of the city," she said.

Josef Meshorer, 70, who spent years in the Warsaw ghetto, commended the director's eye for detail. From the corpses strewn on the street to the drenching despair hovering over every Polish-Jewish family, *The Pianist*'s documentary-style specifics, he said, made this "the best Holocaust film I've ever seen."

Jassem, who admitted Szpilman's Holocaust account made him cry, urged the public to see the film despite its graphic violence.

"It shows the full cross-section of cultural attitudes," he said. "It shows bad Poles, good Poles, bad Nazis and good Nazis."

Canadian Jewish Congress president Keith Landy, who was invited to the screening, stressed the film's importance – and not only for Canadian Jewry.

"Every Jewish person seeing the film should bring 10 non-Jews with him," Landy said.

The screening was the final event in PJHF's 2002 program. The organization aims to preserve Polish Jewish heritage and encourage greater knowledge of the culture's history.

See review, page 33.

Associated announces scholarships

Associated Hebrew Schools is currently accepting applications for scholarships for students to study at institutions of post-secondary Jewish learning in Israel for the 2003/4 academic year. Scholarships are granted annually to qualifying candidates through the school's scholarship and endowment fund.

For the 2002/3 academic year, more than $11,000 has been allocated to: Sara Greenwood at Midreshet Lindenbaum; Maytal Helfand and Mark Jesin at Hebrew University; Benjamin Noy at Yeshivat Torat Moshe; Jory Scherer at Yeshivat Darchei Noam and Daniela Steinman and Eiran Warner at Bar Ilan University.

Qualifying candidates must have graduated from Associated as well as from a recognized Jewish day high school or yeshiva. Special scholarship awards are made to students preparing for a career in Jewish education.

Awards are granted for a single year of study but students may apply for additional years. Payment is conditional upon the successful completion of the approved program.

Application forms are now available and may be requested from: Associated Hebrew Schools scholarship committee, 6100 Leslie Street, Willowdale, Ontario, M2H 3J1, or by telephone: 416-494-7666, ext. 334. The deadline for application submissions is March 31, 2003.

JNF

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Judaica exhibit depicts 'Jewish life of the past'

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Jewish ritual objects and "simple treasures of everyday life" are on display at a recently opened exhibit of Judaica at the Silverman Heritage Museum at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

The diverse items are grouped under the title Through the Eyes of a Woman: The Judaica Collection of Sandra Temes.

"I am interested in collecting anything and everything that is Jewish," Temes says.

'Simple treasures of everyday life'

In the early 1970s, she and her husband, Marvin, a pharmacist, went to Spain and brought back a piece of Judaica. When she returned home, she took a course on antiques.

"Some of the women in my class were from the British Isles. They spoke of their family's heirlooms that they brought to Canada with them. I decided that I would collect my heritage."

Over the years, Temes has been an active member of the Baycrest museum's steering committee and the Beth Tzedec Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum. She has accumulated several hundred items, including religious objects, jewelry and textiles.

Her collection includes more than 60 dreidels from around the world by artists such as Dimitry Shteynberg, Shula Baron, Jody Fine, Brenda Orenstein, Herman Braginsky, Anat Brigg and Shari Klein. Of exceptional interest is a wood, hand-painted Refusenik Dreidel with portraits of Lenin, Brezhnev, Gorbachev and Stalin by Gregory Yossinsky.

"The Sandra Temes Collection of Judaica is an assemblage not only of fine artist-made ritual objects from around the world, but of many simple, beloved treasures of daily life," says Dorion Liebgott, curator of the Beth Tzedec museum.

"This wonderful collection is a gift for present and future generations to learn about Jewish life and workmanship of the past."

She says she has received many items from friends and acquaintances downsizing to smaller homes.

"Their help extended my scope immeasurably," she says. "I was able to collect things I could never have found on my own."

Of the exhibit, she says she was "fortunate to have Judaic textile artist Elaine Glassman and Shirley Grossman and Pat Dickinson, the co-ordinator of the Silverman Heritage Museum, display the items in a beautiful and exciting way. And I am grateful to the members of the Baycrest museum committee who were enthusiastic about displaying my collection."

She says her father and mother, who came from Lenitz, Russia, and Warsaw, Poland, respectively, and her maternal grandparents, who lived with her family, celebrated the holidays together and told many folklore stories.

Her interest in collecting started early. "Even as a child I loved collecting things such as signed movie star photographs," she says.

Among the items in Temes's exhibition, which will be on display until the summer, are: a hand-embroidered matzah cover, a Passover pillow from Poland, pins from Hadassah-WIZO, ORT and Israel Bonds, a brass pierced 19th century menorah from India, Coalport China Passover dishes, challah covers and Purim masks.

Also included is a Polychroom Delft bar mitzvah plate from Holland with a photo of the bar mitzvah boy and details about his big day – including date, location and menu – as well as his interests and other information. Temes bought the plate in a local thrift shop in 1999.

The exhibit also contains the first plate of a limited edition produced in Denmark to commemorate the 120th anniversary of the *Danish Jewish Almanac*, which has been published in Copenhagen since 1861.

"We believe that the clients and visitors to Baycrest will relate to what is on display because they are items from their own history and family life," Dickinson says, adding that Baycrest's museum is the only one in Canada in a geriatric centre with a permanent collection and temporary exhibits.

For more information or to arrange a group visit, call Pat Dickinson, 416-785-2500, ext. 2802, or e-mail pdickinson@baycrest.org.

Sandra Temes at the Temes exhibition at Baycrest Centre.

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CJ Food

A feast for the senses

By NORENE GILLETZ
Special to The CJN

Last month, I spent two days at Kosherfest 2002. What an amazing experience! So much food, so little time to see and sample everything, as more than 13,000 exhibitors and visitors from 29 countries crowded into the Meadowlands Exposition Center in Secaucus, N.J.

I tasted several wonderful cheeses from Two Tribes, of Northbrook, Ill. Would you believe names like Bis'l Swiss'l, Muenster Mench and Mazel Rella? Oy, my cholesterol levels – but worth every bite.

The variety of smoked fish was also amazing. I nibbled a slice or two of smoked butterfish from Haifa Smoked Fish of Jamaica, N.Y. Addictive – better than smoked salmon, in my opinion.

I lunched at Levitt's, happily enjoying a Montreal-style hot dog plus an assortment of their new line of hors d'oeuvres. Yummy! I loved their Moroccan cigars and borekas. It was like being at a Montreal simchah. Murray Brookman told me that in the new year they will be available in consumer-sized packages. They're a winner.

I nibbled and noshed on chocolates and scrumptious apricot candies from Gold Finales Chocolatiers, located in Orlando, Fla. They make diamond-shaped apricot candies with a crunchy coating of coarse sugar and an almond centre. They were absolutely addictive – sweet but tangy at the same time. Golde and Enrique Finkler, formerly of Mexico, promised me they could ship a supply by UPS to Canada anytime. They will definitely be hearing from me!

The winner of the award for the most innovative product of the year went to Euro-Cut Inc., a New Jersey-based company, for La Briute, the meal that heats itself. What an amazing product!

Abe Halberstam explained that the patented heating process is hydro-thermic. It's complicated to explain but easy to do if you follow the directions on the package. In 14 minutes you have a delicious meal, including the cutlery, salt and pepper, with no dishes to wash. What a boon for the kosher traveller, kids away at college, campers, skiers, hikers and bikers.

There are three varieties available – chicken primavera with noodles, beef stew with vegetables and a pareve vegetable stew. Everything is glatt kosher.

The company plans to offer several new products in the near future, including pancakes with maple syrup, ravioli in tomato sauce and turkey with mashed potatoes and gravy. They are working on setting up Canadian distribution. For further information, check out their Web site at www.labriutemeals.com or call 1-800-959-1555. Oh, the possibilities!

There was an excellent seminar geared to the challenges of kosher food service, chaired by culinary consultant Ethel Hofman, author of *Everyday Cooking for the Jewish Home*. Members of the panel included Levana Kirschenbaum of Levana's Restaurant, Rabbi Abraham Juravel of the Orthodox Union and Jacob Lieberman of Yeshiva University.

An appeal for more uniform standards came from several agencies. Lieberman and Kirschenbaum cited examples of "mixed signals" on the kosher status of some ingredient items.

Rabbi Juravel stated that answers on standards "should be obtained from senior kashrut officials at headquarters and not from the mashgiach (on-site kosher supervisor)." Rabbi Juravel noted that many items that appear to be benign on the surface "actually have very serious kashrut issues."

Any food that is processed in any way requires supervision. An example was given of how salt that was produced for Passover in Israel had been run on a line that had been used previously for flour. Therefore the salt could not be used for Passover.

Mashgiachs agreed that supervision of a restaurant or catering company is far more complicated and challenging than supervision of a company that produces packaged products on an assembly line.

I left the seminar with an elevated respect for the "shomrim" or guardians of our kosher food supply and the challenges they face to preserve proper standards for the kosher consumer.

I flew home carrying a big "peckel" of products, including a box of Manischewitz Mediterranean Matzos (sun-dried tomatoes, garlic, basil and olive oil). The airlines attendant looked at my haul and said, "I'm Jewish too. Maybe you have a good recipe for potato latkes?"

Kosherfest 2003 will take place Oct. 28-29 at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City.

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Coast to Coast

Tory leadership hopeful discusses Mideast peace

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

It was billed as an opportunity to exchange views and Tory leadership hopeful Peter MacKay quickly learned that among supporters of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's role in future peace talks is problematic, to say the least.

MacKay, Progressive Conservative Party House leader and justice critic, was fielding questions at a breakfast meeting of the Canadian Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre, when he was asked about the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

MacKay drew a skeptical reaction and mild interjections from his audience when he followed up a statement saying it is improper to negotiate with terrorists with another view that acknowledged Arafat should have a role in talks.

Trying to square that circle, MacKay asked, "What do you do? How do you speak to them?" quickly adding he was not expert on the topic and he was at the meeting to hear the perspective of others.

In a freewheeling address, the Tory house leader and justice critic touched on a number of controversial topics. He discussed his experience as a prosecutor in his home province of Nova Scotia, he critiqued the nearly $1-billion cost overrun in the government's gun registry program, he urged Canada to be more respectful of American sensibilities, and he called for the continued prosecution of war criminals.

It is time for Canada to reassert its leadership role in world affairs, as in the days of Brian Mulroney's administration when the country pressed for the abolition of apartheid in South Africa, MacKay said.

"I don't want to see our country slip. I don't want to see our country lose its place in the world."

Turning to the domestic scene, MacKay said the cost overrun in the gun registry program "reflects the government's priorities." He also questioned the utility of the program in which "criminals are not going to participate in gun registry."

Referring to his experience as a Crown prosecutor, MacKay said enforcement of the law sends a clear message that there are "consequences" for criminal behaviour – a message, he said, that seems to be lost on young people who should be held to account for their actions.

He suggested the same "message of deterrence" is at play when war criminals are prosecuted vigilantly.

During a question-and-answer session, MacKay said Canadians should "not be disrespectful" of U.S. power or we may find our American neighbours looking increasingly to Mexico for counsel.

"We can play a more significant role by being respectful, asserting the values we see as important... We have been tentative and sometimes stupid in the way we approach things," he said.

Asked whether the nation's conservative parties might ever present a common front, MacKay said the political disarray on the right resembles a family fight, with a long history and injured pride.

There is no easy path back to governing for the Tories, he continued. "There are no shortcuts. You simply have to build it up from the ground."

In his address, which took place before last week's announcement that Ottawa is banning all activities of Hezbollah in this country, not just those of its so-called military wing, MacKay said a Tory government would have "immediately" moved to add it to the list of terrorist groups banned in Canada.

MacKay's address was part of an irregular series of breakfast meeting at the Windsor Arms Hotel, said Leo Adler, director of national affairs for the centre.

Axworthy praises Mitzna

As Israel approaches elections on Jan. 28, former Canadian foreign minister Lloyd Axworthy has commended Amram Mitzna, newly elected leader of Israel's Labor Party, for his peace platform, which includes negotiations with the Palestinians and the withdrawal of settlements from the Gaza Strip ("A gleam at the end of the tunnel?" *Globe and Mail*, Dec. 9).

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

In the article, Axworthy also praised the growing debate between Labor and Likud as a testament to the vibrancy of Israeli democracy – a phenomenon, he noted, sorely lacking elsewhere in the Middle East.

"Mr. Mitzna's stand is also an act of political courage in the face of public feelings of fear, frustration and insecurity," Axworthy writes. "It is never easy to advocate non-military responses when nerves are made raw by continuing acts of violence."

Israeli prime minister and Likud party leader Ariel Sharon also advocates negotiations with the Palestinians, but only once there is a cessation of bloodshed, and with a Palestinian partner who, unlike Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat, truly renounces violence. Axworthy needs to ask how any Israel leader can be expected to negotiate with someone who showed at Camp David in the summer of 2000 and in the following period that he preferred violence to diplomacy.

As long as Arafat remains in charge – and it appears he will – most Israelis will remain deeply skeptical of further talks. They have, quite simply, lost faith in Arafat.

At the same time Axworthy's article appeared, the highly respected Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace Research released its Peace Index for early December. The index showed that while a large majority of Israeli Jews supports political negotiations with the PA, the eventual establishment of a Palestinian state and the evacuation of some settlements, they generally favour Sharon's positions over Mitzna's.

Prof. Ephraim Yaar and Tamar Hermann, authors of the Peace Index, explain that "a large majority [of Israelis] believe Ariel Sharon can do better at advancing the peace process with the Palestinians while safeguarding Israel's vital interests, whereas only a small minority believes that in regard to the Labor candidate, Amram Mitzna."

The choice for Israeli voters, who have been traumatized and disillusioned by Palestinian violence and terrorism, is not between a "peacenik" and a "warmonger," but rather between two leaders dedicated to peace, albeit with different visions. In today's climate, Mitzna's approach is seen by them as less realistic.

Against the realism of most Israelis who, though desparate for peace, are willing to accept major territorial compromises provided their security is assured, Axworthy's assertion that a Mitzna victory "could dramatically change the dynamics of the region's political discussion and provide an environment more conducive to resolving the Iraqi problem" seems incredibly quixotic. While some have tried to forge linkages between the cases of Isarel and Iraq, no one until now has attempted it in quite this way, tying Israeli democracy to the avoidance of conflict with Iraq. If only such a formula held such a promise.

Paul Michaels is director of communications of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Son works for the release of his kidnapped father

Abducted by Hezbollah in Europe two years ago

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Ori Tenenboim (Tannenbaum) is well aware of the political calculations that motivated the kidnappers of his father, Elchanan.

He knows it was a Hezbollah cell that abducted his father in Europe during a business trip just before Yom Kippur two years ago.

He knows his father is most likely being held by Hezbollah terrorists in Lebanon, with the collusion of the governments of Lebanon, Syria and Iran. He knows Hezbollah is making cynical calculations as to how best to make use of their Israeli captive.

He knows his best hope of freeing his father is to travel the world from capital to capital to press his case that all influence be brought to bear on the governments of Lebanon, Syria and Iran to force the release of his father.

He knows all that, yet despite the encouragement of friends around the world, the ordeal he and his family are experiencing remains a lonely one. At night he is left with his thoughts, wondering how his father is doing and missing him terribly.

"It's most difficult when you lay in bed at night," he said. "You can't control your thoughts and feelings. During the day you can keep busy. The nights are the hardest."

Tenenboim was in Toronto and Ottawa last week in a bid to enlist Canada's vaunted "soft power" and favourable reputation in the Arab world to try to bring his father home to Israel. His visit coincided with the federal government's decision to add the political wing of Hezbollah to a list of banned terrorist groups.

Prior to travelling to Ottawa for a Parliament Hill news conference, Tannenbaum described to *The CJN* the blow he and his family experienced on Oct. 15, 2000, when Hezbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah announced the organization was holding his father.

Elchanan, a 56-year-old former colonel in the Israeli army, had been a regular traveller to Europe where he worked as a representative of the German telecommunications corporation Siemens.

Since the Hezbollah announcement, Ori, his mother Esther, and sister Keren, have not received direct information about his father, although Israeli intelligence believes he is still being held in Lebanon.

Naturally, that worries him.

"We have every reason to believe his life is in danger, because of a lack of medical treatment and because of Hezbollah's record of brutality, as Western hostages [held in the 1980s] have told in terrible detail," Ori said. "Every day that goes by is another day he's away from us. Every day that goes by is another day he has to suffer."

Adding to his concern is the fact his father requires medication for asthma and he had been operated on in May 2000 for a malignant melanoma. The International committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) transferred some medication to Hezbollah shortly after the kidnapping, but the terror group spurned subsequent requests to meet with ICRC representatives about Elchanan.

It just adds to Ori's anxiety and gloom.

"I get up in the morning, I look out the window and I ask myself if he knows what day it is," Oris said.

"I fix myself a cup of coffee and imagine him sitting with the rest of us. He's there every minute, but you can't touch him, hear him or see him."

Ori, 21, would like to believe the Israeli government is doing all it can to secure his father's release. (Elchanan was abducted shortly after Hezbollah crossed the Lebanon-Israel border and seized three Israeli soldiers at their posts.) Negotiating through a third party, Israel has offered to make a prisoner exchange, but the offer was rebuffed.

"The only problem is that we're dealing with a cruel and ruthless enemy that hasn't put a concrete offer on the table," Ori said.

Daniel Eisen, chair of the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers (ICMIS), an organization that is helping Ori publicize his message, believes Hezbollah is playing a ruthless game based on a very ambitious agenda.

Elchanan's abduction, along with that of the three soldiers, is part of a "prolonged psychological warfare with Israel. They know this hurts us," Eisen said.

Hezbollah believes the kidnappings enhance their prestige in Lebanon and paints them as the "great protectors of the Arab people and the Palestinians." What's more, "it sets themselves up as the liberating alternative to the Palestinians. Hezbollah is looking to be the dominant force in the whole world of Arab resistance," Eisen said.

If the situation is not resolved, the international implications could be ominous, Ori and Eisen agree. "Hezbollah will export its methods everywhere it can." Eventually, Eisen said, even a Canadian might be abducted.

Meanwhile, the Tenenboim family is persevering. His mother "is holding up," Ori said, though "it's not easy. We have no intention of backing down or falling apart, because we know we have to bring him back home. We're not willing to give up on him."

Ban on Hezbollah prompts threat

Continued from page 1

The Canadian Arab Federation criticized the government for "censuring one form of violence while remaining silent on another."

The Liberals appeared to reverse course in their ban on fundraising and all other material support for Hezbollah under national and international anti-terrorism laws, which also permit federal officials to freeze and seize Hezbollah's assets in this country.

The placement of Hezbollah on Ottawa's list of 16 banned "terrorist entities" means anyone assisting the organization in any way faces up to 10 years in prison.

Until last week, the government permitted aid only to Hezbollah's so-called political-humanitarian wing, which Ottawa said ran several legitimate charities, schools and clinics. Some said the Liberals were hamstrung by the fact Hezbollah has 12 elected members in the parliament of Lebanon, a fellow member of the Francophonie.

Solicitor-General Wayne Easter said Hezbollah has been raising large sums in Canada, not all of which has gone to charitable work. Previously, Ottawa maintained there was no proof that funds from the group's social arm had made its way to military operations.

Criticism of the Liberal position on Hezbollah intensified earlier this month when Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, reportedly called on Palestinians "to take suicide bombings worldwide."

(Last week, after reports questioned whether Nasrallah actually made the remarks, a writer for *The Washington Times*, which had initially published the comments, reportedly said they came from a Florida university professor).

Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham said that before the comments were reported, Ottawa had been "under the impression that there was a distinction between the social wing and the military wing" of Hezbollah.

"But it was clear from the leader's comments the other day that in fact it was not distinguishing itself from terrorist activities. It was only recently... that it became absolutely clear, that the activities of the social arm of that entity were also terrorist-related. We did not find that acceptable in Canada."

But Easter said the decision had nothing to do with Nasrallah's comments, but was made after months of investigation by the Canadian Security Intelligence Service.

Stockwell Day

In any event, the move was welcomed by Jewish groups.

"This is an important step for this country's efforts in the war on terror," stated Keith Landy, president of Canadian Jewish Congress. "All Canadians are safer as a result of this action."

The Canada-Israel Committee said it was pleased Ottawa responded to the "overwhelming and incontrovertible" evidence of Hezbollah's role in international terrorism, and called on the government to add the Al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigades and Tanzim arms of Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement to its list.

At a press conference in Ottawa last Wednesday hosted by Opposition foreign affairs critic Stockwell Day, B'nai Brith Canada said it would withdraw its legal action against the government, which sought to force the inclusion of Hezbollah on the list of outlawed groups.

Frank Dimant, executive vice-president of BBC, called the government's move "the first step. This is only the beginning. This is not the end of the process."

Although pleased the government finally banned all of Hezbollah, Day condemned the delay in doing so.

"Anything the government might have learned last night, they could have learned a year ago. CSIS warned the government of the risks a decade ago," Day said.

Day said the $200 million Canada has given to Lebanon in foreign aid should be used to express this country's concern over its sheltering of Hezbollah. That was echoed by Danny Eisen of the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers.

"If Canada is to give aid and to expand trade relations with countries such as Iran, Syria and Lebanon, it must use its influence. It is time to close down the hostage industry," he said.

Retired Canadian Lt.-Col. Bob Chamberlain recounted being detained and threatened at gun point by Hezbollah during his service in Lebanon in 1985. "Eventually they let me go," he said, "because I spoke Arabic and because they liked Canada, I guess because Canada sits on the fence."

As for Canada's previous distinction between the arms of Hezbollah, Chamberlain said, "it was the political wing that took me down, and one of them was a cleric."

Ori Tenenboim (Tannenbaum), the son of Israeli civilian Elchanan Tenenboim, who was kidnapped in 2000 by Hezbollah while on a private business trip in Belgium, made a plea to Canada to help his father.

He said his father's plight should be a warning to Canadians.

"There are large numbers of Canadians who, just like my father, have travelled abroad and they, just like my father, could find themselves in the hands of terrorists, in the hands of Hezbollah."

On Campus

Interfaith panel at McMaster University talks peace

By MICHAEL PUKIN
Special to The CJN

Religion's contentious role in fostering peace was the theme of a recent interfaith discussion panel at McMaster University in Hamilton.

Dubbed a "peace panel," the event was the initiative of McMaster Interfaith Unity, a campus organization that attempts to facilitate dialogue between religious groups in the McMaster community. Representatives from four different faiths, including Judaism, Islam, Christianity and Baha'i were brought together to consider the question of whether or not religion can play a positive role in conflict resolution between states or ethnic, cultural or religious groups.

The group is primarily student run, though the university's ecumenical chaplain, Carol Wood, also serves as a volunteer co-ordinator.

As to be expected at an occasion that aims for "dialogue" rather than "debate," the four panelists appeared to agree with each other more often than not. The speakers agreed that religion can and has been appropriated for destructive purposes and often serves as an irritant in global conflicts.

Respect, tolerance common to religions

In tandem with nationalism, religion has "played an unhappy role" in wars and conflicts, said Rabbi Bernard Baskin of Temple Anshe Sholom in Hamilton. He referred to the religious strife present in a litany of historical conflicts, including Christians versus Muslims in the former Yugoslavia, the Kashmir dispute between a largely Hindu India and majority Muslim Pakistan, and the Jewish-Muslim tension in the Middle East.

"Religion, which I love so deeply...how can it be distorted by other powerful forces?" said John Robertson, a Christian and a professor of religious studies at McMaster, in a rhetorical lament.

Hussein Hamdani, a Burlington, Ont. lawyer and graduate of McMaster who was representing an Islamic point of view, took special note of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington D.C. on September 11, 2001, which were carried out by al Qaeda operatives claiming to be motivated by Islamic theology. Hamdani said that it was wrong to attribute these tragedies to Islam itself or to what he called "true" Muslims.

"Islam is divorced from the violence on 9/11," Hamdani said. "The very word Islam means 'peace.'"

Respect and tolerance for each other's faiths was likewise a common strain of thought running through the panel. The Qu'ran, the holy book of Islam, for example, instructs the Muslim to "respect the religion of other faiths," said Hamdani. Rabbi Baskin decried the potential for "triumphalism" in religion, and recommended humility as a counterweight to it.

Robertson appeared to address a key criticism of the interfaith movement as a futile, or perhaps insidious, attempt at developing a single religious doctrine. "The success of dialogue is not in absolute agreement between religion in terms of theology," said Robertson, rather the goal being "the harmony of contrasts."

While the panel seemed to reject theological unification as a goal of such interfaith initiatives, at least one of the participants argued for a different kind of unification.

"The unity of humankind is a prerequisite for peace," said Anne Pearson, also a McMaster religious studies professor and a member of the Baha'i faith. According to Pearson, the Baha'i faith predicts a "transformation into one world," which may manifest itself in such events as the adoption of a universal global language.

The sizeable audience present at the panel discussion reflected a growing interest in interfaith events such as this one on the McMaster campus. The president of the McMaster Interfaith Unity, Bilal Sabra, attributed the recent increase to a public that has become more curious about exploring religious issues in the shadow of 9/11.

Michael Pukin is the former op-ed editor and a columnist for McMaster's official student newspaper, the Silhouette.

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Features

HELPING OUT AT ZAREINU:

Wesley Brown and Daniel Boyman each chose to recognize their bar mitzvah with a contribution to the Zareinu Educational Centre. Wesley (right), seen here with his plaque at the school, asked his guests to make a gift to the school in lieu of a gift to him. Daniel (left) committed to volunteer for 40 hours, and he contributed his gift money in order to help children with speech and communication issues. Daniel and Carol Goldman, principal of Zareinu, are seen here receiving a plaque as a thank you.

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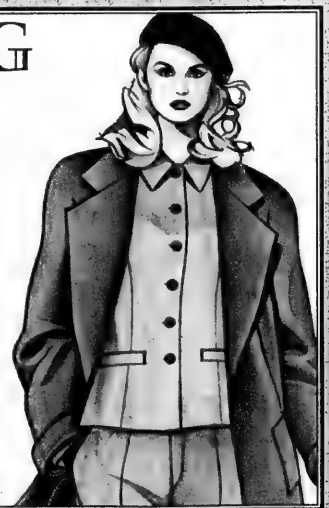

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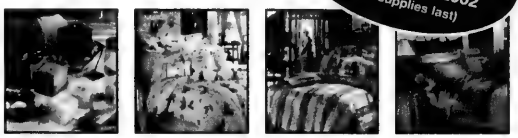

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DEADLINE REMINDER

Monday, Dec. 30, is deadline for Jan. 9 issue and Monday, Jan. 6, is deadline for Jan. 16. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Monday, Dec. 23

SPIRIT AND SONG

An evening of spirit and song ala Shlomo Carlebach with **Sholom Brodt,** 7:30 p.m. at Anshe Minsk Synagogue, 10 St. Andrew St., Kensington Market. For further information, 416-595-5723.

REEL TO REAL

A Halachic investigation of contemporary issues, drawn from examples in film and recent events, with **Rabbi Benjamin Hecht**. Topic: The recent movie, *John Q*, explores the value of pikuach nefesh in the face of conflicts with other values, 8 p.m. at the Nishma Centre, 322 Wilson Ave. 416-630-0588.

Tuesday, Dec. 24

BACK TO THE SOURCE VII

Convert Tamar Frankiel discusses A Christian's Intellectual Journey to Mystical Judaism. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue. Admission $5. 905-761-0040.

Wednesday, Dec. 25

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Counter Missionary Survival Seminar, developed in Toronto and now taught throughout the United States, Australia and South Africa. Instructor, **Rabbi Michael Skobac**. 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (lunch included) at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Registration required. 905-761-0040.

And What Else Is New

JEWISH INSIGHTS

Applying Jewish Insights to Modern Issues, Mondays Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27, at 7:30 p.m. at Temple Har Zion. **Arthur Benjamin** presents an ethical question to be worked out through a reasoned response using talmudic, rabbinic and biblical sources. 905-889-2252.

HEBREW LANGUAGE

The Hebrew Culture Organization of Canada's Hebrew Language Studies with **Chana Sargon** begins the week of Jan. 6. Day and evening classes available. Beginner, intermediate, advanced (Chug Ivrit) levels. Explore current events, newspaper articles and literature, all in Hebrew. Classes are held at 4580 Dufferin St., Suite 508. For information/registration, call Canada Zionist Federation, 416-633-3988.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, North York, is seeking assistance with fundraising events. The health promotions committee arranges presentations to groups in the community. Individuals can present Heart Healthy Presentations to schools. Drivers are needed in December and January to deliver kits to local organizations. Call the Volunteer Centre of Toronto-North York Branch, 416-631-6117.

MAGICAL MOMENTS

Registration is now underway for Chabad Lubavitch of Markham's Magical Moments with Mom program. This 6-week course begins Thursday, Jan. 16, 9:15-10:30 a.m. Toddlers, ages 12-24 months. Join your children as they discover their talents and skills through an array of fine motor and sensory activities – chocolate pudding art, water fun, silly sand play, circle time and dramatic dancing. Included this year is Musical Magic with **Morah Lynne.** Call the shul to reserve 905-886-0420.

BEGINNERS HEBREW

Temple Kol Ami is offering an adult Beginners Hebrew Course for eight weeks starting in January. This is a conversational course. A basic knowledge of the aleph-bet is a prerequisite. For more information as to starting time and location, call 905-731-4316.

Continued on page 27

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Continued from page 26

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Do you need help with snow shovelling? Four Seasons Connection links seniors with student and adult workers who will do a variety of outdoor jobs. Fees are paid directly by the client to the workers. 416-447-5074.

HEBREW FOR PARENTS

Would you like to keep up with your child or grandchild? Hebrew classes in reading and conversation are made fun and easy by **Yael Lev,** all levels, *ulpan* method, daytime or evening. Classes are in co-operation with Associated Hebrew Schools. Winter session starts the week of Jan. 21. Register now with Yael at 416-225-6151.

YOGA CLASSES

Register now for classes in Hatha Yoga. Discover new movement, freedom, balance and harmony in your body, mind, emotions and spirit. The 10 sessions run Mondays, Jan. 6-March 10, from 6-7 p.m. at Pride of Israel Synagogue. 59 Lissom Cres. Pre-registration required. Call **Helen Mittelman**, certified Hatha and Raja teacher, 416-661-0433.

ADULT HEBREW CLASSES

At Riverdale Synagogue, 179a Danforth Ave. For more information, Steve Jackson 416-826-4539.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Dec. 19, free discussion; Dec. 26, sing-a-long with **Yitzchak Argeman**. For information, **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Join the **LZA Seniors Club** for socializing Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama Jan. 15, Feb. 12; Casino Niagara Jan. 30; Saturday dances Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25; pre-New Years' party, 7 p.m. Dec. 29. Membership open. 416-395-7881.

New Horizons Day Centre for Hungarian speaking seniors, 3565 Bathurst St., is holding a pre-New Years' music and dance party, Dec. 28. **Edith** or **Olga** 416-256-1892.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons, meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. **Anna** ext. 110.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Annual pre-celebration of New Years, Monday, Dec. 30. Dinner at 5:30 p.m., followed by live entertainment at 7 p.m. Book your reservation in person at the Wagman Centre Service Desk. Reserve early as space is limited. Call **Mara Swartz** at ext. 2275 for further details.

Bridge Classes:

Intermediate bridge classes begin Monday, Jan. 13, in the Common Room from 10 a.m. to noon.

Beginner class runs 1-3 p.m. from Jan. 13. For questions, call **Mara**, ext. 2275.

Bereavement Group:

Meets the needs of spouses aged 55 and older living in the community. This support group offers understanding about the issues of loss, loneliness, pain and healing. For information on meeting dates and times, contact **Shawn Fremeth**, ext. 2986.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave, 416-924-6211.

Registration is now open for winter programs, including:

Carlebach & Beyond Choir with composer/conductor **Ken Rabow**, an adult choir for people with good singing voices and a desire for something new. **Shlomo Carlebach** songs as well as original compoitions by the conductor based on Jewish liturgy and Psalms. Starts in January, Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Women's Chorus, a relaxed singing environment for women of all ages. No audition required. Conductor **Harriet Wichin**. Starts in January, every second Monday, 8-9:30 p.m.

Hebrew Language: Hebrew 2, a six-week program beginning Jan. 14, Tuesdays 8-9:30 p.m. with instructor **Esther Bernari-Altmann**.

Call to register.

BATHURST JCC

Koffler Centre of the Arts/ Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (BJCC), 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Register now for kids, teens and adult drama classes that run from January to the 1st week of March. Call the Leah Posluns Theatre School at ext. 464 for information, or ext. 231 to register.

Sports in a Jewish Nation runs to Dec. 31 in the Atrium of the BJCC. This small exhibit is a collection of prize winning pictures/paintings and photographs submitted for an International Competition to mark the 16th Maccabia. The works are by students and members of youth movements in Israel and the Diaspora, ages 6-21 years.

Red Cross/Lifesaving Instructor Course, Dec. 30-Jan. 3. Pre-requisites: 16 years of age, Bronze Cross and Emergency First Aid, completed Aqualeaders, assistant teaching course completed, 100 per cent attendance required. Register in person at the Membership Desk. For information, **Graham Ungar**, ext. 252.

The Koffler Centre Centre of the Arts presents the Canadian Ballet Theatre in a classical production of The Nutcracker at the Leah Posluns Theatre, Dec. 20. 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 21 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. For tickets, ext. 258.

Koffler School of Music presents **David Broza** in concert Monday, Dec. 23 at 8 p.m. For tickets/information, **Adrienne Cohen** ext. 228.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 28

ABOUT PEOPLE

ELECTED!

Intersynagogue Singles elected new president Helen Lightstone at a recent meeting. The ISS is comprised of several synagogue singles plus other Jewish singles groups. Lightstone succeeds Claudette Edgehill. For information, call 416-486-2269.

Helen Lightstone [Mollie Rothman photo]

RE-ELECTION OF PRESIDENT: Beth Torah Congregation recently elected Shawn Goldenberg (left) for a two-year term as president. This is his second term as president – his previous term was 1998-2000. Seen with him at Beth Torah's 40th anniversary gala evening is Debbie Gladstone, immediate past president. [Mollie Rothman photo]

ASSOCIATION FOR THE SOLDIERS OF ISRAEL: At a recent luncheon given by the Association for the Soldiers of Israel to honour supporting organizations, president Jack Muskat (far right) made a presentation to Beth Jacob V'anshe Drildz Congregation. On the synagogue's behalf, Joseph Joseph and his wife Frances (left) and Sam Faivish and his wife Lola accepted a picture of the bus shelter bearing a plaque honouring their donation.

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IDF CHOIR VISITS:
The choir of the Israeli Defence Forces sang for the Middle School students at The Leo Baeck Day School during their recent visit to Toronto. The Leo Baeck choir sang for them and together they joined in songs about Israel.

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

עס גייט שוין אַוועק דאָס יאָר 2002

פון אַלעק סילווער

עס גייט שוין אַוועק דאָס יאָר 2002. אייגנטלעך דאַרף איך אייך דאָך דאָס נישט זאָגן. איך זעט דאָך אַליין, ווי די בלעטלעך אויפן קאַלענדאַר ווערן ווייניקער און ווייניקער און אין אַרום 12 טעג וועט מען שוין דאַרפן אויפהענגען אַ נייעם קאַלענדאַר. איך האָב די ערשטע שורה געשריבן כמעט ווי מיט אַ געפיל פון צופרידנקייט, ווייל קיין גרויס פאַרגעניגן האָבן מיר פון דעם יאָר נישט געשעפט. עס האָט זיך נישט אויסגעצייכנט מיט עפּעס צופרידנשטעליק לטובת דער מענטשהייט בכלל, און לטובת דעם ייִדישן פאָלק בפרט. איז ווי כ'האָב געזאָגט באַלד פון אָנהייב: עס גייט שוין אַוועק דאָס יאָר 2002.

באַלד ביים אָנהייב האָט דאָס יאָר געברענגט אַ פחד פאַר דער זיכערקייט פון מענטשלעכן ציבור און פון אינדיווידועלע מענטשן. דאָס יאָר 2002 האָט געיַרשנט דעם טעראָריסטישן חורבן, וואָס איז פאָרגעקומען אין די לעצטע חדשים פון 2001. די מלחמה קעגן טעראָריסטן איבער דער וועלט און די מלחמה אין אַפגאַניסטאַן זיינען געווען אויפן ערשטן אָרט פון פּאָליטישן און עקאָנאָמישן סדר־היום פון יעדער מלוכה אין דער וועלט. עס האָט אויך שטאַרק געווירקט אויף דער צוזאַמענאַרבעט פון פעלקער און לענדער. מיר וועלן דאָ נישט אַריינגיין אין גענויע פרטים. עס איז אייך זיכער באַקאַנט יעדער דעטאַל, ווייל דאָס האָט דאָמינירט די פרעסע, ראַדיאָ און טעלעוויזיע. ספּעציעל איז עס געווען זייער אָנזעעוודיק אין דער ערשטער העלפט פון פאַרגאַנגענעם יאָר.

אין מדינת ישראל איז די לאַגע אין יאָר 2002 נישט געוואָרן קיין סך בעסער. די טעראָריסטישע אַקטן פון די פּאַלעסטינער מערדער האָבן געברענגט אַ סך קרבנות אין דער ייִדישער באַפעלקערונג. די ישראל רעגירונג פון אריאל שרון, האָט געענטפערט מיט מאַכט אויף די זעלבסמערדערישע אָנפאַלן, נעמענדיק נקמה ווו נאָר מעגלעך און ברענגען אַ ביסל מער זיכערקייט אין לאַנד.

דאָס האָט אויפגערעגט די מכלומרשטע „דעמאָקראַטישע/ליבעראַלע" וועלט, נישט גערעדט שוין פון דער איסלאַמישער וועלט, וואָס האָט זיך אויסגעדריקט אין אַ ברוטאַלער שנאה קעגן מדינת ישראל, סיי אין זייערע אייגענע לענדער און סיי אין דער אַסעמבלי פון די „פאַראייניקטע פעלקער". אין אַ צאָל לענדער האָט זיך דער דאָזיקער האַס פאַרוואַנדלט אין אַן אַנטיסעמיטיזם קעגן ייִדישע בירגער, וואָס מען האָט נישט געזען זינט דער צווייטער וועלט־מלחמה. איז שוין נישט קיין וווּנדער, וואָס איך שרייב: עס גייט שוין אַוועק דאָס יאָר 2002.

אין דער צווייטער העלפט פון 2002 האָט מען אָנגעהויבן צו רעדן וועגן אַ נייער מלחמה. די מלחמה קעגן איראַק און איר ברוטאַלן דיקטאַטאָר סאַדאַם הוסעין. ווען די ווערטער ווערן געשריבן האַלט מען נאָך דערווייל אין רעדן און דיסקוטירן וועגן דעם, סיי ביי אונדזער שכן, די פאַראייניקטע שטאַטן, סיי אין דער יירען, סיי אין אייראָפּע און סיי אין מיטעלן מזרח. עס איז גאַנץ מעגלעך, אַז ווען איר וועט לייענען די שורות, וועט שוין אפשר די מלחמה זיין אין פולן ברען.

ביי ייִדן זיינען דאָ געמישטע געפילן בנוגע דער מלחמה מיט איראַק. פון איין זייט וואָלטן מיר זיכער געוואָלט זען דעם רשע שברשעים הוסעין קריגן זיין פאַרדינטן סוף. פון דער אַנדערער זייט איז דאָ די געפאַר, וואָס אַזאַ מלחמה קען ברענגען פאַר דעם מיטעלן מזרח בכלל און פאַר מדינת ישראל בפרט. ווי עס זאָל נישט זיין קענען מיר נישט פאָראויסזאָגן די צוקונפט. אָבער איין זאַך איז זיכער: עס גייט שוין אַוועק דאָס יאָר 2002. לאָמיר האָפן, אַז דאָס נייע יאָר 2003 וועט זיין בעסער פאַר אַלעמען, איינגעשלאָסן דאָס ייִדישע פאָלק.

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Israel bars Arafat from Bethlehem; girds for outcry

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Israeli officials are preparing a public relations campaign to defend their decision to keep soldiers in Bethlehem over Christmas.

The campaign will also deal with their decision to bar Yasser Arafat, for the second year running, from attending midnight mass in the West Bank city.

The issue surfaced as Israel scored a diplomatic victory at the UN Security Council, which voted to condemn the Nov. 28 terror attacks on Israeli targets in Kenya.

Last week, President Moshe Katsav came under pressure from the Pope and other Vatican officials, who pressed him to have Israeli soldiers out of Bethlehem by Christmas. During his meeting with the Pope, Katsav said Israel would make every effort to do so.

But on Sunday, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and the army chief of staff, Lt.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon, told cabinet members that because of continued terror warnings the army does not plan to withdraw from the city.

At the same meeting, cabinet ministers decided that Arafat will not be allowed to attend Christmas mass in Bethlehem.

Israeli troops withdrew from Bethlehem in August as part of an initiative to gradually transfer security control in portions of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip back to the Palestinian Authority.

But the army returned following a November terrorist bombing in Jerusalem that was carried out by a Palestinian from Bethlehem.

The Palestinian Authority condemned the cabinet's decision. Arafat aide Nabil Abu Irdeineh called it a provocation and a violation of promises made to the Vatican and the United States.

Last year, Israel came under a barrage of international criticism for barring Arafat from making the trip to Bethlehem, after Arafat refused to hand over the assassins of tourism minister Rehavam Ze'evi.

Before that, Arafat, a Muslim, had attended every Christmas mass in Bethlehem since 1995, a year after the creation of the Palestinian Authority.

It is not clear whether Israel's latest travel ban on Arafat would prompt a renewed international outcry.

Dov Weisglass, the director of the Prime Minister's Office, was slated to meet Monday with Foreign Ministry officials to discuss how Israel will mount its PR campaign.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials were applauding after the UN Security Council condemned last month's terror attacks in Kenya.

"The Security Council has never before adopted a resolution that so clearly condemns the terrorist killing of Israelis or Jews," Israel's deputy ambassador to the United Nations, Aaron Jacob, told the *New York Times*.

The executive director of the American Jewish Committee, David Harris, called the resolution "a diplomatic and psychological breakthrough." He was quoted as telling the *Times*, "After 54 years of Israel's existence, the UN Security Council, with American leadership, has finally acknowledged that the loss of Jewish lives in terrorist attacks warrants condemnation."

The resolution passed last Friday by a 14-1 vote. Syria cast the sole dissenting vote.

Yasser Arafat
[Michael Nisimov drawing]

Three Israelis and 10 Kenyans were killed in the Nov. 28 suicide bombing at the Paradise Hotel north of Mombasa.

Minutes earlier, two shoulder-launched missiles narrowly missed an Israeli charter plane taking off from Mombasa airport for Tel Aviv.

Last month, a spokesperson for Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for the Kenya attacks and vowed more terror to retaliate for Israel's treatment of the Palestinians.

But over the weekend, Arafat sought to distance the Palestinian Authority from Al-Qaeda.

In an interview with the *London Sunday Times*, Arafat said Osama bin Laden is exploiting Palestinian suffering to garner support in the Arab world.

"Why is bin Laden talking about Palestine now? Bin Laden never, not ever, stressed this issue, he never helped us, he was working in another completely different area and against our interests," Arafat was quoted as saying.

Israeli officials, including Sharon, have recently charged that Al-Qaeda operatives have set up bases in Palestinian-controlled areas, a claim denied by the Palestinian Authority.

In a related development over the weekend, Jordanian authorities arrested two alleged members of Al-Qaeda in connection with the recent assassination of a U.S. diplomat.

The two allegedly killed Laurence Foley, who was gunned down in front of his house in Amman on Oct. 28.

The Jordanian government said in a statement Saturday that the two suspects, a Jordanian and a Libyan, were arrested after a nationwide hunt.

A day later, the government backed off earlier denials and acknowledged that Al-Qaeda has set up small cells in the kingdom.

Remembering Herb Weinstein

Herb Weinstein was born in Jersey City, New Jersey, on January 29, 1927 and died on December 23, 1987. After serving in the United States Navy in World War II, Herb graduated from Denver University in history and political science. He spent some time in Israel on a kibbutz with his wife Adina and then settled in Montreal where he graduated from McGill University with a Master's Degree in Social Work. Herb Weinstein was a dedicated and creative professional force in the Montreal Jewish Community. He served as a social worker at the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services; Program Director at the YMHA, at which time he was involved with the establishment of the Saidye Bronfman Centre; supervisor at the Maimonides Hospital, and as Executive Director of the B'nai Brith Hillel Foundation from 1968 until his untimely death. It was during his tenure at Hillel that the student loan fund was established, the CEGEP expansion was accomplished, Centre Hillel became a reality, and the Golem Coffee House flourished. He provided student counselling on a wide range of concerns. He encouraged students to stand up for oppressed Jewry and took particular pride in the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, as well as aid for Ethiopian Jews. Herb recognized and encouraged intellectual honesty, talent, leadership potential, creativity, commitment to Jewish life and saw involvement as the key to a democratic society. Many young adults that sat around his informal office are making significant contributions to public life. In 1980, Herb was the first recipient of the Synagogue Council of Montreal Award for outstanding and innovative work in the Jewish community. He also served for many years as a field supervisor at the McGill School of Social Work, and was a president of the Quebec Association of Professional Social Workers. Herb Weinstein possessed a gentleness and generosity of spirit as well as a sense of humour. He is missed by all whose lives he touched. He is survived by his wife Adina, Shana and Gideon, Neil and Carol, Judith and Aviram, and grandchildren, David, Jonathan, Adam, Eran, Hadas, Orr, and Nadav.

JIAS of Toronto - Executive Director

Jewish Immigrant Aid Service of Toronto (JIAS) is searching for an Executive Director. The successful candidate will possess vision and superior leadership skills, playing a key role in the strategic repositioning of immigrant, refugee and integration services and issues in the Toronto Jewish community.

Qualifications/Required Knowledge/Education

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- Demonstrated ability to work with volunteers, committees and boards
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- Excellent verbal and written communications skills
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No phone calls, please.

JIAS TORONTO

Humourist Sam Orbaum was Israel's Everyman

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Sam Orbaum had guts, whether it was fending off cancer for as long as he could, or whether it was standing up to toughs at our high school in Quebec, one of whom once knocked the kippah right off his head. To both, Sam stood firm, and I admired that.

While the fight that ensued with the high school bully ended in a stalemate (to everyone's amazement), Sam lost his valiant battle with cancer. At age 46, he succumbed to the disease on Dec. 9 in Jerusalem.

In Israel, or at least among readers of the *Jerusalem Post*, Sam's was a household name. He was known for two long-running columns, the humorous *But Seriously*, and another about extraordinary people in Israel, *Not Page One*. Both were required reading for anyone who sought commiseration about daily living in a country where humour is a powerful tool for coping.

From tzuris with plumbers, electricians and perennial bank overdraft, to explaining a Canadian winter to his British-born wife, to recounting the every move of his three daughters (quite possibly, the most famous triplets in Israel), Sam emerged as his country's Dave Barry, a long-suffering Everyman who pays his bills and endures every bureaucratic slight, but manages to find pearls of humor in any situation, whether real or the product of an imagination that never quit.

Sam Orbaum

Sam was able to capture the sheer zaniness of life in Israel better than anyone since Ephraim Kishon. He found Jewish Eskimos, mystics, misfits and quiet heroes, and wrote about them in a way that made one want to pack up and move to Israel that afternoon.

He even found humour in his disease.

For me, Sam touched a nerve when it came to our common history. His beloved Chomedey, the Montreal suburb where we both grew up, "looked like Anatevka with bungalows," while the most inviolable street hockey rule as a kid was "The Two Foot Guvmint Proppity Law," under which the first two-foot strips of everyone's lawn belonged to the government, and was thus a kind of sanctuary.

Above all else, Sam was a gifted writer. Few scribes could pen new lyrics to old tunes better. He once pulled off an amazing feat: a fable, all in rhyme, telling the saga of the Jewish people and their Zionist aspirations. We both wrote for our school paper. He was better.

He was such a talented wordsmith that he inaugurated the Jerusalem Scrabble Club, said to be the largest Scrabble club in the world. Sam won the club title many times, and the National Scrabble Championships in 1995, going on to represent Israel in the world championships that year in London.

Feeling himself to be a failed poet back home in Canada, Sam made aliyah in 1981 and soon began his career at the *Post* as an in-house advertising copywriter. Five years and 2,000 ads later, he joined the editorial department.

Just a few weeks ago, Sam e-mailed me to say that despite being a techno-Luddite, he'd launched his own Web site (samorbaum.com). It's worth visiting.

Sam leaves his parents, his ex-wife and his triplets, Odelia, Nomi and Donna – and a quiet smile for anyone who recalls his words.

Jerusalem's Old City: a model for co-existence?

By HASKELL NUSSBAUM
Special to The CJN

Comment

From the window of the "Rabbi of the Old City's" apartment, we could see the fireworks exploding over the Arab village of Silwan, only a few yards away. The bright red and green fireworks, shot off in celebration of the Muslim month of Ramadan, sounded at first like gunfire – sharp, loud pops, followed by the echoes of the reports through the mountains.

The sounds reminded me of how precariously the Jews in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem live their ordinary lives.

Surrounded on three sides by a potentially hostile Arab population, the 600 or so Jewish families, and countless students and visitors to the Jewish Quarter, ought to feel nervous. But, generally, they do not.

"I feel safe," insists longtime resident Jeff Seidel. "And I walk from Damascus Gate [through the Muslim Quarter] to the Western Wall often."

That feeling of safety, however, may prove ephemeral, considering the level of underlying tension in the city. On my last trip to the Old City, I passed no fewer than six roving teams of police – including military border patrols, mounted police and regular patrolmen – all within a few hundred yards of Jaffa Gate. Having received alerts of possible terrorist attacks, the police were stopping young men and asking for identification. One, an Arab who I saw clutching a green Palestinian Authority-issued identity card, was being closely guarded by two cops as I entered the Old City – and was still there, an hour later, as I exited.

One result of all this tension is that the Jews and Arabs of the Old City are virtually strangers to each other. They are two planets, locked in orbit around each other, influencing each other's course through invisible gravitational force – but never actually touching.

Take Lulu Hassan. Hassan, a young Arab shopkeeper, runs a tourist store only about 200 yards away from Jaffa Gate, where most Jews enter the Old City. His shop, near the entrance of the *souk* that still offers the shortest route to the Kotel, is lucky, he claims, to make more than one sale a day. The rest of the *souk*, now lined with stores whose green iron doors are locked shut even at rush hour, underscore his claim. Those Arabs who rely on local Jews and tourists face hardship.

When asked, Hassan says he has no Jewish contacts at all. Not even business suppliers. This, I reflected, seemed dubious, as he sells many items of Judaica. But I refrained from pressing him, as his central thesis is undoubtedly correct. The Jews may live nearby, they may come within a few feet of his establishment as they head to the Kotel by a route that they deem safer, and some may even buy an item; but social or other real interaction is nonexistent.

Seidel agrees. Despite living in the Jewish Quarter for 21 years, and leading tours of the Old City including the Muslim Quarter, Seidel has no real connection to any Arabs. There is no sense of neighbourliness, he claims, and the Old City should not be taken as a model of co-existence.

"21 years ago, Jews would buy more from the Arabs," he explained, "but I think that people realized who the Arabs sided with during the first intifadah. People had thought that the Arabs wanted to co-exist and then they realized that there's, in general terms, a difference between us and them.

"An older [Jewish] gentlemen came up to me once," Seidel continued, "and said to me, "Do you see their eyes? How they look at us?' And he's right. There are Arabs who I've seen, while giving tours, for years and years. I know that they rejoice whenever there's an Israeli casualty."

With mutual suspicions, forced proximity and the backdrop of violence in the West Bank, it is, on the surface, remarkable that the Old City of Jerusalem has not exploded like the city of Hebron – another city that is holy to both communities and where Jews and Arabs share a holy site. But while fundamental differences remain between the cities – among them Israeli citizenship available to the Arabs of Jerusalem and a strong Israeli police presence without any Palestinian police – the similarities between the cities remain disquieting and peace in the Old City of Jerusalem cannot be taken for granted.

Noting the potential for violence, many Jewish schools that cater to overseas students have all but prohibited their charges from going to the Old City. The central square of the Jewish Quarter, once a thriving teenage hangout, stands disturbingly desolate most nights. Only when a solidarity-for-Israel rally comes to town is it filled.

And yet. Even as Ramadan fireworks light the sky, it's possible to see thousands of Jews streaming in to the plaza in front of the Kotel for Friday night's prayers. The Arabs, along the al-Aqsa Mosque above, remain quiet. The evening passes without incident, as most evenings here do.

For the moment, at least, both the Jews and the Arabs seem content to maintain the polite fiction of co-existence. Both are willing, it seems, to live in one city with two solitudes. Proximate but apart. The Jewish Quarter remains safe.

And I remain with a simple hope: that the uneasy and undeclared peace in the city will continue.

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23

Dec. 9

• The outcome of the Likud Party primary was seen as a victory for Benjamin Netanyahu. Results showed that 10 of Netanyahu's supporters placed in the first 31 slots of the party's list of Knesset candidates for the Jan. 28 elections.

• Security officials arrested a Palestinian who admitted to killing 10-month-old Shalhevet Pass in Hebron in March 2001.

Dec. 10

• Political doves and hawks shared top spots in the Labor Party primary for the final election Knesset lists. Matan Vilna'i, a backer of leader Amram Mitzna, placed first. The first three spots on the list are reserved for Mitzna, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer and Shimon Peres.

Dec. 11

• In a state visit to Italy, President Moshe Katsav was told by Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi that Italy had cut its ties with the Palestinian Authority after 29 Israelis were killed in Netanya on Passover in March 2001. Berlusconi also pledged to Katsav "Italy's unconditional support of the right of the Israeli people to live in peace on their land."

Dec. 12

• The Israeli army killed five armed Palestinians who tried to infiltrate a Jewish community near the Gaza Strip. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine claimed responsibility for the attempted attack as a commemoration of the 35th anniversary of its founding.

Dec. 13

• Keren Ya'akobi, 19, from Hadera, and Sergeant Maor Kalfon, 19, from Kiryat Yam, two soldiers killed Thursday night near the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron, were laid to rest. The Israeli army destroyed five houses in the area, including the home from which the gunmen shot and killed the soldiers.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Israel & the Jewish World

Anti-Semitism now placed on the Senate's agenda

Continued from page 1

What's more, unlike in Germany, where security costs are subsidized by the government, congregants at Beth Tzedec and other synagogues themselves pay a special security fee for the added measures.

That is outrageous, Grafstein said, as have been the half dozen arson attacks on Jewish houses of worship and memorial chapels in the last two years and the upsurge of anti-Semitic incidents that now number in the hundreds.

As a senator in Parliament's Upper House, Grafstein has been in a position to do something about it. Late last month, he introduced a "resolution on anti-Semitic violence in the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) region including Canada."

The resolution is closely modelled on another resolution adopted unanimously this past summer in Germany by the 55-member OSCE, where Grafstein serves as treasurer, though it has been "Canadianized" and updated in its preamble recitations. It reaffirms Canada's obligation to "unequivocally condemn" anti-Semitism and take effective measure to protect individuals from anti-Semitic violence. It also calls on the government to schedule follow-up seminars to study the issue and to "make public a statement recognizing violence against Jews and Jewish cultural properties as anti-Semitic, as well as issue strong public declarations condemning the depredations."

The resolution will be referred to a Senate committee for further discussion and last week, Montreal MP Irwin Cotler said he planned to introduce a similar resolution in the House of Commons some time in the new year.

The U.S. Congress and the German Bundestag have already adopted the OSCE resolution and the German parliament held a one-day seminar to study the issue. Only last week, Grafstein was in Washington to participate in a meeting of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, an agency consisting of American lawmakers. A visiting delegation of German parliamentarians, who also participated, heard from a number of American Jewish groups on the question of anti-Semitism.

"They're way ahead of the game," Grafstein said of the American and German governments.

Grafstein, a Liberal, believes the government of Canada has fallen short of its international and moral obligations to speak out strongly against the current manifestation of anti-Semitism in Canada. He's also critical of political and religious leaders, and of the media for not giving the issue the attention he believes it deserves.

In introducing the resolution, Grafstein told his fellow senators that "in Canada… all I have heard is silence… Honourable senators, silence is acquiescence. Acquiescence breeds license. License breeds legitimacy. Legitimacy leads to fear, scorn, loathing and then violence."

Grafstein said the initial response of his Senate colleagues was one of surprise and shock at the extent of the problem. "They were surprised by the fact there were those anti-Semitic incidents," he said.

Peter MacKay, Progressive Conservative House leader and justice critic, told *The CJN* he was unaware of the extent of the problem and he believed few other MPs were familiar with it. He agreed federal leaders hadn't done enough to speak out against anti-Semitism and pledged he would do so in the future.

Sen. Jack Austin agreed that most of his colleagues were unaware of the level of anti-Semitism in Canada. "It's not part of their reality," he said. "People are pre-occupied with their own concerns."

Although the record of public statements by political and religious leaders on the two-year spate of anti-Semitism is sparse, it is not a complete wasteland.

A news release issued by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien last July when Toronto accountant David Rosenzweig was murdered read "that such acts of hatred directed against Canadians for reasons of race, faith or for belonging to any identifiable group are totally unacceptable. We will not allow anti-Semitism or religious and ethnic intolerance in Canada."

About one year ago, Cotler said he briefed the Prime Minister on "the new anti-Jewishness" and asked him to speak out about it. The Prime Minister addressed the issue at a Liberal fundraising dinner, but "in my view, it was not enough and not in the right forum," Cotler stated.

In March, the Islamic Society of North America condemned the arson at Toronto's Anshei Minsk Synagogue, as did other religious groups, while a month later the Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat of Toronto called vandalism attacks against Jewish facilities the "cowardly" acts of "irrational and desperate individuals."

In May, Canadian Ethno-cultural Council president Art Hagopian "expressed concern" over the rise of hate crimes and attacks on cultural and religious communities while around the same time, the United Church responded to the upsurge in attacks against Jews in Canada and around the world with an "absolute condemnation of all acts of anti-Semitism." The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, on the other hand, has remained silent on the issue.

Manuel Prutschi, national director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, said some faith groups and other organizations have responded to specific attacks on Jews – he cited the outrage over a synagogue fire in Saskatoon – he felt "there hasn't been a consistent ongoing response to what is a pattern. Our responsibility is to make people aware that this is a pattern, that these are not isolated events in Canada and that it is a reflection of the global pattern.

"This is a work in progress. Certainly we've been disappointed by the level of response to date," he said.

Prutschi said the Jewish community had not witnessed the same level of solidarity "quite rightly" expressed by the wider community to Muslims after 9/11. "The federal government issued several statements and the prime minister visited a mosque in Ottawa. There wasn't that level of response when the police issued a general threat alert in June regarding an Ottawa synagogue being targeted," he said.

"I think a heartening gesture would have been if members of the government would have attended during services, as a statement."

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Eye on Arts

By Bill Gladstone

BIG BAND FROM TEL AVIV TO PERFORM IN TORONTO

The Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation and the Consulate-General of Israel have arranged a one-time only Toronto concert for a top-notch band from an Israeli arts school whose members were invited to the 30th annual conference of the International Association for Jazz Education (IAJE) in Toronto next month.

The Big Band of the Thelma Yellin School for the Performing Arts of Tel Aviv is an ensemble of 22 students who are scheduled to be in Toronto from Jan. 7 thru 12, along with 7,000 educators, musicians and enthusiasts from 35 countries, and more than 150 top jazz artists. Most of the band members are recipients of the Moshe Sharett Scholarship, an important project of the Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation.

According to the CICF, the Big Band and two vocalists will perform a wide repertoire of swing, bebop, Latin, funk and fusion numbers in a programme called "Jazz – Crossing All Borders."

Royal Conservatory of Music, Ettore Mazzoleni Concert Hall, 273 Bloor St. W. Tickets $20; tax-deductible donations to the scholarship fund welcomed. Sunday Jan. 12, 3 p.m. 416-932-2260.

* * *

Playwriting Contest: The Jewish Theatre Committee of Toronto, in association with the Miles Nadal JCC, has announced the 2003 Canadian Jewish Playwriting Contest. All entries must have Jewish content, must be original and unproduced, and must have been penned by an author who is Canadian or has a strong Canadian connection. The prize is a professionally directed, staged reading at the Miles Nadal JCC.

Deadline is March 3, 2003. For information, phone 416-924-6211 or visit the website, www.milesnadaljcc.ca

* * *

Family Musical: *Free To Be . . . You and Me* began as a children's book by **Marlo Thomas** that, instead of telling boys and girls who they should be, would open them to the possibilities of who they could be. Thomas invited many of her supremely talented friends, including **Carl Reiner**, **Mel Brooks**, **Alan Alda**, **Judy Blume** and **Shel Silverstein** to be contributors.

The result was regarded as a modern classic of children's literature that has subsequently been performed as a heartwarming musical, most recently off-Broadway this past June.

"It is a show to be enjoyed by parents, teachers, and other grown-up friends with the children in their lives," says Toronto producer **Michael Rubinoff**.

St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts, Jane Mallett Theatre, 27 Front St. E. Adults $33. Jan. 7 to 15, 2003. 416-366-7723.

* * *

It Pays to Clean Your Desk: Just two weeks after American conductor **Charles Bornstein** immigrated to Israel, he made a musical discovery of spectacular proportions. While shuffling through some papers on his desk, he found a rare original manuscript by his favourite composer, the Viennese born **Gustav Mahler**, who died in 1911.

The director of the Gustav Mahler library in Paris confirmed that Bornstein had found an early version, with detailed notations, of Mahler's first symphony.

* * *

Out of Town: Lvov, Ukraine (formerly Poland) was the scene of a three-day Jewish theatre festival last month that attracted theatrical troupes from all across the former Soviet Union, the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency* reported.

For some attendees, the festival brought back the days of more than 60 years ago, when Lvov nurtured many homegrown Yiddish theatre companies and also received many famous troupes on tour from Warsaw, Vilna and other East European Jewish centres. The festival's 16 productions – 15 in Russian and one in Yiddish – revived many recognizable Jewish characters ranging from King Solomon to Tevye.

The festival was not an attempt to revive the past so much as an attempt to awaken a new Jewish artistic sensibility, according to amateur director **Alexander Chevan** of Chernigov.

"We are trying to build Jewish culture here and now, using modern artistic means," he said.

* * *

A Timeless Journey Through Jewish Song: Calgary-based Mezzo-soprano **Tsepora** (Hebrew for songbird), will perform an evening of spiritual songs, featuring Yiddish and Hebrew classics in Toronto on Dec.22.

Tsepora

Inspired by the courage of her grandmother who survived the Holocaust singing for the commanding officers in Auschwitz, Tsepora reconnects with her own roots as she performs timeless classics such as *Tum Balalaika*, *Erev Shel Shoshanim* and *Avinu Malkeinu*.

"These songs allow people to remember the songs their grandparents sang to them, and it also exposes others to new music," she told *The CJN* in an interview to promote her CD *Timeless Journey Through Jewish Song* two summers ago.

"I wanted to help create a resurgence of this beautiful music," she said.

The concert is at the Vaughan City Playhouse, 1000 New Westminster Drive, Vaughan on Dec. 22 at 7 p.m. For tickets call 905-709-4057 or Ticketmaster at 416-872-1111.

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Roman Polanski's *Pianist* wields immense power

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Adrien Brody is brilliant in *The Pianist*, which opens on Dec. 25.

The Pianist, Roman Polanski's first film on the Holocaust, leaves an indelible impression.

Polanski, a survivor himself, pours his heart and soul, as well as his formidable technical knowledge, into this tour de force, which opens at the Cineplex Odeon chain on Dec. 25.

Taking place over a six-year period in Nazi-occupied Warsaw, *The Pianist* is based on the incredible experiences of Jewish pianist Wladyslaw Szpilman. Through his eyes, the horror of the Holocaust in Poland, which devoured three million Jews, unfolds inexorably.

Szpilman – who is brilliantly portrayed by Adrien Brody – has a special feel for Chopin, the composer laureate of Poland. As he plays Chopin's haunting *Nocturne in C sharp Minor* in a Radio Warsaw studio, sudden explosions shatter windows and send up clouds of choking dust.

It is September 1939. Germany has invaded Poland, and the strife has reached Warsaw. Life will never be the same again, for either Szpilman and his family, or Poland.

The Pianist, Polanski's first movie in eight years, opens with nostalgic file footage of an elegant Warsaw on the eve of World War II. The footage magically gives way to Szpilman's haunting rendition at the studio.

After the building has been engulfed by smoke, he hurries home. His cultured, middle-class parents take solace from the fact that Britain and France have declared war on Germany. Perhaps, they think, the Germans can be defeated.

But for now, German soldiers march triumphantly through the streets of Warsaw, intimidating residents, and newspapers announce anti-Semitic decrees.

With deft, economical strokes, Polanski creates an air of menace and forboding.

As Szpilman soon discovers, Jews have been reduced to second-class citizenship. They are no longer welcome in cafes, restaurants or parks. He cannot even buy a Polish friend, Dorota (Emilia Fox), a cup of coffee.

Subsequently, Jews are ordered to wear blue and white armbands emblazoned with the Star of David. Readily identifiable as a Jew, Szpilman's courtly father (Frank Finlay), a violinist, is assaulted on the street by a German policeman. It is a preview of things to come.

In semi-documentary style, Polanski sets the stage for the next humiliating measure: the walling off of a ghetto in 1940. The camera pans on a group of bedraggled Jews trudging toward the ghetto, which is shortly to be crammed with 500,000 Jews from all over Poland.

Spying Dorota, who grimly watches the forlorn procession, Szpilman offers bland, dishonest words of comfort. Brightening up, Dorota adds, "It's too absurd."

Then, in two effective back-to-back scenes, Polanski further evokes the arbitrary temper of the times.

Running short of funds to buy food, the Szpilmans are compelled to sell their prized piano to a Pole for a mere pittance. It is a crushing defeat.

Outside, in the crowded ghetto littered with fresh corpses, the Germans heap ridicule on Jews by forcing them to dance.

Having lost his job in Warsaw's Aryan quarter, Szpilman earns a hand-to-mouth living as a pianist in a cafe frequented by the ghetto's sleazy elite, consisting mainly of smugglers and Jewish policemen.

Szpilman's sanctimonious brother, Henryk (Ed Stoppard), who contemptuously refers to this class as parasites, is none too pleased that he works there.

The sheer, random horror of the German occupation is chillingly evoked again when a squad of SS men raids a flat in the ghetto. After the Germans order the occupants to rise, they unceremoniously throw a disabled man in a wheelchair out the window.

Thanks to his connection to a commander of the compromised Jewish police force, Szpilman saves his family from deportation. But it is a fleeting respite. The Szpilmans, along with hundreds of other Jews, are trucked to a crowded railway platform.

A train, bound for Treblinka, waits on the tracks, the locomotive rhythmically pumping out white smoke. As Szpilman stoically approaches an open wagon, a sympathetic policeman pushes him aside. Meanwhile, his father fends off an attempt by another policeman to grab his violin. It is a futile struggle.

Then, in yet another extraordinary scene, Szpilman, crushed by the bloodless inhumanity he has just witnessed, walks dejectedly down a deserted cobblestone street strewn with the abandoned suitcases of the deportees. The deeply wounded expression on his face is heart rending.

Szpilman saves himself by taking refuge in safe houses provided by a succession of Poles, all of whom risk their lives to shelter him. The Polish Christians, with the exception of a hysterical woman who madly curses Szpilman, are depicted rather sympathetically.

Poles, to be sure, helped Jews, as Yad Vashem has duly noted. But it is debatable whether Poles were as consistently well disposed toward their fellow citizens as Polanski seems to suggest.

Continued on page 34

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Mexican inspires local artist

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The work of muralist Diego Rivera had the greatest the greatest influence on her work, says Toronto artist Claire Weissman Wilks.

Early in her career, she worked primarily in black and white using conte crayon. Later, after having success in painting and sculpture, she began to look for new inspiration. On a trip to Mexico, she studied the work of Diego, who was artist Frida Kahlo's husband.

"It was one of those magical things that happens," Weissman Wilks says. "An artist looks for inspiration and I found it there. It led to my work in monotyping in colour."

Prince Arthur Fine Arts last month presented Ghosts, an exhibition of selected monotypes by Weissman Wilks, whose works have been hailed in Mexico, Italy, Sweden, Central Europe, Yugoslavia and throughout North America.

The monotype process is a print on paper taken from a painting on glass or metal. Weissman Wilks says she paints on glass and usually makes two paper impressions, selecting the one she prefers.

She also works in drawing, brush painting and lithography, and sculptures in bronze, clay and glass.

At a reception at the gallery, Weissman Wilks said she has no preconceived idea when she paints on glass "and what comes out is a surprise."

Born in Toronto, Weissman Wilks, 69, attended Northern Vocational school and Central Technical School, which she says "was the greatest art school in the country."

At 17, she entered the Weston Sanitarium with tuberculosis and remained there for almost three years. She says that this painful period influences her subject matter.

"That's what you see in my work – the feeling of isolation and caring."

She adds that she also has a deep and abiding interest in the concentration camps. The tension caught in her characters' faces reflects a mixture of pain and awe, pleasure and disbelief.

She exhibited in her first group show at the Pollack Gallery in 1968, and her first solo exhibition was held in 1982 at the IGA Gallery in Toronto. She has had numerous commissions and appears in many publications and books.

Claire Weissman Wilks at the Prince Arthur Fine Arts Gallery.

After a failed marriage, the mother of four met her partner of 34 years, Barry Callaghan, a writer and publisher of *Exile: A Literary Quarterly*.

Mexico has embraced her paintings. In 2001, a 40-foot banner hanging from the outside wall of the Monterrey State Gallery announced that 36 of Weissman Wilks' monotypes were on exhibition in a show titled Out of the Cave.

The governor of the state declared that they were "opening the gallery but opening the eyes of Mexico to the world."

The following year, the Museum Universitario del Chopo in Mexico City gave over its masters exhibition area for two months to exhibit 39 of her monotypes.

In 2002, the exhibition was moved to the House of Congress in Mexico City. She was the first Canadian and the first woman to be given a solo show in Mexico's parliamentary gallery.

Recently, at the opening of her show in the Debel Gallery in Jerusalem, an Israeli poet said her work depicts "aloneness, aloneness, in which there is always a glimpse of joy, joy."

In 2003, Weissman Wilks will present a major exhibition of her monotypes in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Selected monotype paintings by Weissman Wilks will remain in the Prince Arthur Fine Arts gallery.

For more information on the monotypes still at the gallery, call 416-944-2671.

The Pianist *is shattering*

Continued from page 33

As *The Pianist* heads toward its denouement, Szpilman witnesses the 1943 ghetto uprising and the 1944 general revolt. Polanski dwells briefly but effectively on these historic events.

Toward the close of the film, in an utterly gripping and astonishing vignette, a dignified German army officer (Thomas Kretschmann) stumbles upon Szpilman as he desperately tries to open a tin of pickles to salve his savage hunger. The officer, having discovered he is a pianist, asks him to play.

An aficionado of classical music and the only humane German in the entire movie, the officer is so moved by his impromptu performance of Chopin's *Ballad No. 1 in G Minor* that he gives him food, a warm coat and a bit of heartening information.

It is a shared, profound moment of humanity that sweeps away old and newly-instilled hatreds.

In short, *The Pianist* – which summons up several incredible performances from a talented cast, most notably from Brody and Kretschmann – is a shattering film of immense power.

To say that Polanski has made a movie for the ages would be to state the obvious.

Young violinist brims with enthusiasm

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rebecca Brenner was only four years old when she walked past a Suzuki music class at the Bloor Jewish Community Centre on her way home from a swimming lesson. "That's what I want to do!" she said to her mother, Deena, when she heard the violins.

It turned out Rebecca's eagerness was matched by her aptitude. Now 12, she still brims with enthusiasm about her music – her comments on the subject are punctuated with smiles, giggles and the word "fun."

But Rebecca has built up a serious resume as she progressed from a small (1/16) violin to a full-size instrument, with appearances as a guest soloist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO), with the McGill Chamber Orchestra in Montreal, at a Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony Pops concert, and as the Canadian representative at the International Children for Peace Concert in Czechoslovakia. Her first solo performance was at age seven with the National Academy Orchestra in Hamilton under the direction of Boris Brott.

Last month, on her 12th birthday Nov. 13, Rebecca took part in Beth Sholom Synagogue's *Stars of Tomorrow* concert, performing Corelli's *La Folia*, Moussorgsky's *Hopak*, Prokofieff's *The March* and Debussy's *La Fille aux Cheveux de Lin*.

In a recent interview at her home, Rebecca smiled as she recalled one of her early performances.

"It was really funny," she said. A TSO musician saw her playing at a Loblaws grocery story opening and told her, 'I think you should meet Boris Brott,'" she said.

"I thought it sounded fun."

No one ever forces her to practise, said Rebecca, whose repertoire is mostly classical, although she also plays chamber, contemporary and klezmer music with two teens as part of a trio called Ricochet. She says she enjoys every kind of music.

"If I don't want to practise, I don't. But I usually do – or I force myself. Then I enjoy it once I start. Sometimes I skip a day." She devotes about six hours a week to violin lessons with teacher Marta Hidy, but is not at a particular grade level. "I might do Grade 6 and [a higher level] at the same time; you never know," she said.

What is the most challenging piece she's ever attempted?

"Everything is challenging," she said. "Even if it's Grade 6, you can play it as a Grade 6 student, or you can play it as a professional, which is hard. I try to play as a professional."

The difference, she said, involves "knowing where the phrasing is, or how to feel it, or making it interesting."

To create sophisticated, emotive music, Rebecca sometimes draws on her interest in theatre and dance (she is the voice of Prissy Uppity in the animated series *Dumb Bunnies* and Polie Pi in *Rolie Polie Olie*; and takes eight hours a week of ballet lessons).

Or she might think about her cat, "which is quite often what my teacher uses to get me to do something well – [for example], if I'm playing a nice part in a Bruch concerto."

Rebecca's love of music, and sense of fun with it, may have something to do with her early exposure to classical music. Deena and her mathematician husband David – both non-musicians – "played all kinds of symphonic music day and night" from the day Rebecca was born, said Deena, a civil engineer by training.

They recall taking her to see Mozart's *Requiem* when she was just two years old.

Rebecca Brenner

"We worried," said Deena. "But she sat right through, and very joyfully watched the performance."

An intimate evening with Vancouver pianist

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Vancouver concert pianist Robert Silverman says he loves performing for small audiences.

"I suspect that there will be more and more salon concerts [in the future] and I love doing them," Silverman says. "There is an intimacy. I think the audience gets to know the artist better than they ever can in a hall.

"They get a little more familiar with his actual artistry and they also get to know the artist as a human being – and from my perspective, I love relating."

The internationally acclaimed musician was in Toronto recently to perform at the home of Toby and Saul Feldberg, where he played a selection of pieces by Brahms, Schumann, Gershwin, Mendelssohn and Chopin.

The concert was sponsored by The Koffler Centre of the Arts School of Music, which presents a series of Salon Concerts each year. A portion of the proceeds went to Beit Halochem, Aid to Disabled Veterans of Israel.

Silverman, who has been a faculty member at the University of British Columbia since 1973, lived up to his reputation as one of Canada's finest pianists.

He opened with two 19th-century sets of variations, the first called *Variations on a Theme by Clara Wieck, Op. 14*. Composed by Robert Schumann, the piece is part of a larger sonata that he wrote on a theme that his wife, Clara, herself a concert pianist, had written.

Silverman's second piece was Brahms' *Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Handel*. Brahms, a protégé of Schumann's and a good friend of his and Clara's, wrote this composition in 1861 and presented it to Clara for her birthday.

Both selections were performed with technical excellence and memorable phrasing.

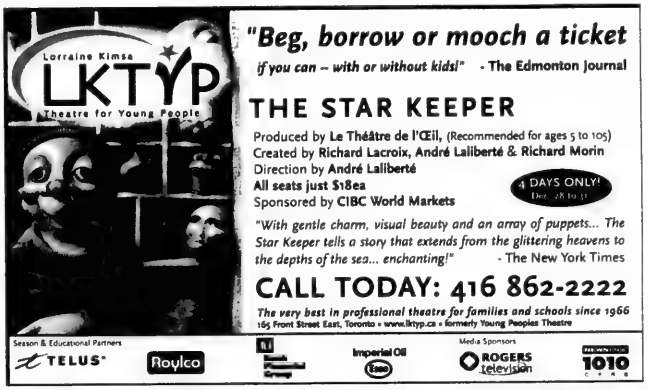
Demonstrating his wide-ranging repertoire, Silverman also performed two shorter pieces by Mendelssohn, *Spring Song* and *Spinning Song*, and concluded his program, to the delight of the 90 patrons, with *Rhapsody in Blue* by George Gershwin.

Silverman, who made his debut with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra when he was 14, has performed to acclaim throughout North America, Europe, the Far East and Australia.

In 1998, he was named the first winner of the Paul de Hueck and Norman Walford Career Achievement Award for Keyboard Artistry, which is administered by the Ontario Arts Council.

He has made 25 CDs and is the recipient of the Grand Prix du Disque from the Liszt Society in Budapest for his first recorded Liszt recital. He also won a Juno Award in 1991 for his CBC recording of Michael Baker's piano concerto.

The next BJCC Koffler concert will feature Israeli guitarist, singer and composer David Broza Monday, Dec. 23, at 8 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre. For more information, call Adrienne Cohen, 416-636-1880, ext. 228.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Netanya hospital expands role in response to terror

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Netanya's Laniado Hospital is a community hospital – the kind that delivers babies, performs dialysis and diagnostic imaging, and administers chemotherapy to those with cancer. It has a cardiology department, four internal medicine departments, an in-vitro fertilization program and surgical suites.

But for the past two years, it has had to be more than a community hospital.

Since the start of the current intifadah, Laniado's already overtaxed facilities have had to deal with victims of suicide bombings and other terror attacks. Not only is the hospital the only one in the area, but Netanya itself has been a major target for terrorist activity, second only to Jerusalem.

Belgian-born and U.S.-trained nurse Lydia Lanxner is Laniado's disaster response specialist, and she has helped develop protocols to deal with such emergencies, protocols that have been adopted in other countries.

She spoke recently at Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation in Thornhill, at a program sponsored by the synagogue's Israel Action Committee and Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital.

She also spoke at the Hospital for Sick Children and Etobicoke General Hospital.

Laniado received nearly half of the victims of last Pesach's Park Hotel suicide bombing, just as it treated many of those injured in a similar attack at Netanya's Jeremy Hotel two weeks earlier.

When Israel is at war, she said, such as when Iraq launched Scud missiles at it during the Gulf War, "there is a six minute warning. The population is ready, and knows to go to a sealed room, and to always carry their masks with them."

During what is supposedly peacetime, however, there is no warning before attacks, she said.

The hospital holds regular drills and education in trauma procedure, Lanxner said, noting that many of the drills she holds are unannounced.

The disaster unit of Israel's Ministry of Health keeps a close eye on each hospital's capability, she said, and there is a triage system to makes sure the injured are transported to the most appropriate place for treatment.

When word comes of an attack, she said, immediately the emergency room is emptied, off-duty staff are recalled through a computerized call system that contacts 100 people a minute and records exactly who can come in, and all elective procedures are stopped.

Since Laniado Hospital is not normally a trauma centre, victims who are brought there are resuscitated and stabilized while staff wait for more specific instructions from the ministry as to where to transport them.

Lanxner said she has set up the emergency room to function as efficiently as possible. It has trauma kits with treatments for chemical and biological agents, a blood bank, and radiology and ultrasound equipment.

All Israeli hospitals "are built for war," she said, with oxygen equipment in every room and in all the halls, so that they can easily and quickly expand their role if necessary.

Many terrorist victims come in as "John Does," Lanxner said, with no identification of any kind. Photographs are taken of anything that might be helpful for identification, such as a person's face, if possible, or jewelry, scars, clothes and body parts.

The photos are then displayed in a private room, which is helpful when several members of a family are hurt and sent to different hospitals, Lanxner said. Rather than running around in the emergency room, people can find their loved ones through pictures.

People can also use a toll free number to get information. The number is the same throughout Israel, except for the last two digits that identify each hospital.

Recently, digital cameras have enabled pictures to be sent over the Internet.

"We keep everything that might help to identify people," Lanxner said, including "dentures, shoes, jewelry, canes."

Chemical and biological warfare is not just a theory, she said. For instance, the suicide bomber who blew up the Tel Aviv's Dolphinarium nightclub in June 2001 had hepatitis B. His bone fragments and body fluids were thrown through the air onto the victims, and many of them have subsequently tested positive for the disease.

"It could have been AIDS just as easily," she said. "We never thought of such a possibility."

Now, all terror victims are routinely vaccinated, as are staff.

Special masks have been developed for doctors that allow wide angle vision and have an efficient and comfortable oxygen supply.

Immediately after an attack, there is a staff debriefing to discuss how things were handled and to let the workers talk about their overall state of mind.

Hospitals have been warned that the next terror target will be ambulances, she said. Vehicles will be stolen, packed with explosives and driven as close as possible to the hospital. As a result, ambulances are now met at a considerable distance from the building, Lanxner said, and nearby parking lots have been closed.

More than half the victims of terror are children, Lanxner said, so Laniado is now planning to set up a children's trauma and emergency unit to treat them.

1111 Women raises funds for MDA

By STACEY STEIN
Special to The CJN

After raising $4,500 at a recent meeting, 1111 Women is nearing its goal of purchasing a mobile intensive care unit ambulance for Magen David Adom in Israel.

The group has raised $82,000 since its inception in the fall – $111,000 is needed to purchase an ambulance.

Founded by Sandy Galet in Toronto, 1111 Women is more of an idea rather than an organization. It started with a parlour meeting attended by 11 women who each brought a donation of at least $100 for Magen David Adom.

These women then held their own meetings, inviting new people to attend.

Each woman at subsequent parlour meetings is encouraged to hold her own meeting, inviting at least 10 women who will donate a minimum of $100 towards the purchase of the ambulance.

Since the first meeting of the group, over 40 events have been held in Toronto and donations have poured in from cities such as Montreal and Winnipeg.

Galet said she felt Magen David Adom is an important cause because "the first step in saving lives is an ambulance." After raising enough money to purchase an ambulance, Galet hopes to organize a group trip to Israel.

Rachelle Bronfman, who hosted a recent 1111 Women meeting with her mother and sister, said she hopes people who normally wouldn't get involved will be inspired to take action.

"This is empowering women who have always wanted to do something for Israel," she said. "The reason why people are doing it is because it's very simple – it's easy for women to host an evening. I'm hoping that people who aren't active will get involved with this."

Held at the home of Bronfman's mother, over 20 women attended the Dec. 10 gathering, including one woman who had been to two previous parlour meetings. The largest donation was $2,500. The event featured guest speaker Sarah Kronis, who has worked as a volunteer with Magen David Adom for the past five years.

At the 1111 Women fundraising event is (from left) Sandy Galet, Sara Kronis, Eleanor Yanover, Rachelle Bronfman and Sheryl Traber.

Kronis, 24, described her experiences helping patients, and assisting medical staff aboard the ambulances. She also noted the changes that have taken place since the latest intifidah began in September 2000.

For example, ambulance staff are now clad in bullet-proof vests and a staff member always stays behind to guard the ambulance at the scene of an incident. Over the past two years, almost 100 of the 550 Magen David Adom ambulances have been destroyed, stolen or repainted as Red Crescent ambulances (which may be used to carry terrorists and explosives).

"They're at a point where they really need ambulances," said Kronis. During her discussion, she noted that her friend's ambulance had been set on fire.

While the event held by Bronfman featured a guest speaker, Bronfman emphasized that 1111 Women meetings can be very simple.

"It doesn't have to be fancy and you don't need to have a speaker," she said. "It doesn't matter how old or young you are. A person who is 20 or 70 can do this and do a mitzvah."

For more information, contact Sandy Galet through the Toronto office of Magen David Adom at (416) 780-0034 or at sgalet@rogers.com.

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REAL ESTATE Section

5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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BATHURST / LAWRENCE

TOTAL RENOVATION & ADDITION! 4 + 2 bedrooms, approx. 2,600 sq. ft. + finished basement with 2 self-contained in-law suites, main floor library & family room, luxurious upgrades throughout! Steps to park! **ONLY $699,000.** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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2 storey home, 3 + 1 bedrooms, fin. basement, modern kitchen, breakfast area / walk-out to garden. **EXCELLENT VALUE — ONLY $399,000. ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

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Custom built exec. home, gorgeous stone exterior, 5 + 1 bdrms., 6 baths, main floor fam. room, library & laundry room, circular oak staircase, large principal rooms. Needs TLC. Only $699,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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Custom built luxury home loaded with upgrades! 4 + 1 bedrooms, 2 in-law suites, gleaming hardwood floors, dream oak kitchen with granite counters & backsplash, main floor 9 ft. ceilings **A MUST SEE!** Asking $899,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

BATHURST / LAWRENCE — RENOVATED & DECORATED!

3 + 1 bedroom bungalow on 45 x 120 ft. lot, gleaming hardwood floors, new ceramic floors, late-model kitchen & baths, sep. entry to in-law suite. Shows beautifully! All this in a prime location, only $379,000. **ACT FAST — WON'T LAST!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

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Very spacious California-style ranch bungalow, approx. 2700 sq. ft., 4 bedrooms, family room, ultra-modern kitchen, gleaming hardwood floors, new roof & windows, $499,000. **ACT NOW!** Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

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Prime central location close to TTC, shops ++. Call for details! Asking $949,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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HOMES

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Bathurst/Lawrence – New Custom Home in the midst of construction, 40 foot frontage, approx 3,400 sq. ft., five bedrooms, 5 baths, separate entry to basement, Spring occupancy, choose your finishings! Asking $789,900.

CONDOS

New Listing – Stunning Waterfront Condo at Harbour Square, 2 storey penthouse unit, 2,850 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 3 baths, magnificent views of Lake and Downtown, great facilities, one of a kind!! Asking $999,000.

Bathurst/Lawrence – Just Listed! Crystal Towers, penthouse corner suite, Approx. 1,100 sq.ft., just move in! Asking $319,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – Crystal Towers, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, great view, approx. 900 sq.ft. Asking $239,900.

RENTALS

Bathurst/Glencairn – 3 bdrms, 3 baths, family room, solarium, approx. 2500 sq.ft., 2 parking spots, only 2 units on floor, luxury layout! Asking $3,500/month.

Bathurst/Eglinton – Renovated 2 bdrm suite, approx. 1,100 sq.ft., central location, available immed. Asking $1,450/month.

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE

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3Dvisit.com/michellekahn Sutton Group Admiral Realty

THORNHILL PROPERTIES • WALK TO SHUL

Stunning 4 bdrm., 60' x 200' lot, stone front, landscaped garden., circular paved driveway, 3 car gar., living / dining comb., eat-in kit., fam. room, library, sep. entrance to bsmt. + nanny's suite, $789,000.

* * *

RICHMOND HILL CONDO SOLD 1 bedroom, open concept, hardwood floors, 5 appliances, parking, $179,900.

* * *

PENTHOUSE 2 magnificent bedrooms, 3 full baths, open concept living & dining room, family room (4th bedroom), fireplace, granite & hardwood floors, 180° view SOLD face. 4 car parking. Approx. 3,000 sq. ft. Million $ rec. centre. Highly motivated seller.

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15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bathurst/Wilson, 3 bdrm. reno'd kitch., laundry, deck, garage, $1800/mo. avail. immed. 416-661-0045.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

BATHURST BRIAR HILL
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Bachelor NOW $875!
1 bdrm. also avail. immed. in quiet, mature building close to shops, TTC.
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BATHURST/CENTRE, 1 bdrm. bsmt. apt., immed., $900 all inclusive, 905-881-8205.

Bathurst/Wilson, 1 bed. bsmnt. sep. entr., no smoking or pets. Close to TTC & shops. Refs. $650/mo. 416-789-1647.

82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

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122 TIME SHARE FOR SALE

Ft. Lauderdale - Red Time. 1 bed, 1½ bath, walk to ocean. 416-222-0800, 705-689-4128.

30 CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE

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35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

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Bathurst/Antibes, lux., 2 bed, 2 bth., Fla. room, pkng. $1450. 416-425-0701, 416-701-0437.

Bathurst/Lawrence, lux. PH, 2 bed, 2 bath, rec. fac. $1600. 416-425-0701, 416-701-0437.

Bath./Antibes, 2 bdrms., 1½ bths., parq. firs., 5 appls., pkg., immed. $1500. 905-709-0380.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Eldorado, 2500 Bathurst, lux. apts., large suites, reno'd., immed. 416-787-9451.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

MIAMI BEACH OCEANFRONT, beautiful brand new, furnished studios, fully equipped, luxury bldg., pool, spa, tennis, kosher restaurant, Shabbos elevator. $500/wk US. 305-895-3000.

Hollybrook/Pembroke Pines, 2 bedm 2 bth., fully furn'd. Free golf & tennis. No smoking or pets. 3 months. Avail. immed. 416-635-5523.

N. Miami Beach, Marlen Gdns., 2 bed., furn. from late January. $1200/mo US. 416-516-0254.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

Sunny Fla., oceanfront TH vacation dream, furn. 3 bdrm., 3 bths., gar., swimming pool, close to Central Fla. attractions (Melbourne) $2800/mo US. Call 1-954-501-5012 or e-mail dmbb@aol.com

Delray Beach, beautiful villa, 2 bed., 2 bth., screened porch, 3 pools, million $ club, furn. $1400/mo US. 905-886-6558.

N. Miami Beach, 2 bdrm. from Jan. 15. $1350+/mo US. 905-882-5474.

Hollywood Beachfront. Efficiency unit on oceanwalk. Long or short-term. 416-992-8995.

Pembrooke Pines, lrg. 1 bdrm. convertible, avail. Dec.-Jan., March-May, $1400/mo. Call 905-764-0997.

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PALM AIRE, beautiful garden apt. 3 bdr. for season, compl. reno., deco. furn., washer/dryer in apt. 905-731-5552.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR SALE/RENT

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M3B 3K4
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Widow in Oak Park, Michigan looking for a man between the ages of 43-52. I am slightly physically challenged & would accept somebody who is also slightly physically challenged. I would consider someone with children for a possible steady relationship. Would relocate. Respond to CJN Box #4555.

Sincere, affectionate man, enjoys finer things in life, early 60's, seeks honest, loving lady, girlish figure, traditional background. 2795 Bathurst St. PO Box 41006, Tor. ON. M6B 4J6.

280 ANNOUNCEMENTS

An evening of spirit and song with Shalom Brodt. Soulful teachings in a Carlebach style for everyone. Monday, December 23rd at 7:30 p.m. at the Anshei Minsk Synagogue, 10 St. Andrew St.

330 OBITUARIES

TROSTER, Sidney – on Nov. 29, 2002.
OERBACH, Sonia – on Nov. 30, 2002, late of 197 Goddard Ave.
NARINSKI, Nelia – on Nov. 29, 2002.
ADIVI, Igael – on Dec. 1, 2002.
GREENBERG, Mary – on Dec. 2, 2002, late of 36 Wright St.
MOTLIS, Jakov – on Dec. 2, 2002.
OTTO, Bernice – on Dec. 1, 2002, late of 20 Shallmar Blvd.
TUFMAN, Aleksander – on Dec. 4, 2002.
RELINE, Fedor – on Dec. 4, 2002.
GREENSTEIN, Anne – on Dec. 5, 2002.
BERGER, Yetta – on Dec. 7, 2002, late of 196 Dunblaine Ave.
GARDNER, Helen – on Dec. 7, 2002, late of Forest Hill Place.
KOZLOV, Ruth – on Dec. 7, 2002, late of 306 Finch Ave. E.
BLUMENFELD, Sam – on Dec. 8, 2002, late of 20 Baif Blvd.
FRIEDMAN, Molly – on Dec. 9, 2002, late of 110 Promenade Circle.
SHRIQUI, David – on Dec. 8, 2002, late of 4160 Bathurst St.
BRADLEY, Shannon Esther – on Dec. 8, 2002, late of 58 Confederation Way.
SHERKEY, Rose – on Dec. 8, 2002, late of 15 Rockford Rd.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

330 OBITUARIES

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UNGAR, Ruth – on Nov. 20, 2002, late of 64 Stately Way.
FRUITMAN, Harvey Louis – on Nov. 22, 2002, late of 31 Four Winds Dr.
CAPPELL, Calvin – on Nov. 22, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
ROBINS, Helen – on Nov. 22, 2002, late of 52 Playter Blvd.
WILSON, Elliott – on Nov. 21, 2002, late of 33 Elmhurst Ave.
STEINBERG, Ida – on Nov. 24, 2002, late of 11 William Carson Cres.
VAILE, Sigmund – on Nov. 22, 2002, late of 20 Scrivener Square.
HOLLEND, Ray – on Nov. 25, 2002, late of 25 Carnwath Cres.
AUSTER, Frank – on Nov. 25, 2002, late of 1 Hill Place.
TUCKER, Victor – on Nov. 27, 2002, late of 21 Vinci Cres.
DESSEN, Harold – on Nov. 28, 2002, late of 6 York Downs Dr.
DANCYGER, Isobel – on Nov. 28, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
VENDER, Izzy – on Nov. 28, 2002, late of 11 Tresillian Rd.
BLOOM, Sara – on Nov. 30, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
WIGDERSON, Arthur – on Nov. 29, 2002, late of 559 Spadina Rd.
AKUM, Toby – on Nov. 29, 2002, late of 157-2345 Cedarhill Cro.
ABRAMS, Shirley – on Nov. 30, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
HIMMELFARB, Dina – on Dec. 1, 2002, late of 133 Torresdale.
STANWAY, Gilda – on Dec. 2, 2002, late of 194 Acton Ave.
CHESKES, Rubin – on Dec. 3, 2002, late of 8 Covington Rd.
BURSTEIN, Lea – on Dec. 3, 2002, late of 855 Roselawn Ave.
SILBERG, Solomon – on Dec. 4, 2002, late of Lansing Nursing Home.
SLATER, Betty – on Dec. 2, 2002, late of 4001 Bayview Ave.
BLUMENTHAL, Joe – on Dec. 3, 2002, late of 55 Carscadden Dr.
LASCOW, Eunice – on Dec. 4, 2002, late of 4300 Bathurst St.
ALSPECTOR, Bobbye – on Dec. 6, 2002, late of 750 York Mills.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

GOOROVICH, Eliezer – on Nov. 21, 2002, late of 22 Hotspur Rd.
GORDON, Nathan – on Nov. 22, 2002, late of 155 Kendal Ave.
ZLATKIS, Zisel – on Dec. 3, 2002, late of 550 Cummer Ave.

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Arts & Travel

Yiddish diva Theresa Tova releases live CD

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Theresa Tova, Yiddish diva, cabaret singer, actor and writer, has just released her second CD.

Titled *Theresa Tova: Live at the Top O' the Senator*, the CD contains 12 songs that combine English and Yiddish in Tova's own distinctive style.

Included on the recording are familiar jazz tunes such as *My Buddy* and *My Funny Valentine*, some old favourites with new Yiddish interpretations such as *Night and Day (Tog und Nacht)*, some well-known Yiddish songs, including *Shaynvi di Leone (As Nice as the Moon)* and *Los is Shnayin (Let it Snow, Let it Snow)* and a new jazzy number, *Der Saksafon Shpiler*. She also sings one song in French: *Vous m'èblouissez (You Go to My Head)*.

The CD was recorded live this past July at the popular Toronto club Top O' the Senator, where Tova is a regular performer.

"I don't like to ghettoize my work," she said in an interview. "I think our Jewish music is as good as anything out there and I take pride in bringing my Jewish world to a universal audience."

Some Jews who go regularly to Italian operas, she said, "come to tears when they hear me sing in Yiddish – some because they haven't heard Yiddish for years.

"Jewish composers such as George Gershwin, Irving Berlin and Rogers and Hart reflect their Jewish roots. What these boys were doing is borrowing from eastern Europe."

Tova said she is pleased that mixed audiences and the regular press "are embracing a girl who sings Jewish songs."

As the daughter of Polish-born Holocaust survivors, she thinks it is "amazing" that she is well-received when she performs concerts in Yiddish in Switzerland and Germany.

"Contrary to what we think, even the French in Montreal ask me to sing in Yiddish."

Now in her 40s and having appeared in numerous films, television shows, concerts, musicals and plays, Tova remains excited about her wide-ranging career. Throughout the interview, she demonstrates a point by breaking into song.

The graduate of the University of Alberta's acting program has performed at The Stratford Festival in productions of *Patience* and *Fiddler on the Roof*, toured for 16 months with *Ragtime*, and her show *From Belz to Broadway* played to sold-out audiences in Canada and the United States.

Her production of the musical *Still the Night* won four Dora Awards, and in 1999, it was nominated for a Governor General's Award for excellency in literature.

Tova believes that by making contemporary recordings of historical Yiddish tunes, she will bring new listeners to Yiddish music and keep Yiddish alive.

"I think I am creating a bridge from the past to the future for mixed audiences – for bubbies and the younger generation. Yiddish music is technically brilliant and Yiddish culture is magical.

Her main goal, she said, is "to take my Yiddish music to large halls and to jazz clubs throughout North America and Europe."

Tova, who has been married for 22 years to Bob Pearson and has two teenage children, said she has had a great year.

"I have sung in concerts from Switzerland to San Francisco, where I was invited to sing Yiddish music with conductor Michael Tilson Thomas. Ashkenaz was a blast, too. And now I have released the new CD.

"I am thrilled that I will be singing my mixed repertoire throughout Canada and the United States."

For more information on Tova's CDs or upcoming performances, visit www.theresatova.com.

CD celebrates a magical night in February

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

The audience listened in hushed silence when The MRC Trio performed and recorded a set of improvised music one evening last winter in a packed jazz club in downtown Toronto.

The MRC Trio, whose members include violinist Hugh Marsh, drummer Barry Romberg and cellist Rufus Cappadocia, "plays without any pre-conceived notions," Romberg says. "It's totally off the cuff. That's probably one of the hardest things to do, to make something out of nothing."

Everything clicked on that magical night in February at the Rex and the audience was with the band all the way, he says. An independent recording of that session, *Tribal Dance*, is available through www.barryromberg.com.

With only a few live performances behind them, The MRC Trio, using unusual jazz-improvising instrumentation, have made an impact on the Canadian jazz scene and recently received a nomination as Best Electric Group in the January 2003 National Jazz Awards.

Coming on the heels of The MRC Trio's recording is Romberg's *Random Access/Part 1*, which is "a lot of Barry Romberg," he says. It's a mostly home-recorded CD on which he plays drums and keyboards and is joined by special guests.

Romberg's music treads familiar musical ground and explores new terrain, and *Random Access/Part 1*, another independent recording, is no exception.

"There's a lot of different flavours on it," he says, "from funky groove-oriented stuff to totally avant-garde."

Original projects, such as playing in The MRC Trio and making recordings like *Random Access/Part 1*, are a chance for him to stretch out musically, but to survive as a freelance musician Romberg wears many hats.

He sits in the drummers' chairs of a number of Toronto jazz bands, among them NOJO, a contemporary big band. He's also been playing rhythm and blues with the band Deacon Blues three nights a week at Toronto's Centro Grill & Wine Bar for the past four years.

Romberg, 43, went on the road at 18, quitting high school to tour with a rhythm and blues band, and he played in Jewish wedding bands for 10 years, from 1985 to '95.

Over the years, he has accompanied many international and Canadian artists, including a five-year stint as Moe Koffman's last drummer. He's played with pianist Gil Evans, saxophonists Jane Bunnett and Joe Henderson, trombonist/band leader Rob McConnell and singers Holly Cole and Molly Johnson, among others.

Romberg's drumming can be heard on some 40 recordings and he's received three Juno nominations with other musicians. He has toured Canada more than a dozen times, and this March, he goes on the road again with The MRC Trio. Even Toronto, which is rich in jazz clubs compared to other Canadian cities, can't provide enough work for a musician.

"There's not anywhere in the city you can play on a regular basis," he says, adding that with the vast distances musicians have to travel in Canada it's "a lot of schlepping for what we make."

Romberg's musical journey began in the 1960s, when he was a kid walking around the house carrying a radio wherever he went. At 10, knowing he wanted to become a musician, he started taking drum lessons. Working at Sam The Record Man's downtown jazz department later was a huge turning point.

"I realized that to master the drum kit I needed to explore all the jazz greats. My job at Sam's allowed me to listen to all the music I could get my hands on for a year, a monumental listening experience."

Since then, except for a return to school at 30, when he completed two-thirds of a degree in the humanities at York University for the enjoyment of learning, Romberg hasn't strayed from his musical path.

On his first recording, *2nd Floor Please*, with the Barry Romberg Group, he recorded a track of improvised Jewish jazz, *The Day Of Atonement*. Released on vinyl in 1989, *2nd Floor Please*, soon to be re-issued in CD format, was named one of *Coda* magazine's top 10 jazz albums for that year.

"It was my take on what it's like to be in the synagogue on Yom Kippur," he says. "The saxophone player would be simulating the cantor and the rest of the band would be the congregation, so there's a dialogue happening."

Someone once told Romberg that whatever happens he'll always have music, but at the time, Romberg says, it somehow felt like a curse.

"I replied, 'You want it, take it. I couldn't get rid of it if I wanted to.' I thought, I didn't choose music, music chose me."

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women seeking men

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single jewish female, 29 years old who is kind, caring, active and enjoys horseback riding, hockey and the outdoors seeking male 29-37 years old with similar interests for a long-term relationship **AD#1057**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Female who enjoys dining out, movies singing and music seeking male with similar interests **AD#1099**

LOYAL & AFFECTIONATE
Female, 50ish, attractive, fit, well-groomed who is happy, loyal, affectionate who enjoys travel, music, sunsets, books seeking intelligent, well-educated, well-travelled male 55-65 years old who is sincere, adventurous with similar interests **AD#1018**

PROFESSIONAL FEMALE
Professional female, early 40's, 5'2", spiritual, easy-going and adventurous seeking male 38-55 years old, kind, affectionate, warm-hearted for a long-term relationship. **AD#1115**

GIVE ME A CALL
Well-educated single female seeking male for companionship **AD#1136**

DIVORCED MOTHER OF 2
Divorced female, mother of two, 56 years old, honest, trustworthy with integrity who enjoys travel, sports, sightseeing, long walks, antiquing and theatre seeking male with similar interests **AD#1306**

FIT & ADVENTUROUS
Female, 33 years old, attractive, long hair, fit, adventurous who enjoys movies, dining out and music seeking male who is handsome in his 30's with similar interests. **AD#1427**

I WANT TO MEET YOU
Divorced female with one son, 43 years old, hard-working, ambitious, outgoing, who enjoys dining out, dancing, eating, cooking, swimming, movies, reading, internet, hiking seeking male 43-50 yrs old, handsome, out-going, ambitious and hard-working **AD#1134**

SEEKS HANDSOME MALE
Attractive female, early 30's, long brown hair, brown eyes, fit, intelligent, adventurous with a good heart who enjoys movies, dining out seeking handsome male in his 30's with similar interests **AD#1214**

SINCERE & SPONTANEOUS
Professional female in her 40's, 5'5", brown hair, hazel eyes who enjoys travel, theatre, fine dining seeks male 43-53 yrs old who is fit, established, sincere and spontaneous with similar interests **AD#1803**

ATTRACTIVE & OUTGOING
I am an attractive outgoing jewish lady 5' 7", medium build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, with a great smile who enjoys singing, and dancing. I am seeking a tall attractive jewish male with a full head of hair, in good shape, outgoing with similar interests **AD#1373**

GOOD SENSE OF HUMOUR
I am single, 50'ish, non-smoker, conservative, classy, kind, who enjoys dining out, dancing, travel and the beach. I have a good sense of humor who is seeking a male 50-65 yrs of age, non-smoker, secure, fit, compassionate, good natured with similar interests **AD#1261**

HARD WORKING FEMALE
I am 40 years old, slim, attractive, hard-working female who enjoys dancing, dining out and sports. I'm seeking a male between the ages of 40-50 with similar interests for a long term relationship **AD#1011**

ATTN: WIDOWS & WIDOWERS
I would like to start a small social group for 50-60 yrs old only. No divorcees Thank you **AD#1273**

MY BABY JUST CARES FOR ME
Hi, I'm a separated 43 yrs old, mother of 2 teenagers very pretty, intelligent, loves to laugh I enjoy jazz, dancing, theatre, outdoor walking, and I'm looking for an accomplished, intelligent, fun loving, warm, cuddly gentleman who can be a great partner to enjoy life with **AD#1155**

MATCH MADE IN EDEN
I'm a stable, sensible & optimistic Jewish female in my early 30's searching for my match made in Eden. I am a serene individual who enjoys movies, reading & spending time with friends and family. If you are a Jewish male in mid-late 30-40's with the same traits & interests, please call **AD#1309**

ZEST FOR LIFE
Single Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, fit, 5' 5" and good natured. Seeks single Jewish traditional male between 45-55 yrs young with 6', handsome, established, exciting, caring, non smoker and one who loves life. **AD#1414**

A RARE GEM
Unique, attractive Jewish female, 5' 5" tall, brown hair/eyes, kind, sincere, creative & lots of fun to be with. Seeks traditional a Jewish gentleman under 55 yrs young w/ handsome good 5" genunine, kind, intelligent, non smoker, financially stable & humorous. **AD#1475**

OPTIMIST
Single Jewish professional woman, would like to meet Jewish male, 45-55 yrs, non smoker. I'm looking forward to hearing from you. **AD#1172**

LOOKING FOR YOU
Hi I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs I'm a warm person, honest, very open and out going. I'm a good listener and good to communicate with. I'm friendly, and I enjoy people I'm looking for a widow 54-62 yrs for friendship first **AD#1403**

GIVE ME A CALL
This 65 yr old female is a radiant shapely beauty. She's independent, educated, articulate and with a zest for life. She is seeking an easy going witty man to dance, hike and explore nature with **AD#1275**

ARE YOU MY MATCH?
Hi there, I am a feisty, fun, focused, funky, sometimes foolish, flirtatious and perhaps a little fussy female, who has yet to find her match. I am a successful & accomplished 35 yr old Jewish gal who is looking for an equally successful & accomplished 35-40 Jewish guy **AD#1056**

PASSION & ZEST
Do you have a passion and zest for life & adventure? Hi, I'm a mysterious, European female. I'm 5' 2", 43 yrs mother of 2, with an adventurist spirit & wide range of interests and a caring nature. I'm looking man between 38-55 yrs. 5' 10" who's up for friendship leading to marriage **AD#1113**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Hi, I'm a single female in late my 30's I'm slim & attractive. I have brown hair,light blue eyes. Some of my interests include swing dancing, biking, hiking, tanning on the beach & nature walks. I'm interested in meeting a single man that is family oriented & attractive, 35-55 yrs. **AD#1160**

LET'S MEET
Hi I am a youthful, 58 yrs old, warm, kind compassionate female. I don't smoke. I'm financially secure and would like to meet someone to share my interests. I enjoy going to movies, theatre, and taking romantic walks. I'm looking for loving partner for enjoying life with **AD#1032**

DOWN TO EARTH
I'm a Jewish widow and I would like to meet a widower, 55-63. I like music and old movies. I'm a caring, sharing, romantic and warm person. I'm down to earth and like to smile a lot. I have no baggage, and would like to meet someone with similar interests **AD#1191**

ROMANCE & LOVE
I am a widow in my 50's, and I'm starting over. I'm a non smoker, who's friendly, down to earth, loves cooking and baking, enjoys people, romantic quiet times listening to music and sitting in front of a fire. I would to like to meet a widower, 55-60 yrs. **AD#1344**

CALL ME
Hi, I am a Jewish widow, 54 yrs old. I'm a warm person, honest, very open, out going, good listener and good to communicate with. I also friendly, and I enjoy people Looking for a widow 54-62 for friendship first **AD#1403**

MAKE YOU LAUGH
I am a professional woman in my mid 50's I have been a widow over a year and would like to meet someone This person must be someone who's single and professional, with whom I can share my interests with. Preferably someone who lives in metro-toronto. I am outgoing, funny to be with and easy to talk to **AD#1461**

QUIET TIMES
I am widow in my 50's and I'm starting over I'm a non smoker, friendly, down to earth, love cooking and baking I enjoy romantic, quiet times listening to music and sitting in front of a fire I would to like to meet a widower 55-60 **AD#1344**

WARM SMILE
I am a Jewish widow, and would like to meet a widower 55-63, likes music, old movies. I'm a caring and sharing, romantic, warm person, who's down to earth and likes to smile a lot. **AD#1191**

YOUNG AT HEART
I'm a youthful, 58 yr old single female who's warm, kind and compassionate. I don't smoke and I'm financially secure. I would like to meet someone to share interests with like going to movies, the theatre, walking and other interests Looking for loving partner to enjoy life with **AD#1032**

WIDOWS ONLY
Would like to start a widows group social, 50-60 yrs only, no divorcees **AD#1040**

A REAL FIND
I'm a smart, kind, caring, loyal, very very funny female who's cute, youthful, physically fit, & professionally successful with no strings, I'm looking to meet a wonderful Jewish man 50-60 yrs of age to share, enjoy & enrich our life experiences **AD#1191**

A MENSCH FOR ALL SEASONS
Michelle is an engaging, fun-loving, energetic, fanatically-fit widow with a zest for life & a passion for work & family. Friends say she is attractive & fun to be with. She is looking for a mensch. (by definition a life loving man of integrity) **AD#1012**

LET'S MEET
Hi, I'm a sincere lady with a warm smile. I'm kind, caring & compassionate. I'm also honest & have a good sense of humour. I love animals & seek a gentleman for companionship between 60-65 yrs. I also enjoy long walks, dancing, theatre & music. **AD#1447**

FINER THINGS
Hi, I'm an attractive professional woman in my early 50's I'm 5' 6", red hair and have 2 grown wonderful children. I'm sincere, respectful, caring, romantic and fun loving I enjoy cooking, fine dining, dancing, theatre, opera, travel, walks in the park, and I love to sing. **AD#1402**

NEW LIFE WITH YOU
I'm a widow who would like to rebuild a new life with a widower or a single male 54-60 yrs. I'm active, outgoing and down to earth I enjoy life, non smoker I like art, adventure & travel. Seeking a mature relationship **AD#1383**

LET'S MEET FOR COFFEE
Hi, I'm 39 yr old single female. I'm seeking a male 39-49 yrs, who's attractive, hard working like myself, and easy going. Looking for friendship, hopefully leading to a relationship. I like dancing, going out to eats & movies. **AD#1269**

STARTING OVER
I'm a widow in my 50's, who would like to start over. I'm a caring & sharing individual, a good listener, non smoker, positive person w/ a smile. I enjoy life & people and humour. Would like to meet a single man in his 50's w/ similar interests. **AD#1236**

EUROPEAN WIDOW
European, retired widow, is looking for a loving relationship w/ widower or divorced man, loves music, art , swimming, walking & tennis. **AD#1182**

SPEND TIME TOGETHER
I'm a widow looking for a widower between 50-60 yrs. I enjoy music and reading. I'm very open, caring, romantic, enjoy country drives and holding hands. Looking for a warm person with a great smile, and sense of humour with similar interests. **AD#1380**

STREETCAR NAMED...
Hello my name is Stella, looking for a serious relationship w/ a down to earth man who is intelligent & has a sense of humour who likes the outdoors, music, travel & many other things. I enjoy outdoor activities, I'm sincere, outspoken person Seeks quality time w/ someone. **AD#1460**

PLAY GAMES WITH YOU
Hi, I'm a tall, attractive, Jewish woman 39 yrs, independent, honest, down to earth love to read, do crossword puzzles, play scrabble, dance, long walks, I'm looking for a tall Jewish, warm, intelligent & kind man who knows what he wants out of life **AD#1152**

SIMPLE THINGS
I'm a slim, shapely, very attractive, 50'ish single Jewish female who's 5' 4" tall, dark hair & eyes, a great smile, warm & affectionate As far as interests are concerned, the simple pleasures of life are the very best. For me it's laughter, good conversation, sipping wine at a cafe **AD#1029**

SOULMATE SEARCHING
33 yr old female, with long brown hair & eyes, very good looking, out going, charming, loves to have fun. Looking for a down to earth attractive male between 30-40 yrs, non smoker, who shares same interests as I. I'm looking for my soul mate, if your interested please respond. **AD#1406**

HIGH CLASS
Larissa is attractive, Jewish, 55 yrs, 5' 3" tall and seek an interesting accomplished, classy gentleman between 55-65 yrs for companionship & more. **AD#1443**

DESTINATION: LOVE
Hi, if your interested in meeting a special single Jewish female, baggage free, has air miles & loves to travel you've answered the right ad I'm a very attractive, slim, shapely, fun loving, 50'ish, single Jewish female with a warm smile, integrity & many interests. **AD1061**

CALL ME
Cindy is a petit, brown eyed brunette, 5' 2", very friendly, intelligent, loving, compassionate looking for a professional gentleman, between 50-60 yrs, who shares similar qualities with whom I can enjoy companionship & happy times. Some interests include movies, theatre & music. **AD#1185**

LIFE PARTNER
Single Jewish female, 42 yrs, petite, cute, attractive, pretty and slim She enjoys music, dancing, nature, hiking, quiet beach walks, non smoker, non drinker, looking for a life partner, preferably an easy going, single jewish male between 35-55 yrs with similar interests. **AD#1200**

men seeking women

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Attractive male 29 years old, 6'2", husky build, curly brown hair with a sense of humor who enjoys sports, music, movies, travel seeking female 25-31 years old, attractive, sweet, sensitive with similar interests **AD#1187**

DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY
Single male, 73 yrs old, 5' 7", widower, a people-person, considerate, huggable, handsome, organized, orderly, well mannered, who enjoys dancing and the Glen Miller band seeking attractive female 65-73 yrs old who is easy-going, likes dancing, cooking and baking. **AD#1214**

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
I am a 37 yr old male. I have brown hair, blue eyes and like nature and the outdoors. I am seeking a Jewish lady 25-39 years of age for a long term relationship. **AD#1064**

LAUGHTER AND MUSIC
I am in my early 60's, 5' 5", 135 lbs who enjoys walks, laughter, classical music. Some of my paintings are in exhibits. I am seeking a caring, warm, compassionate lady for companionship. **AD#1474**

JOIN THE WAR ON LONELINESS!
33 yr old professional male, seeks recruit 25-35 for Operation: ROMANCE. Must be university educated & preferably spiritual not religious. Let's be all we can be. For security reasons, all baggage must be left at the door. **AD#1489**

THE WASTED WARRIOR
Seeking a free spirited female, 40-45. No commitments. Take the challenge if you dare. **AD#1475**

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Hello my name is Michael. I'm a 41 yr accountant, and have been working for many years in my spare time during the summer I enjoy playing baseball, bike riding and hiking. I also enjoy getting together with friends. I'm looking to meet a young lady with similar goals, which hopefully leads to long term relationship **AD#1370**

PROFESSIONAL MALE
Hi I'm a single 40 yr old male, professional, physically fit easy going, who enjoys meeting people and have a joy for life. I'm looking for a female 30-40 yrs, who meets my common interests **AD#1286**

ROMANTIC MAN
Hi, I'm a Jewish male, late 50's, who's looking for a sharing & caring woman, non smoking, 45-58yrs I'm a romantic who likes long walks & enjoys nature, quiet evenings cuddling together at fireside. **AD#1478**

DIAGNOSIS: LOVE
I'm 51 yrs and work as a medical doctor. I have 2 daughters that live with me and I'm a devoted father. I'm slim, fit, energetic, and intense. My interests range from art, philosophy to foreign languages & ballroom dancing. I'm looking for a younger female of intelligence, energy and beauty **AD#1489**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
I'm a man in my 50's w/ blue eyes, dark brown hair, who would like to meet a woman, also in her 50's. She should enjoy travel, museums, the arts & musical theatre. Looking for someone who can share lots of laughs w/ a good sense of humour. Home cooked meals would be a definite bonus. **AD#1234**

HEALTHY WEALTHY
Hi my name is Arnon, I'm a white executive living in Thornhill. I look in the mirror & I see a healthy young 1939 model w/ no deficiencies, I'm told that I'm not bad to look at either. I've got salt & pepper hair, beautiful blue eyes, slim,. 5' 10" and I have good teeth too. My passions are the sun & sea. **AD#1005**

UNEMPLOYED BUM
Are you looking for a ugly, short, fat, bald, unemployed bum? Well keep looking because I'm none of the above. I'm honest, successful, good looking with no dependents. I love gourmet foods, wine tasting, movies & I'm a very good cook. Seeking a woman between 38-48 yrs. **AD#1227**

LET'S MEET
Hi my name is Marvin, I'm a warm & thoughtful person, single 60 yrs old and I live in GTA. I'm a romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who loves to travel, movies, take long walks, rides in the country I also enjoy great conversation, nice quiet times at homes, and I love to read. **AD#1074**

DO YOU JUBU?
Physically & spiritually active male, 33 yrs old Seeks non materialistic female with insight, aged between 25-35 yr old for friendful & compassionate relationship **AD#1315**

FRIENDSHIP & LOVE
Single Jewish male of Indian background, 40 yrs, never married, U of T graduate, 5' 9", caring, friendly & honest. Seeking an educated, loving & caring female, mid 20-30's interested in friendship leading to marriage and having a family. **AD#1459**

FUN GUY
Marvin is a fun sort of guy, great conversationalist, likes to talk, walk, travel, all kinds of things. Enjoys relaxing at staying home & reading, Seeking someone who he can communicate with, has a great smile, great disposition, a lot of fun to be with for long walks & holding hands. **AD#1366**

LET'S TALK
I want to enjoy all the things in life like any normal person. I'm not interested in marriage, but would like a steady relationship. If you're slim, good looking, with a nice personality & would like to meet a nice, funny, good looking, 70 yr old, 5' 6", slim guy, let's talk. **AD#1088**

PICTURE THIS
I'm a writer & photographer, specializing in travel. I enjoy art galleries, movies, documentaries, live jazz, theatre, many & various films, travel & a lot more, tf you find this brief introduction interesting, leave a message. **AD#1442**

EASY GOING
Steve is an easy going Jewish male, fun loving, enjoys walks and good conversation. Seeks attractive female up to age of 39 yrs who's easy going, enjoys the simple things in life, such as going out for dinners and long walks **AD#1390**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Chaim, 5' 10", athletic, non smoker, seeks female between 34-38 yrs, 5' 8", athletic, interesting, non smoker is a must, who wants to share in the good & bad times, and would love to raise a family in a wonderful atmosphere. Please call and leave a message. **AD#1239**

UNIVERSITY EDUCATED
Single Jewish male, 47 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, humourous & adventurous. Interested in building a serious relationship with a health conscious female. **AD#1178**

COOKIN' UP SOME LOVIN'
Philip is 6' 1", 190lbs, good looking, beautiful hair, blue eyes, lived & travelled all over the world, highly educated, charming, funny & also a gourmet cook He seeks someone nice, energetic, active, intellectual, good conversationalist, who loves life and is affectionate. **AD#1233**

LET'S MEET
Alan is 42 yrs old, separated w/ 2 kids, 5' 10", 170 lbs w/ brown hair, enjoys boating camping, dancing, dinner. He seeks a female (Jewish preferably), around the same age, who's honest sincere female and shares the same interests, If interested please leave a voice mail. **AD#1070**

MUSIC & WINE
Easy going male, fun to be with, sense of humour is seeking an attractive female between 50-65yrs. He enjoys movies, jazz, dining, theatre and sports. **AD#1280**

AM I ASKING TOO MUCH?
Divorced Jewish male, 47 yrs with 2 teenaged children, seek woman, 25-40 yrs, thin, good looking, who likes rock n roll, sports, 3 stooges, Howard Stern, partying & swimming because I have a pool. Am I asking too much? Give me a call **AD#1318**

KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN
Bob is 48 yrs, professional, seeking to meet female who's into cycling and would like to explore the city/country. If you're interested in meeting a very nice guy to have fun with and get a little exercise. **AD#1238**

LOOKING FOR YOU
37 yr old male, 6' 3", 230 lbs, with black hair, brown eyes & goatee. He enjoys spending time with family & friends, likes playing golf and surfing the net, and seeks a nice lady who has similar interests. **AD#1063**

LET'S TALK
Dave is 37 yrs old, slim and handsome, with brown hair, blue/grey eyes, and has a BA. He enjoys the outdoors, travelling, dining, and baseball. He's a good conversationalist, and seeks a Jewish female between 32-38 yrs who is tall & attractive. If you like what your reading. **AD#1158**

WILLING TO SETTLE
Alan is 42 yrs, 5' 10", good looking, with dark hair and blue eyes. He's very active, enjoys exercise, boating and camping. He seeks an honest, generous, romantic, female, who is caring, loving & willing to settle down. He is honest & straight to the point. **AD#1439**

NEW IN TOWN
Larry, 50 yrs, resided in the States and is kind of new in town. He seeks a nice lady with a good sense of humour and love. **AD#1081**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

FRIENDLY FELLA
Martin, 48 yrs, is good natured, considered friendly, enjoys dancing, movies, country drives and flea markets He seeks a friendly good natured female, who enjoys going out for dinner and other things as well Kids are okay **AD#1206**

FRIENDSHIP FIRST
Jewish male, 46 yrs, professionally employed, well established, seeks attractive, Jewish female between 32-42 yrs, for casual dating & friendship first and possible long term relationship. He is sincere, ambitious, hard working, and enjoys dining, movies, music, dancing and travelling. **AD#1438**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1124**

COFFEE TALK
Hi, there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you. I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice and good looking - but the the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me. Let's talk over a cup of coffee. **AD#1224**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship. **AD#1340**

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Jewish prospects hope for shot at NHL

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

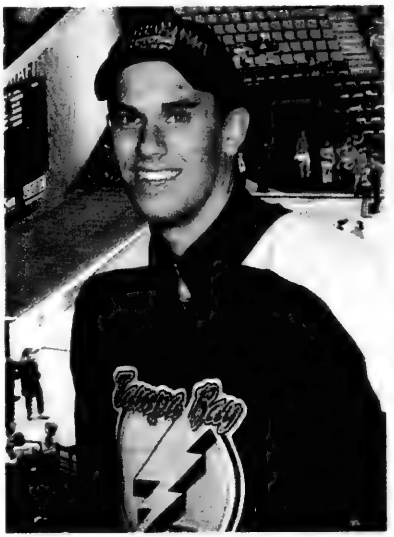
Eric Himelfarb has something to prove to the Montreal Canadiens brass over the next few months that he wasn't able to during the club's rookie camp.

The Habs' 2001 sixth-round draft choice had a disappointing two-week tournament and was returned to junior before the team's main training camp had even opened.

He has until June 1, 2003 to sign with Montreal, otherwise the Thornhill native will re-enter the draft.

"If things don't work out, there are 29 other teams in the league," said Himelfarb, in a telephone interview prior to a practice with the Ontario Hockey League (OHL) Barrie Colts.

"I just didn't perform as well as I could (in Montreal). I don't know what it was. They sent me back and told me to have a big year."



Adam Henrich

While at rookie camp, he heard from his agent that Sarnia was trying to move him, so Himelfarb called Sting GM Terry Doran and waived his no-trade clause. The trade – a five-player blockbuster deal – to Barrie after three years in Sarnia has done wonders for the five-foot-10, 185-lb. centre.

Himelfarb started the season on a 12-game point streak, notching eight goals and 10 assists over that stretch. He was the Colts' leading scorer through 29 games with 43 points (17 goals, 26 assists) and represented the OHL's Eastern Conference in the Hershey Cup All-Star Series game against the Western Hockey League's Western Conference.

"I was happy to have a fresh start in Barrie," said Himelfarb, who admittedly struggled last season as Sarnia's captain despite putting up 83 points in 67 games.

"It's not always points that determine how you play. Sometimes you feel too comfortable in the same place for a long time and get stuck in a rut."

The trade also proved beneficial to Sarnia as they acquired two overage defencemen in the deal, solidifying their blueline corps.

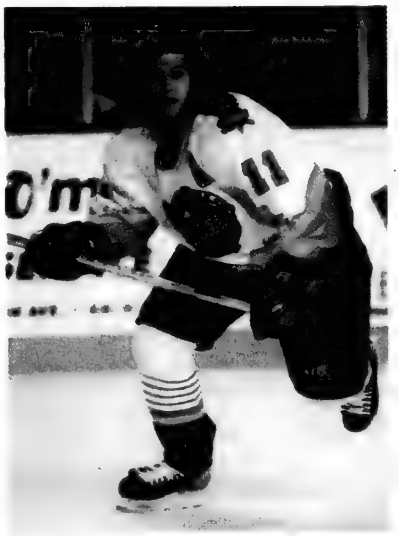
That can only help Sting netminder Robert Gherson, who says he worked out harder than ever over the summer. His improved strength and puckhandling skills are paying dividends early in the season. Washington's fifth-round pick in June's NHL Entry Draft got off to a solid start, tying for the league lead in wins with 14, while posting a 2.76 goals against average and .904 save percentage in games through Dec. 12.

He played a period-and-a-half of shutout hockey late last month while representing the OHL's Western Conference in the Hershey Cup All-Star Series game against the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's Dilio Conference. That came five days after his first shutout of the season, a 1-0 overtime victory on the road against the defending OHL champion Erie Otters.

The six-foot, 152-lb. goalie got a big confidence boost after backstopping Washington to a first-place finish (3-0-1) at the Traverse City, Mich. NHL Prospects Tournament in September against Atlanta, Minnesota, Detroit, and St. Louis.

Gherson spent a few days at the Capitals training camp following the event, before being returned to Sarnia.

"It was a great learning experience and a good gauge of where I was, but it also showed how far I have to go," he said. "I talked to (Caps' goalie) Olaf Kolzig and he helped me out a lot. He said not to get complacent, just keep working hard and good things will happen."



Cory Pecker

Sarnia's much-improved defence and Gherson's solid goaltending through two months of action saw the club sitting tied atop the OHL's West Division with a record of 16-5-2-1 and ranked fourth in the Canadian Hockey League.

Another Jewish youngster on the rise is Tampa Bay prospect Adam Henrich.

The first draft pick of the Lightning in the second round last June did not receive a training camp invitation, but got off to the fastest start in Brampton Battalion franchise history when he scored seven goals in the season's first six games.

It's been a struggle since for the 18-year-old power forward. In the club's next game, Henrich was assessed a gross misconduct penalty after a two-on-one break was whistled down offside and he inadvertently flipped the puck into the stands.

The act carries an automatic two-game suspension, but the league tacked on three more in an effort to clamp down on such infractions.

"You don't want to do that because it could have hurt a fan," said Henrich, who was attempting to flip the puck off the boards and at the time thought it hit the glass. "Obviously, I wasn't happy with it and I didn't really mean to do it. I thought five games was a little harsh."

Brampton was 1-4 with last year's leading scorer out of the lineup and since returning to the Battalion on Oct. 20, Henrich has struggled, notching 10 goals and 12 assists in 26 games.

Cory Pecker, the 2001-02 overage player of the year, was off to a bit of a slow start adjusting to the professional ranks with the American Hockey League's Cincinnati Mighty Ducks.

The three-time OHL all-star, who potted 82 goals in 81 games (playoffs and Memorial Cup included) last season in leading Erie to a league championship, had four goals and four assists in 25 games with the Ducks.

Pecker, 21, signed a three-year contract with Anaheim in July after being recommended to Ducks' General Manager Bryan Murray by Erie Otters owner and GM Sherry Bassin, who knows him very well.

"He's going to get a shot to prove himself," said Bassin.

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ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 43.

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Finding the middle ground

20 something

By JODI KOVITZ

After my last column, many readers wrote to me saying they could relate to my career dilemma.

"I surely relate with your contrasting the lengthy corporate day to a more leisurely way to pay the bills," one reader wrote. "It's certainly an issue which I have personally struggled to resolve."

Many readers shared outstanding insights on prioritizing values, remembering to dream, taking advantage of our freedom to access opportunities and pursuing our passions.

One reader pointed out that experience enables us to prioritize our values. A young professional, he works 12-hour days and weekends in a field largely driven by financial reward. People who don't know their children or spouses who "got sucked in by the money" surround him. Although he put in years of training to get to where he is professionally, he is considering changing his path. He said being a spouse and father who is present is more important to him than succumbing to the cultural pressure to provide every opportunity. "Life is too short to waste years at a job you don't love."

Another reader reminded me of the importance of figuring out what we want, and then going after it. He pointed out our tendency of falling into the norms within our various industries rather than utilizing our skills and creativity to carve out our own niches. He wrote, "I think we need to keep dreaming. Compromises along the way are inevitable, but we don't have to surrender to them at the expense of pursuing what we really want. The key is figuring out what we want, and never is Rabbi Hillel's maxim of 'know thyself' more applicable. (I know this is easier said than done…)."

Another reader pursuing a professional path said we are lucky to have the freedom to pursue specialized paths. Her bubbie, she said, was denied that opportunity both during and after the Holocaust. While the reader conceded that opening a flower shop might be more enticing than practising law, she said the cost of private Hebrew day school these days is close to $10,000 a year. She said she feels it is her responsibility as a Jew and granddaughter of a survivor to provide these opportunities because she can.

Last, but certainly not least, another reader reminded me of the old saying, "Do what you love and the money will come." He said although it was not easy, he followed this axiom and became a cantor rather than a lawyer. Today, he said, he is both spiritually and financially fulfilled.

Resolving the "career dilemma" is an ongoing process for each of us. We face conflicting pressures and desires. In an excellent line from the film *Good Will Hunting*, a psychiatrist tells his brilliant patient who is struggling to choose a direction in his life, "You can do anything your heart desires, but what do you want?"

As trite as that may sound, it's a question we need to continue to ask ourselves as we move through the various stages of our lives. I believe the answers come more naturally if we give ourselves permission to make decisions in stages rather one final decision. Our Jewish values will change over time and we should allow ourselves to adapt. If you are struggling, try taking some of the pressure off by just picking a direction for the next few years. Then, when your needs change and when you've gained more valuable life experience, re-evaluate.

Thank you for your contributions this month! I continue to welcome your feedback at jlkovitz@hotmail.com.

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1 (1 lb.) can (2 cups) salmon
1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
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1/4 tsp. salt
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1/2 cup chopped pecans
3 tblsp. snipped parsley

Drain and flake salmon, removing skin and bones. Combine salmon with next 6 ingredients; mix thoroughly. Chill. Combine pecans and parsley. Shape salmon mixture in 8" x 2" log; roll in nut mixture; chill well. Serve with crackers or cocktail bread slices.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

I am often asked how I feel about supplementary schools. Are they worthwhile? Are they not so inferior to day schools that we should abandon the concept? Can they be improved?

First, the term. While these schools have been classified for some time as "supplementary," they were once called Talmudei Torah or Sunday schools. Now, many in our community and elsewhere believe that term is not appropriate to describe what they really are. Some have suggested "Jewish heritage schools" as an alternative.

Next, some history. At mid-century, there were such schools that met five days a week and gave students a comprehensive background in Hebrew, Jewish classical literature, history, and Halachah. The hours diminished over the years, and now the latest threat is to the three-day school. There are even one-day schools that offer a bare minimum of Judaic instruction. Critics maintain the limited time and the separation of general and Jewish studies lead to a curriculum that lacks both critical mass and valid context.

Anyone seeking maximum exposure to Jewish life, both in curriculum and social setting, should choose a day school. But parents who feel strongly about public education and want some level of Jewish education for their children should have schools available to meet their needs.

Toronto is unlike most North American cities in that most of our children who attend Jewish schools are in day schools. But we're similar in that a large percentage of our children receive no Jewish education at all.

Viable outreach to families who have not yet opted for an active Jewish life will primarily be in the form of supplementary schools. I see, therefore, a moral imperative based on concern for all Jews to support and enhance these schools.

At the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education, we see one-day schools as a challenge, but schools with two-day or three-day programs that are either synagogue-based or independent can do much to improve their curriculums so children and parents can reap the maximum benefit. Toronto has several fine examples of schools that strive for excellence despite limitations of time and context.

Jewish heritage schools have an important place in our community as part of a global approach that places Jewish study high on the agenda.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

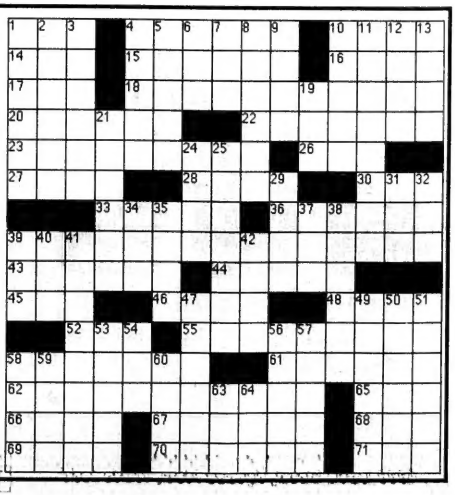
The Canadian Jewish news CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 42.)

Brrr! is Hebrew for Brrr!
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Unit of memory, briefly
4. This may hang from an eave
10. Noah's second son
14. Calhoun, for short
15. Coasts
16. Detest
17. Sound of enlightenment
18. Israelis ski here
20. Kind of field
22. Shirley's partner
23. Beginner's gear
26. Liberal U.S. action org.
27. Old times
28. Number of dishware groups stored away for Passover
30. Rap doctor
33. Old in Yiddish
36. Proportions
39. Allow you to visit Israel in December
43. Gonzales, in animation
44. Venerated tribal member
45. State of Oy, vei!
46. Guthrie
48. Response to Question 1 (abbrev.)
52. Lectic starter
55. Keeps you warm
58. Recommended career field, in "Mrs. Robinson"
61. Mayor of Vienna, 1897-1910
62. You might stay at them
65. Compact American car
66. The way they run, in riots
67. Skillful
68. Airport abbreviation
69. Makes lace
70. Weensy
71. U.S. milit. cabinet agency

Down
1. Loud and sassy
2. "_____ and a bottle of rum!"
3. High-tech giant founded by McBee
4. Follows "k" for destiny
5. Musical notation for ensembles
6. Debt chit
7. "Heavy lies the _____" (abbrev.)
8. "_____ the dogs of war" (abbrev.)
9. Woman, in Dimona
10. Take care of expendable papers
11. Amateur airwaves network
12. Any newspaper, in Afula
13. Daniel saw their name on the wall
19. Mrs. Peron
21. Litsor, in English
24. Moussorgsky's gated city
25. One who lives there
29. "Fiddler on the Roof" numb.
31. Shout of joy, at snow, e.g.
32. Curvy letter
34. Directed
35. "_____ chocolate, won't you?"
37. Consumed
38. Harangue
39. Afula-Haifa direction
40. Stock investor's quest, 1999
41. What the penurious might say
42. Hick, dumbo
47. Do the program language again
49. Prepared the winter drink
50. Dearie
51. Progress into opponent's territory
53. Dinesen and namesakes
54. Ma Bell giant spawn
56. Immigrant island
57. Covered with iron oxidate
58. Bog material
59. Peruvian capital
60. How many does one doff at a time?
63. Three, in Trieste
64. A long, long time



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